Auckland College Knowledge Organiser – Ancient Greece

In this unit about **Ancient Greece**, children will gain an understanding of where and when some key events during the ancient Greek period took place. They will explore what is meant by the term 'trade', 'civilisation' and 'empire'.

When learning about daily life in ancient Greece, children will explore what life was like for different people who were enslaved during ancient Greek times. They will then independently research and feedback on different elements of daily life in ancient Greece. Children will also explore the differences between life in ancient Athens and ancient Sparta. They will learn about early democracy in Athens and take part in a debate about life in Athens and Sparta. Children will use ancient Greek pottery as a primary source to help them gather evidence about the ancient Greek Olympics and make comparisons between the ancient Games and the modern Olympics.

In addition to this, children will learn about the beliefs of the ancient Greeks, producing fact files about the Greek gods and exploring the messages that the ancient Greeks may have taken from myths. Children will sequence a version of the Trojan War and will explore historical evidence relating to whether there was any truth behind the myth. Studying ancient Greece will help children to develop their questioning skills and make comparisons; learn to use historical sources and help them to understand how past events have helped to shape the world that we know today.

Key Vocabulary

ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
civilisation	In this context, the word 'civilisation' is used to describe a human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
city states	Small areas that ancient Greece was divided into, each with their own governments, laws and army.
empire	A group of countries or states that is ruled by one ruler or country.
legacies	Things that live on after someone dies or after a civilisation or event ends.
democracy	Democracy is a system where the citizens of a country or state are involved in the way it is run
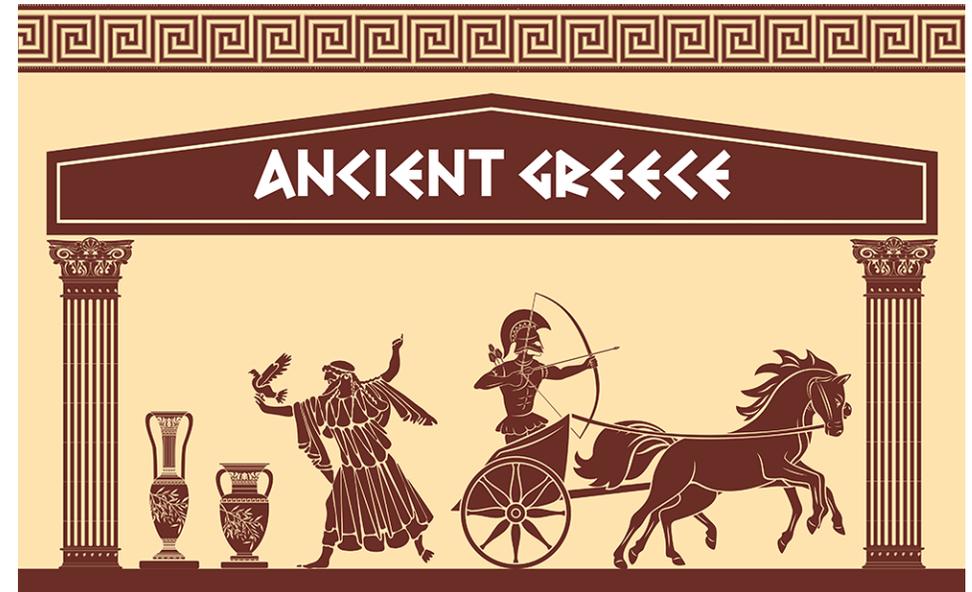
What Was Ancient Greece Famous For?

Ancient Greece is important historically because many things in culture today, especially in modern Europe, have been influenced by the ideas of the ancient Greek civilisation. The sculptures, architecture, philosophy, arts, politics and the scientific and mathematical ideas of ancient Greece are just some of the things that have had a significant impact on culture today. These things can be referred to as 'legacies' of ancient Greece.

City States Ancient

Greece was not a country. It was made up of city states. There were often battles between these city states but sometimes they would join together against a common enemy. Important city states of ancient Greece included **Athens, Corinth** and **Sparta.**

Greek Gods and Goddesses

❖ The ancient Greeks believed in many different gods and goddesses.

❖ Each god/goddess represented a certain aspect of humanity and each was responsible for certain parts of life too.

❖ Festivals were held to celebrate the gods and goddesses.

❖ Animal sacrifice was an important part of ancient Greek worship.

❖ It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus.

❖ The ancient Greek gods and goddesses were included in many of the myths that the ancient Greeks told one another.

❖ Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the king of Mount Olympus

The Olympic Games

❖ The first recorded Games was in 776 BC, in Olympia.

❖ The event was part of a festival to honour the Greek god, Zeus.

❖ Women were not allowed to compete in the Olympics. This was because ancient Greek women were not treated as equals to men and had fewer freedoms.

❖ Events included boxing, wrestling, running and chariot racing.

❖ Some of the evidence about the Games comes from paintings discovered on pottery