

## POPULATION

The first evidence of people living in Ancient Greece comes from around 8000BC. The period that most people class as Ancient Greece began much later, in roughly 800 BC. The civilisation came to an end in around 140BC when the Romans invaded.

Working out the exact population is nearly impossible, but at its peak it seems to have been between 10million and 13million citizens.



## MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Myths and legends were an integral part of Ancient Greece and were used to pass on stories from one generation to another. They often involved gods and goddesses or other famous heroes.

Many of the myths were filled with adventures to different cities around Greece. There would sometimes be a moral, as with Icarus and his wax wings, but sometimes they were stories about defeating evil, just like Theseus and the Minotaur.

## TIMELINE

There were three main periods during what most of us think of as Ancient Greece. Each period had its own key events and styles.

### ARCHAIC PERIOD

This is when Ancient Greece started to form its government and cities such as Athens and Sparta emerged.

800 BC

480 BC

### CLASSICAL PERIOD

Democracy first became a reality in the Classical Period. Athens and Sparta went to war and Alexander the Great conquered most of Europe.

323 BC

### HELLENISTIC PERIOD

Once Alexander the Great had died, the power of Greece waned throughout the Hellenistic Period. Eventually, they fell to the Romans.

146 BC

## OLYMPIC GAMES

In 776BC, the Ancient Greeks introduced the Olympic Games as a way for different cities to compete against each other.

These first games were held in the city of Olympia, named after Mount Olympus. The mountain had been named after Olympia, the place where Ancient Greek gods and goddesses were said to live. The twelve main gods and goddesses were called the Olympians.

Events in these ancient games were very different to modern Olympics. For a start, most events were competed naked. Most early events were simple running races, though there was also chariot racing and wrestling.

Just like today, the early Olympics were held every four years.



## RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. During which period in Greek history did Sparta and Athens go to war?
2. Who conquered most of Europe?
3. Where were the early Olympic games held?
4. According to evidence, when were the first people living in Ancient Greece?
5. Find an example of a Greek myth with a moral.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**S**

What were the three periods of Ancient Greece?

**V**

Find a word that means “important or vital”.

**I**

Why do you think the main gods and goddesses were called Olympians?

**V**

What does the word “integral” tell you about myths and legends in Ancient Greece?

**E**

How does the visual timetable help the reader to understand the length of each period?



## Democracy

Democracy is one of the cornerstones of modern life in most countries around the world. People wouldn't have a say in who runs their state or local government without it. The key idea is that everybody who meets the criteria gets an equal vote in the outcome. The word democracy comes from the Greek words for people (*demos*) and rule (*kratos*).

The Ancient Greeks are often considered the first civilisation to embrace the idea of democracy. Even they had some strange ideas. The first democracy began in Athens. All adult citizens were required to take part in the government. If they refused, they could be fined. Nowadays, a citizen is anybody who lives in a particular place. Back then, they defined a citizen as any free men. That meant that women, children and slaves weren't allowed to take part in the government or vote.

There were three different layers to the Ancient Greek system. All of them were equally important.

The Ekklesia (sometimes called the Assembly) was a group of about 5,000 men who met throughout the year. There wasn't a police force, and so the rules and laws decided in the Ekklesia were important. They allowed people to have a voice and raise their concerns. This meant that they could make a difference in the way Athens was governed.

The Boule (also called the Council) was a group of 500 men. These men were randomly chosen and served for a year. They met every day and would decide which issues needed to be raised in the Assembly. Citizens could bring their issues to the Boule to be taken forward.

Ruling over everyone was the Dikasteria. This was a bit like the courts of today, except it was filled with 500 jurors and no judge. The jurors were chosen each day randomly from citizens over 30 years of age. The members of the Dikasteria were responsible for deciding if people were guilty of crimes or not, and how to punish them. Unfortunately, this meant that they could possibly be influenced by power. The jurors of the Dikasteria voted in secret to try to avoid this.

These days, the majority of countries across the world are governed with a



democracy. This is only recent, though. It wasn't until 2002 that the number of democracies in the world overtook the number of autocracies (a country ruled by an unelected leader)\*.



\* Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/democracy>

## RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. What was another name for the Council?
2. How many different groups were there in the Ancient Greek democratic system?
3. In a democracy, do some people have more votes than others?
4. What might happen to somebody if they refused to take part in the government?
5. Who couldn't vote?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**S**

How did the Ancient Greeks try to avoid the members of the Dikasteria being influenced?

**V**

Which Greek words were used to form the word "democracy".

**E**

The author has used brackets in several places. What impact does this have on the reader?

**E**

Why has the author included a source link at the end of the document?

**P**

Do you think a democracy is a good way to run a country? Explain why you think this.



## Famous Ancient Greeks

Ancient Greece was a hotbed of famous people from inventors to philosophers to doctors. Some of the most notable are still leaving their mark on life today.

### Hippocrates

Hippocrates was a famous Greek doctor. He was one of the first people to notice that medicine should be a different part of science to philosophy. Additionally, he was one of the first doctors to identify lung cancer and heart disease. Doctors today have to pledge to follow the Hippocratic Oath. This was named after Hippocrates.

### Aristotle

Aristotle was a famous Greek philosopher. He was taught by another philosopher, Plato. Aristotle went on to tutor Alexander the Great and devise an entirely new system of philosophy. He was also an avid writer and wrote many poems. Many of his ideas about the world around him were far ahead of their time. Most weren't proved to be valid until the 19th century.

### Alexander The Great

Nobody knew who Alexander's father was. He grew up to commit great deeds, so people soon believed he was actually the son of Zeus. He was tutored by Aristotle until he was 16 years old when he became King of Macedonia. He used the Macedonian and Greek armies to launch a 10-year campaign. During these wars, he captured large sections of Europe and Persia. He died a hero aged 33.

### Archimedes

Archimedes was a Greek engineer. He was also an inventor, philosopher, astronomer and mathematician. He allegedly ran down the street naked once after he came up with an idea in the bath. He also played an essential tactical role in helping the Greek army defend against the Romans. Archimedes was the first person to arrive at the value of Pi. He also invented the formulae to calculate the volume of a sphere and a cylinder.



## Pythagoras

Pythagoras was a prominent mathematician who created the formula to calculate the sides of a right-angle triangle. Pythagoras was so renowned that on one of his trips he was followed by 300 people who worshipped him as the god Apollo! Pythagoras was also one of the first people to suggest that the Earth orbits around the sun and not the other way around. This wasn't proved until nearly 2000 years later!

## Homer

The Ancient Greek Homer was an author who wrote the Iliad and the Odyssey. These are two of the greatest epic poems ever written and have inspired writers throughout history. He was the first person to tell the story of Troy and the Trojan Horse, as well as the story of Achilles.



## VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. What does the phrase "hotbed of famous people" tell you about Ancient Greece?
2. Find a word or phrase that means something was correct.
3. What are deeds?
4. Find a word or phrase that tells the reader how important Archimedes was to the army.
5. Which word has been used to describe Pythagoras that means he was famous?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**I**

Why do you think doctors named the Hippocratic Oath after Hippocrates?

**R**

Who wrote the Iliad and Odyssey?

**R**

Who did his followers think Pythagoras was?

**S**

Why did Aristotle stop tutoring Alexander the Great?

**P**

Which of today's famous people do you think will still be remembered in 3,000 years? Explain why.

## GODS OF GREECE

The Ancient Greeks adored their gods and used them to explain and control lots of aspects of their lives. Lots of the Greek gods later went on to be adopted by the Ancient Romans. These are five of their most important.



### ZEUS

The Ancient Greeks considered Zeus to be the king of all their gods. He was the father of many other gods. These included: Ares, Athena and Apollo. His wife was Hera.

Zeus had many powers. He had the ability to throw lightning bolts, mimic other people's voices and shape-shift.



### ARES

Ares was the Ancient Greek God of War. He was a son of Zeus and Hera and was infatuated with Aphrodite.

It was thought that Ares loved to see people fighting each other. He would ride into battle in a chariot pulled by fire-breathing horses.



### ATHENA

As the Goddess of Wisdom, Athena gave her name to the city of Athens.

Athena was also considered to play a part in wars. Unlike Ares, Athena was more interested in tactics and strategy.

The Ancient Greeks believed that Athena was responsible for inventing many useful items. Some of her inventions included the ship, the chariot and the rake.

She was also a daughter of Zeus.

## APHRODITE

Love and beauty were significant to the Ancient Greeks. They named Aphrodite as the goddess of both. She was famously the most beautiful of all the goddesses.

In pictures, she is often pictured with Eros, the God of Love.

It was believed that Aphrodite could cause people to fall in love. Fighting couples would often pray to her to help them make up.



### APOLLO

Apollo was the Ancient Greek God of the Sun. He was a child of Zeus and the protector of the city of Delphi. It was rumoured that he wore a laurel wreath on his head to honour his love for Daphne.

Like all of the most powerful Greek gods, Apollo was immortal.

It was thought that Apollo guided the arrow into Achilles' heel during the Trojan War.



## VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Find a word or phrase that shows how the Ancient Greeks felt about their gods.
2. Which word tells you that the Romans later took some of the Greek gods as their own?
3. What does the word “infatuated” tell you about Ares’s feelings towards Aphrodite?
4. Find a word or phrase that is close in meaning to “talked about without any evidence”.
5. Copy a phrase that tells you how the Ancient Greeks felt about love.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R**

Who was the God of War?

**S**

List the gods or goddesses listed here that were children of Zeus.

**S**

Write down one of Zeus’s powers.

**I**

Why do you think Aphrodite was often represented by a beautiful woman?

**I**

Which god or goddess would have helped the leaders of armies work out how to defeat an enemy? Why?



# THE TROY PLOY

By War Correspondent **Ares**

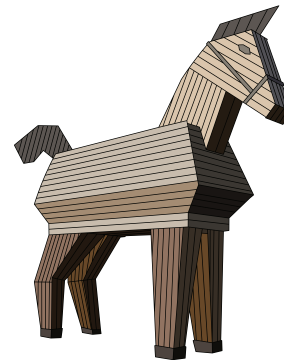
Yesterday, the brave Greek army finally gained entry into Troy in a daring act of subterfuge. An end to the war finally appears to be in sight after 10 years of endless fighting. A full-scale battle is currently being waged inside the walls of Troy, but our sources tell us that the Greek soldiers are on top.

Finding a way to breach the gates of Troy has been an aim for the Greek army for a long time. Unfortunately, the cowardly soldiers of Troy have hidden away behind their walls.

The leader of the Greek army is the mighty Agamemnon. He said last week, "Something needs to be done soon. Their scoundrel of a prince kidnapped my brother's wife, Helen. We've had to fight for nearly a decade to get her back. I want the people of Greece to know we have a cunning plan that I think will end this once and for all."

Keeping this plan a secret was a top priority for Agamemnon and his allies. There were concerns when the army retreated from Troy and sailed to Tenedos. Ultimately, this was all part of the scheme.

Once the citizens of Troy were convinced that the Greeks had retreated, a courageous Greek named Sinon delivered a giant wooden horse. The horse had been carved by the esteemed carpenter Epeius and was presented as a gift honouring Athena.



The horse was wheeled into the city just before dusk. It wasn't until later that the real plan revealed itself. A dozen Greek soldiers had been carefully hidden inside the horse's belly ready to escape.

While all this had been taking place, the Greek army had surreptitiously returned to Troy. The hidden soldiers then unlocked the city gates from the inside. The Greek army had finally gained entry into Troy.

Our reporters managed to catch up with some of the fleeing Trojans. One said that he was sorry for the trouble they'd caused. He added that the plan had been rather good. However, he'd have preferred not to be woken up in the middle of the night by a raging horde.

Helen was rescued just after midnight and returned safely to her husband. The happy couple has said that they will issue a statement at a later date.

We have reached out to the King of Troy for comment, but so far he hasn't responded. There are rumours that this is because he is dead. We will bring you news of any changes as soon as we get it.



## INFERENCE FOCUS

1. How does the reporter feel about the Greek army? How do you know this?
2. How does the reporter feel about the Trojan army? How do you know this?
3. Why were there concerns when the army retreated to Tenedos?
4. Why was Sinon “courageous”?
5. When the fleeing Trojan was interviewed, he said he was sorry for the trouble the caused.  
What did he mean?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**V**

What does the word “surreptitiously” tell you about how the Greeks returned?

**S**

What happened after the horse had been wheeled into the town?

**V**

Write a definition for “subterfuge”.

**R**

What relation was Helen to Agamemnon?

**R**

What was Epeius’s job?

Answers - Ancient Greece:

1. The Classical Period
2. Alexander the Great
3. Olympia
4. 8,000BC
5. Icarus (and his wax wings)

S: Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic

V: Key

I: Because they lived on top of Mount Olympus

V: They were very important to their lives

E: Each section is a different length/it is easy to see that the Archaic Period was the longest and the other two roughly the same length

## Answers - Democracy:

1. The Boule
2. 3
3. No
4. They might be fined
5. Women, children and slaves

S: They voted in secret

V: Demos and Kratos

E: It makes it clear that the information within is a definition or extra information

E: It shows where the informaton came from for that fact.



Answers - Famous Ancient Greeks:

1. There were lots of famous people who grew up there
2. Valid
3. Things that somebody has done/actions they've taken
4. (An) essential (tactical role)
5. Prominent

I: Because he did so much to advance medicine (do not accept answers that link to it being his name with no reference to his impact)

R: Homer

R: Apollo

S: Alexander became king

Answers - Ancient Greek Gods:

1. Adored
2. Adopted
3. He was madly in love with her/couldn't stop thinking about her
4. Rumoured
5. Love and beauty were significant to the Ancient Greeks.

R: Ares

S: Ares, Athena, Apollo

S: One of: the ability to throw lightning bolts, mimic other people's voices and shape-shift.

I: She was the Goddess of Love and Beauty

I: Athena - she was the Goddess of War but was more interested in tactics and strategy - do not accept Ares

Answers - The Troy Ploy:

1. The reporter thinks they are “brave”
2. The reporter thinks that the Trojans are “cowardly”
3. People would have thought the Greeks were leaving the battle and the Trojans had won
4. He had to deliver the horse to enemy alone. They might have killed him
5. He was sorry that they had kidnapped Helen and started the war

V: They did it secretly without anybody noticing

S: The soldiers left the horse and opened the gate for the army

V: To trick somebody or use a sneaky method (or similar)

R: His brother’s wife (or sister-in-law)

R: A carpenter