

Ancient Greece

Year 4 (or mixed age 3/4)

Key end points of the 'Ancient Greece' unit are to know that:

- Ancient Greece was made up of independent city-states
- Athens is considered to be the birthplace of democracy.
- The Spartans were fierce warriors and lived very modestly.
- Alexander the Great created a vast empire.
- Plato, Socrates and Aristotle were Ancient Greek Philosophers.
- Ancient Greeks built important buildings with large columns and that this style has been copied around the world.
- Ancient Olympic Games included competitive sports, including running, javelin and equestrian events.
- The Ancient Greeks left an important legacy and are still remembered today.

This unit builds on chronologically from the study of *Ancient Egypt*. Children should have some prior knowledge of how civilisation began along the Nile in Ancient Egypt. It also elaborates on substantive concepts of **power** and **democracy** which were first developed in Year One in '*Kings and Queens*' and '*Parliament and Prime Ministers*', deepening children's understanding of both. This unit covers the National Curriculum requirement to study Ancient Greece, Greek life and achievements and their influence on the Western World.

This unit links to the Arts curriculum where children look at *Greek Architecture*, in particular the Parthenon. Children will see examples of realistic sculptures and statues that the Greeks created and will learn how their artistic style went on to influence the Roman art of the Renaissance.

Children will encounter Alexander the Great and will learn about how he built a vast empire. Later in the curriculum, children will be able to contrast his achievements with other military leaders as the concept of empire is revisited (e.g. the *Roman Empire*, *The British Empire* and *Napoleon's empire*). They will use their knowledge of world geography to recognise the size of Alexander's empire and will begin to understand how culture, religion and language can spread as an empire grows.

Children will learn about the development of Athenian Democracy and will contrast the values held by the citizens of the Athens with those of the war focussed Spartans. Importantly, children will see how long held hatred between enemies can be put aside when an outside threat, King Darius and his Persian Army, required the city-states to unite to defend Greece from invasion.

Studying this period of History provides children with a fascinating insight into how Greeks from different city states lived, the Gods they worshipped and the stories they told of monsters, heroes, challenges and bravery. It equips them with an understanding of what a legacy is; how there are things in our lives, such as how we vote, words we speak, sports we participate in, stories we tell, that remain from an earlier time.

Lesson Sequencing:

The sequence of lessons in this unit has been chosen to provide a variety of fascinating and significant aspects of Ancient Greek history. Unlike many other history units, given the significance of Ancient Greece, this unit is 12 weeks rather than 6. Lesson 1 begins by introducing the children to Ancient Greece. The children are taught that Greece at this time was not one united country but was made up of independent city-states. Lesson 2 focuses in on the city-state of Athens. Athens is famous for being the 'birthplace of democracy'. Lesson 3 focuses on another significant city-state- Sparta. Spartans are remembered for being fierce warriors. Lesson 4 looks in depth at the Persian Wars and the children learn about two important battles that took place. Lesson 5 focuses in on a significant person, Alexander the Great, and looks at his large empire. Lesson 6 introduces the children to Greek philosophy and lessons 7 and 8 look at Greek Gods, Goddesses and mythology. Lesson 9 focuses in on Greek art and architecture- a lesson that builds on previous learning from the PKC Art curriculum. Lesson 10 looks at the Olympics and explores the similarities and differences between the games then with the games today. Finally, lesson 11 explores the legacy of Ancient Greece, applying what children have learned from across the unit to look at the impact of Ancient Greece on our lives today.

Key substantive concepts explored in this unit include **power, democracy, empire, and civilisation**.

Key disciplinary concepts applied are **sources & evidence** (looking at how we know about life in Ancient Greece) and children begin to look at **similarity and difference** (how the lives between rich/poor and males/females differed in this period).