

# What Have the Ancient Greeks Done for us? Knowledge Organiser

## Vocabulary Dozen

Acropolis	a hill in Athens where there is a large collection of temples
artefact	An object, often used by historians to find out about the past
Athens	A powerful city-state during the Classical period, famous for its philosophers and scientists
citizen	Someone who was a member of a city-state and owned land
city-state	Greek cities with countryside around them that operated as separate countries or states
civilisation	the society, culture, and way of life of a particular area, often thought to be advanced
democracy	a method of government invented in Athens where men voted in order to make decisions
legacy	something left behind when something or someone leaves, handed down to people who come afterwards
oligarchy	a system of government where the rules are made by a small group of powerful men
Olympus	The mountain where the Ancient Greeks believed their gods lived
polis	the Greek word for a city-state
Sparta	A powerful city-state during the Classical period, famous for its soldiers

## Key people in the time of Ancient Greece

<b>Aesop</b>	Greek storyteller who wrote fables to explain human behaviour
<b>Archimedes</b>	Mathematician and scientist from Syracuse, now part of Sicily. Famous for his mechanisms including levers and weapons of war.
<b>Eratosthenes</b>	Greek mathematician who created an algorithm for finding all Prime Numbers and calculated the size of the Earth
<b>Homer</b>	Greek poet who is credited with creating the versions of the Trojan war (The Iliad) and the travels of Odysseus (The Odyssey) which we are familiar with.
<b>Pythagoras</b>	Greek mathematician who is most famous for his work with triangles and types of numbers



The Parthenon is one of the most famous buildings from the time of the Ancient Greeks. It is on the Acropolis in Athens

**Greek Gods include:** Zeus, Hera, Athena, Poseidon, Ares, Hermes, Hades and Aphrodite. The Greeks believed that their lives were controlled by the gods.



## Timeline of Ancient Greece

2500 BC	The great Minoan civilisation
1200 BC	The Trojan War and the destruction of Troy
776 BC	The First Olympic Games are staged
500 – 323 BC	The Greek Classical Period
490 BC	Greek/ Persian Wars led by Xerxes
333 BC	Alexander the Great defeats the Persians
86 BC	The Roman General Sulla captures Athens

## Stories that the Ancient Greeks told include:

- Theseus and the Minotaur
- Daedalus and Icarus
- Perseus and the Gorgon
- King Midas
- Jason and the Golden Fleece
- The legends of Heracles

A lot of the information we have about the way that the ancient Greeks lived comes from **artefacts** like Greek vases or urns

