

## How did ancient Greece begin?

- People have been living in Greece for over 40,000 years.
- The earliest settlers lived a simple hunter-gatherer or farming lifestyle. This is similar to Prehistoric Britain.
- The **Minoans** were the first great Greek civilisation between **2200BC and 1450BC**.
- They were known as the Minoans after their famous king, Minos.
- About **2,500 years ago** Greece was one of the most important places in the ancient world.
- The Greeks were great **thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artists, architects and politicians**.
- The name 'Greeks' was given to the people of Greece later by the Romans.
- They lived in mainland Greece and the Greek islands, scattered around the **Mediterranean Sea**.

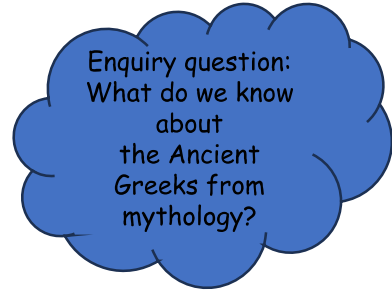
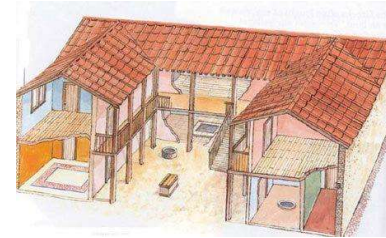


# The Ancient Greeks

How did Greek ideas spread so far? Even after **3,000 years**, we're still using ancient Greek ideas in math's, science and art.

Our **alphabet** is based on the Greek one. Hundreds of words we use come from the Greek language.

- It's all down to a young king called Alexander.
- He led his army to take over Greece, Persia, Egypt and even part of India.
- He ruled so much of the world they called him '**Alexander the Great**'.
- Wherever he went, Alexander took **Greek ideas**.
- After he died, the Romans took over. They liked the Greeks' way of life and carried Greek ideas to even more countries - including ours!

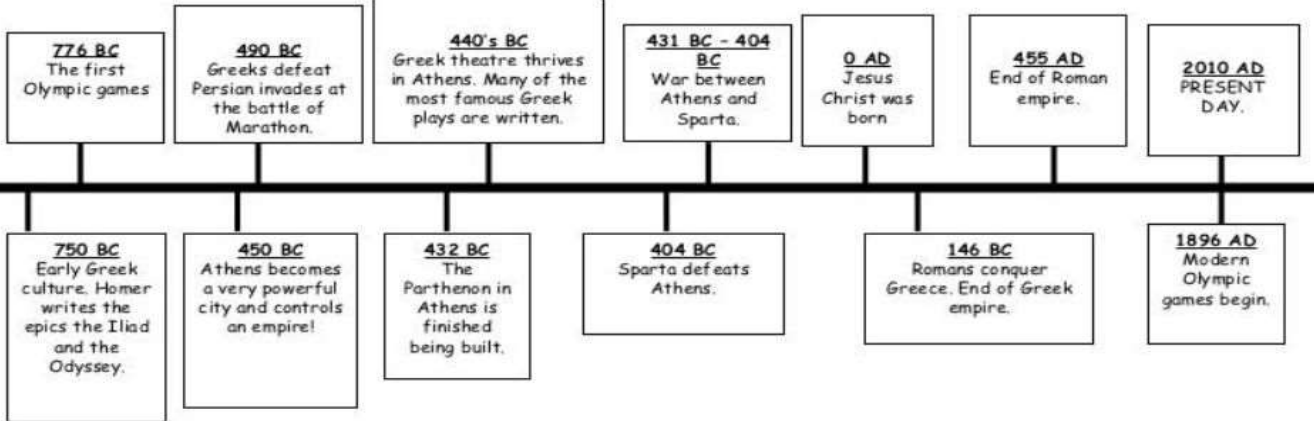


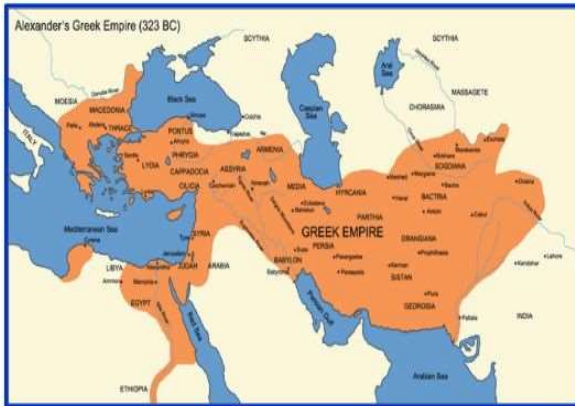
## Ancient Greek homes

- Ancient Greek homes were built around a courtyard or garden. The walls were often made from wood and mud bricks. They had small windows with no glass, but wooden shutters to keep out the hot sun.
- They didn't have much furniture inside. Rich people decorated the walls and floors with colourful tiles and paintings.
- Many homes didn't have a bathroom. There were public baths, but most people washed using a small bucket or in a nearby stream. Only rich people enjoyed baths at home.
- At night, Greeks slept on beds stuffed with wool, feathers or dry grass. Most people went to bed as soon as it got dark. The only light came from flickering oil lamps and candles

## What was Greek fashion like?

- A Greek woman wore a long tunic called a **chiton**. This was made from a piece of cotton or linen. Over this, she wore a cloak draped from her shoulders, called a **himation**. This would be a thin material in summer and a thick one in winter.
- Young men wore **short tunics**, while older men preferred long ones. Enslaved men often wore just a strip of cloth called a **loincloth**.





### Greek Myths

Greek 'myths' (short for mythology) are a series of stories about the Gods and magical beings of Greece. Including characters such as Heracles, (the strongest man on Earth) Zeus, (the God of the sky and king of the gods) Pegasus (a flying horse) and Hades (the god of the underworld). They often feature heroic battles and terrible creatures, and taught the importance of bravery, intelligence, and right and wrong. They showed that even the gods, like mortal men, could be punished or rewarded for their actions. Details of the ancient tales have been found on everything from pottery to temples to stone statues!



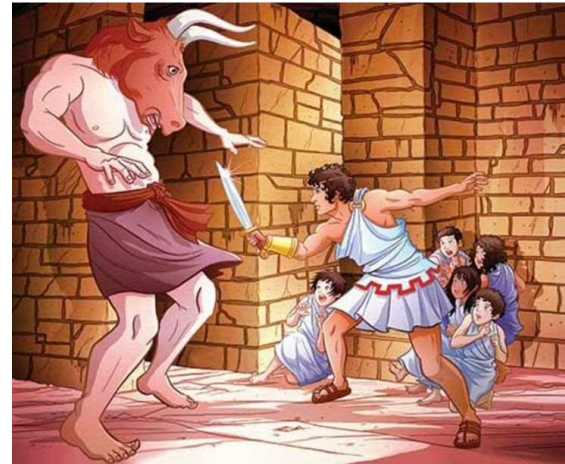
### Who were the Greek gods?

Image caption, Athena and Poseidon were two Greek gods

- The Greeks believed that gods and goddesses **watched over them**.
- The Greeks believed the gods lived in **Mount Olympus**, in a palace in the clouds.
- Gods could send storms if they were angry and decide who was victorious in wars.
- **Zeus** was the king of the gods

Each god and goddess had power over a different aspect of life or the world. Click below to find out a bit more about them. The Greeks built **temples** to their gods and goddesses

- When people needed help from the gods, they went to the temple to **pray**.
- To **please the gods**, people brought gifts of money, flowers, food and drink.



Theseus and the Minotaur



The Hydra

Key vocab	meaning
Ancient	belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.
Myth	A traditional story, from early history explaining a natural or social phenomenon
Hunter-gatherer	a member of a nomadic people who live chiefly by hunting and fishing, and harvesting wild food.
Mediterranean	the Mediterranean Sea or the countries bordering it.
Temples	a building for religious worship
Zeus	the supreme god of the ancient Greeks
Civilisation	the society, culture, and way of life of a particular area
legacies	the long-lasting impact of particular events, actions, etc. that took place in the past, or of a person's life.