

Adventurers - Athens v Sparta

What
I
Should
Know

Dimensions
CURRICULUM



Overview

"Athens v Sparta" is a thematic unit based on Ancient Greece, with a key focus on history. Learning is centred on how the Greeks used to live, including the key aspect of mythology, especially highlighting the conflicts that characterised Ancient Greece, including the Persian Wars.

Where is Greece?

Greece is a Mediterranean country in South East Europe. It is made up of two peninsulas and thousands of islands. The Greek Empire began in around 800BCE and ended about 146BCE. The Ancient Greek Empire also had colonies around the Mediterranean.

Places in Greece

The Ancient Greeks lived in separate city states. The two most famous city states were Athens and Sparta. There was a great deal of conflict between Athens and Sparta. Athens was built right next to the sea and on a trade route, so it became very rich. Sparta was in the mountains and had fertile soil, which meant it could be self-sufficient and well-defended.

The Gods and Goddesses

The Greeks thought that their gods lived in a palace in the clouds, high above **Mount Olympus**. They watched what you were doing, sent storms if they were angry and decided who would win wars.

- **Zeus:** King of the gods - the god of sky and lightning
- **Hera:** Queen of the gods - married to Zeus - the goddess of marriage and family
- **Heracles:** Zeus's son - so strong he could kill a lion with his bare hands – extremely brave
- **Athena:** goddess of war, defence and wisdom

The Greek myths often taught about human problems such as pride and greed. One of the most famous myths is the story of **King Midas**, which is a lesson about greed.

The Persian Wars

The city states (who usually fought each other) joined forces to fight against the Persian Empire who invaded several times in the 5th century BC.

One of the most famous battles was The Battle of Marathon (490 BC). The Persians had a huge army compared to the Greeks, but the Greeks were much better fighters and won the battle. After this invasion, Athens built up a powerful fleet of ships.

Greek Architecture

Ancient Greek cities had beautiful temples with stone columns and statues, built to honour the gods. There were also open-air theatres where people sat to watch plays. These were built on hillsides so that the audiences could hear and see what was going on. The ruins of many of these can still be seen today. Some of the most famous examples of Greek architecture are the Parthenon and the Acropolis.

Ancient Greek Legacy

The Ancient Greeks left a huge legacy, especially in Western Europe:- Architecture, art, stories, drama, the alphabet, sport (The Olympic Games), democracy, ideas about maths, science and philosophy (deep thinking).



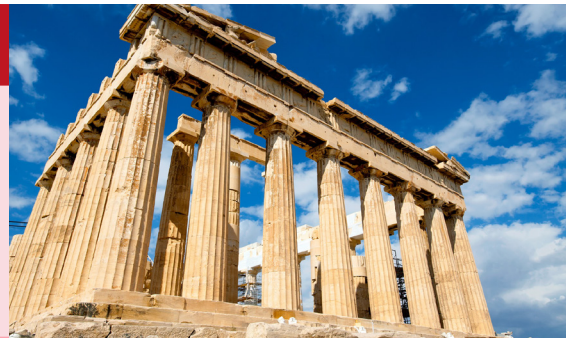
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Vocabulary

Architecture	the way buildings are designed and built
Artefacts	objects relating to the time period
BC / BCE	Before Christ / Before the Common Era
Colonies	a group of people of one nationality living in another place
Democracy	ruled by the people, where citizens vote
Legacy	something that is passed down from someone who came before
Marathon	a long distance (26 mile) running race, based on the story that a messenger ran from Marathon to Athens (almost 25 miles) with the news of victory in the Persian Wars
Mount Olympus	a mountain above Athens, where the gods and goddesses were believed to live
Mythology	a story or group of stories that form part of the traditional beliefs of a society
Temple	a building devoted to the worship of a god / gods or goddess / goddesses
Olympic Games	sports event from Ancient Greece, held every four years, originally in honour of Zeus
Theatre	a building or outdoor area in which plays and other dramatic performances are

Concept Flow

- To know the location of Greece
- To learn about the ancient Greek Empire
- To understand the importance of Athens and Sparta
- To know about some of the important battles e.g. The Persian Wars
- To learn about Greek mythology



My Notes / Questions