



History Knowledge Organiser

Year 5

The Ancient Greeks



Summary Statement

The Ancient Greeks: a study of Greek society and achievements during the ancient times. The origins of the Olympic games are studied as well as Athens at its height in the Golden Age. The role of women and how we know about them at this time, is researched. The school concepts of 'role of women', 'religion – gods' and 'conflict – society' are embedded.

By the end of the unit pupils can...

- Explain that the first official Olympic Games happened in 776 BC and then continued to take place once every four years. As well as being the most important sporting event for the Ancient Greeks, the Olympic Games were also a very important religious festival.
- Olympia was associated with Zeus, the king of the gods, and the Olympic Games were held in his honour.
- Understand that only men were allowed to compete in the games and only men or unmarried women could watch. Married women were excluded from entry.
- Recall that some events were different to modern-day Olympics: chariot racing, prayers and sacrifices and jumping with weights.



Ancient Greek vases

Key Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
Athens	The capital of Greece. Greek name Athínai .
Olympia	It was the site of the god Zeus; the place where the original Olympic Games were held, (after which the site is named).
Olympics	The Olympic Games were a series of athletic competitions among representatives of city states. They were held in honour of the God Zeus.
source	Evidence that provides information about a time or event, eg an ancient vase.
Sparta	A city in southern Greece. It was a powerful city state in the 5th century BC.

Key Knowledge

- Historians now argue over just how much women had to stay at home. It does seem that richer women, at least, were seldom seen in public. They were expected to supervise the running of their households. An Ancient Greek writer compared the woman of the house to a Queen Bee: 'she always stays in the hive' and works at textile crafts and entertains friends - all under her own roof.
- There were parts of the house where the women cooked, did their weaving and spinning, looked after children and sometimes slept – away from their husbands.
- There were Greek gods and goddesses such as: Zeus, Hera and Poseidon.

Map of Ancient Greece

