


Groundbreaking Greeks

Knowledge	Important people/jobs	Vocabulary
<p>Ancient Greek lands were made up of the Greek mainland, surrounding islands and Greek colonies across the Mediterranean Sea. Ancient Greece was almost entirely surrounded by sea, and the mountains on the mainland made travelling by land difficult.</p> <p><u>Significant periods</u></p> <p>Ancient Greek history can be divided into seven main periods or civilisations: Neolithic, Minoan civilisation, Mycenaean civilisation, Dark Age, Archaic period, Classical period and Hellenistic period. Greece is often referred to as the birthplace of Western civilisation because of the advances that its people made in politics, science, mathematics, philosophy, literature and art.</p> <p><u>City States</u></p> <p>During the Classical period, ancient Greece was a collection of city states, rather than one united country. Each city state, known as a polis, included a city and its surrounding villages, farms and land. Each city state had its own government and hierarchy, although they spoke the same language and followed the same religion. The design of each city was also similar. They all had a connection to the sea for trade and transport, outer walls for protection, a variety of buildings inside the city walls and an acropolis built on a hill. Despite similarities and trade links between the city states, they were often at war with each other.</p>	<p><u>Democracy</u></p> <p>The world's first democratic system was created in Athens in the fifth century BC. The system was designed to give the Athenian people a say over how their city was run. Today's democratic systems, although different from Athens', follow the same principles and allow ordinary citizens to have a say in how their country is governed.</p> <p><u>Olympic Games</u></p> <p>The Olympic Games were invented in ancient Greece. It was one of the greatest sporting and religious festivals of its time and drew in competitors and spectators from all parts of Greece. Today's Olympic Games share some of the same core values of excellence, respect and friendship that underpinned the original Olympic Games.</p> 	<p>acropolis architect Athenian citadel city state civilisation democracy empire mathematician mythology Parthenon philosopher warrior</p> 