



It's All Greek to Me!

What impact did the Greeks have on the western world?

Lesson 1—Who were the Ancient Greeks? Why were they significant?

Ancient Greece was a civilisation that existed from around 1200BCE until 323BCE. The Ancient Greeks made many discoveries and innovations that have greatly impacted how we live our lives today.



Democracy: a system of government, where the population gets to vote for representatives that will represent their area.
Architecture: the art or practice of designing and constructing buildings.
Philosophy: study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence.
Artefact: In archaeology, artefacts are the material remains of past human life and activities.
Legacy: Something left or handed down by a predecessor.
Empire: an extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch, an oligarchy, or a sovereign state.
Influence: someone (civilisation) affecting the emotions, opinions or behaviours of others.

Ancient Greek Achievements

OLYMPICS

The Olympic Games began **over 2,700 years ago**, in **Olympia** (South West Greece). The games consisted of 6 events: running, long jump, shot put, javelin, boxing/ wrestling & equestrian (horse) events. Olympia was associated with **Zeus**, the king of the gods, and the Olympic Games were held in his honour.

PHILOSOPHY AND DEMOCRACY

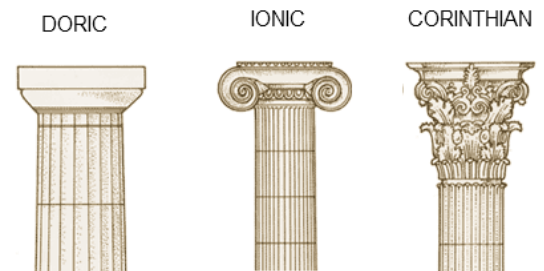
Democracy began in Ancient Greece.
Ekklesia: citizens who met 40 times a year to make laws and decisions by a simple majority vote.
The Boule: A group of 500 men who served for one year. They met daily and made lots of decisions.
The Dikasteria: a group of 500 jurors who dealt with crimes.

MEDICINE

Much of Greek medicine was based on religion and the belief that the world was controlled by Gods. The God of healing was **Asclepius**. The Greek thinkers, **Hippocrates** (and **Aristotle**) came up with the theory of the Four Humours.

ARCHITECTURE

In ancient Greece, there were three main types of architecture: **Doric, Ionic and Corinthian**. These terms are also used to categorise Greek columns, which are categorised based on their appearance:



DORIC

IONIC

CORINTHIAN

