

History – Ancient Greece – Y5/6 Autumn 2



Ancient Greek Olympics

The Olympic Games began over 2,700 years ago in **Olympia**, in south west Greece.

Every four years, around 50,000 people came from all over the Greek world to watch and take part.

The ancient games were also a religious festival, held in honour of Zeus, the king of the gods.

There were no gold, silver and bronze medals.



Zeus, the god of the sky and thunder was also the King of all the Greek gods.

Knowledge Organiser

The Ancient Greek period was approximately between **776 BC and 146 BC**

WHO WERE THE ANCIENT GREEKS?

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.



Pythagoras was a Greek philosopher who made important developments in mathematics, astronomy, and the theory of music.



Ancient Greek Mythology is centred around the monsters: Medusa, the Cyclops, Chimera, the Minotaur, Cerberus, the Gorgons and many more. They had special powers and were feared by non-mortals.



How was Greece ruled?

There was never one country called 'ancient Greece'. Instead, Greece was divided up into small **city-states**, like Athens, Sparta, Corinth and Olympia.

Each city-state ruled itself.

They had their own governments, laws and army. So, ancient Greeks living in Sparta considered themselves Spartan first, and Greek second.

Famously, the city-states didn't get on very well and often fought each other. However, sometimes they joined together to fight against a bigger enemy, like the **Persian Empire**.

The Trojan War



In **Greek mythology**, the **Trojan War** was waged against the city of **Troy** by the **Achaean**s (**Greeks**) after **Paris** of Troy took **Helen** from her husband **Menelaus**, king of **Sparta**.

The Greeks hid inside a giant, wooden horse to get inside the city of Troy