










Topic	Gods and Mortals	Year 3	Spring Term
-------	------------------	--------	-------------

What was life like in Ancient Greece?
 About 2,500 years ago, Greece was one of the most important places in the world.

 <p>Athenians and Spartans</p>	<p>In ancient times, Greece wasn't a single country like it is today. It was made up of lots of smaller states. These states were always squabbling and often went to war. Sparta and Athens fought a long war, called the Peloponnesian War, from 431 to 404BC. The Spartans believed that strict discipline and a tough upbringing was the secret to making the best soldiers. Boys left their families at seven to begin their 23-year-long training to become a soldier.</p> <p>It was a hard life. A boy was only allowed one tunic and had to walk everywhere bare-foot, even in cold weather. They weren't given much food either, so often had to steal. Girls were expected to be physically fit too. They weren't allowed to be soldiers, but they did compete against the boys at sport. Athenian boys would receive a good education in reading and writing at school. They were encouraged to be creative and great thinkers. Girls would stay at home and might have a tutor if they were rich enough.</p>
 <p>Homes</p>	<p>Ancient Greek homes were built around a courtyard or garden. The walls were often made from wood and mud bricks. They had small windows with no glass, but wooden shutters to keep out the hot sun. They didn't have much furniture inside. People sat on wooden chairs or stools. Rich people decorated the walls and floors with colourful tiles and paintings. Many homes didn't have a bathroom. There were public baths, but most people washed using a small bucket or in a nearby stream. Only rich women (with enslaved people to carry the water) enjoyed baths at home. Afterwards they rubbed their bodies with perfumed oil to keep their skin soft. At night, Greeks slept on beds stuffed with wool, feathers or dry grass. Most people went to bed as soon as it got dark. The only light came from flickering oil lamps and candles.</p>
 <p>Clothing</p>	<p>A Greek woman wore a long tunic called a chiton. This was made from a piece of cotton or linen. Over this, she wore a cloak draped from her shoulders, called a himation. This would be a thin material in summer and a thick one in winter.</p> <p>Young men wore short tunics, while older men preferred long ones. Enslaved men often wore just a strip of cloth called a loincloth. Many people walked around bare-foot. Some wore leather sandals or, for horse-riding, high boots. Both men and women wore wide-brimmed hats in hot weather, to shade their faces from the sun.</p>
 <p>Children</p>	<p>When a Greek child was born, the father could decide whether to keep the child or not. If the child appeared weak or was a girl, sometimes the father would abandon the child. Once a child was accepted by the father, he or she was treated well. Greek children had toys and spent the day playing games. When boys became seven years old, they started school. They learned maths, reading, and writing. Sometimes they would also learn a musical instrument. When they got older they learned how to debate. Girls did not go to school. Children were considered adults by the age of 13.</p>
<p>Jobs</p>	<p>There were many jobs for men in Ancient Greece including farmer, fisherman, soldier, teacher, government worker, and craftsman. The women, however, were generally homemakers and would raise the children and cook the meals.</p>

Key Knowledge - Gods Throughout History

 <p>Greek gods</p>	<p>The Greeks believed that gods and goddesses watched over them. These gods were a bit like humans, but they lived forever and were much more powerful. They felt human emotions, like love, anger and jealousy, and they did not always behave themselves. The Greeks thought the gods lived high above Mount Olympus, in a palace in the clouds. From here, they kept an eye on life below. From time to time, they would interfere in what was going on. They could send storms if they were angry and decide who was victorious in wars. Sometimes they even played tricks on humans too.</p>
 <p>Roman gods</p>	<p>Did you know that the Roman gods are actually inspired by the Greek gods? In 740 BC the Ancient Greeks formed colonies in Italy and a new religion was born. The Romans believed that any good fortune was a result of a good relationship with the gods. However, if they made the gods angry, very bad things could happen. The Romans had a lot of gods. They also have gods for pretty much anything you could think of.</p>
 <p>Ancient Egyptian gods</p>	<p>The ancient Egyptians had many gods. Gods created the universe and maintained order, but they were also involved in everyday life.</p> <p>Egyptians believed that a long time ago, only chaos existed. Out of chaos a hill emerged (called the Benben). The first god, Atum, was sitting on the hill. Atum, realising he was alone, created two children called Shu and Tefnut. His children left to create the world. Shu and Tefnut were away for a long time so Atum sent his eye to look for them. Shu and Tefnut returned with Atum's eye and he was so grateful the eye started crying. The tears dropped to the earth on the hill and from them the first humans were created!</p>

Key Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
city states	small areas that ancient Greece were divided into, each with their own government, laws and army
civilisation	a large group of people who share certain advanced ways of living and working
democracy	a system where the citizens of a country or state are involved in the way it is run
god	a superhuman being or spirit worshipped as having power over nature or human fortunes
mortal	a human being that is able to die
Olympics	an athletic event held by the Ancient Greeks every four years
tyrant	the ruler of a Greek city-state, a tyrant was like a king

Geography

Greece is a mountainous country. Mountains cover 80% of the country. The two major mountain ranges are the Pindus and the Taurus mountains.

Greece has a mild and temperate climate with wet and colder winters and hot and dry summers.



Legacy

- philosophy
- language
- architecture
- theatre
- sports
- art

