


Ancient Greece Big question: Has the Legacy left by the Ancient Greeks improved our Society today?







Diagram – Map of Ancient Greece

Map of Ancient Greece

Greece's position next to the sea (there are over 1400 islands) meant Ancient Greeks were a seafaring people. Trade between the islands led to the creation of 'city-states' (polis). Each city-state was ruled by a powerful city, led by a ruler or (later) government. Greece is a warm country, but winds from the Mediterranean, and rains from the north, kept temperatures livable and created fertile farming conditions.



Can we learn anything from Greek myths and legends?

Ancient Greek Gods	
<div><p>Zeus</p><p>Zeus was the king of the Greek gods, who lived on the Mount Olympus. He was also the god of the sky and the god of thunder. He was married to the goddess Hera and his symbol was the lightning bolt. Zeus was believed to be able to control the weather, creating huge storms. It was thought that he could change people into animals as punishment. His two brothers were Hades and Poseidon.</p></div>	<div><p>Hades</p><p>Hades (brother of Zeus and Poseidon) was the God of the Underworld. He was normally depicted as having a pitchfork and his three-headed dog, Cerberus. He rode a chariot pulled by black horses. The Underworld was where dead people went in Greek Mythology. Hades originally wasn't happy about this, until Zeus reminded him that it meant that all people would eventually be his subjects!</p></div>
<div><p>Poseidon</p><p>Poseidon (brother of Zeus and Hades) was the God of the sea, earthquakes, and horses. Along with his brothers, he was one of the three most powerful gods. As god of the ocean, he was especially important to sailors and fisherman. He was usually pictured with a trident, curly hair, and a beard. It was thought that Poseidon could create sea storms to ruin ships, or clear weather to help them along.</p></div>	<div><p>Hera</p><p>As the wife of Zeus, Hera was considered as the queen of Mount Olympus. She was most often considered to be the goddess of women, marriage and childbirth. She was normally pictured wearing long flowing robes and a crown, and holding a scepter. The women of ancient Greece prayed to Hera during childbirth, and to aid them through their marriages. As wife of Zeus, she also had power over the skies.</p></div>
<div><p>Apollo</p><p>Apollo was the Greek God of music, poetry, light, prophecy and medicine. He was often pictured as a handsome athletic youth with curly hair. Items associated with him are his bow and arrow and his lyre. It was believed that he could see into the future, and heal people. As a punishment, he could bring people illness and disease.</p></div>	<div><p>Aphrodite</p><p>Aphrodite was the Greek God of love and beauty. She was famous for being the most beautiful of all of the Goddesses. She was often shown as being a beautiful young woman with an apple, scallop shell, dove or swan. It was said that Aphrodite had a belt, which made people fall in love with the wearer. Fighting couples would look to Aphrodite to help them fall in love again.</p></div>



What do artefacts tell us about life in Ancient Greece?



Alexander the Great

Key Vocabulary	
legacy	Things or ideas that are passed down from one generation to another
culture	The beliefs, customs, arts etc. of a particular society, time, place or group
government	The system used for being in charge of a country
democracy	When decisions are made by the majority of its people
science	The nature and behaviour of natural things and the knowledge we obtain from them
mathematics	The study of numbers and how they relate to each other and the real world
architecture	The art and science of designing and creating buildings
philosophy	Ideas about knowledge, right and wrong, reasoning and the value of things
Olympics	A series of athletic challenges that takes place every four years
literature	Written works, especially those considered of merit
Athens	The largest and most powerful city state
Sparta	A military city state surrounded by mountains to protect it from invaders
empire	Many countries that are ruled by one leader
Parthenon	An important Greek temple (religious building) in Athens



776BC	750BC	570BC	508BC	450BC	432BC	336BC	146BC
The first Olympic Games takes place	Early Greek culture thrives Homer writes The Iliad and The Odyssey.	Pythagoras is born He makes major breakthroughs in science and maths	Democracy begins in Athens, giving greater power to the people	Athens becomes a powerful city and controls an empire	The Parthenon, the most famous building in Athens, is completed	Alexander the Great is king and helps the Greek Empire expand further	Rome conquers Greece, making it part of the Roman Empire