

Medium Term Plan: Supporting Implementation of LTP/Progression Grid

Subject: History

Year: LKS2 Year 4

NC/PoS: A study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world

- Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.
- The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain.
- Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots.
- The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor.
- A local history study.
- A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066.
- The achievements of the earliest civilizations – an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared and a depth study of one of the following: Ancient Sumer, The Indus Valley, Ancient Egypt, The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China.
- **Ancient Greece – a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world.**
- A non-European society that provides contrasts with British history – one study chosen from: early Islamic civilization, including a study of Baghdad c. AD 900; Mayan civilization c. AD 900; Benin (West Africa) c. AD 900-130

Prior Learning (what pupils already know and can do)

- Know early civilizations formed when people began living together in larger organized settlements.
- Know ancient means belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.
- Know the four earliest civilizations were based near rivers and can name benefits of this including irrigation, food, hygiene reasons, trade and transport.
- Know the four earliest civilizations had cuneiform, number system and agriculture in common.
- Know agriculture made it possible to feed large populations of people.

End Points (what pupils MUST know and remember)

- Know the Classical Golden Age of Ancient Greece came after the four earliest civilizations.
- Know early civilizations formed when people began living together in larger organized settlement, sharing culture and beliefs.
- Know Ancient Greece was made of city states (settlements) and the most famous were Athens, Thebes and Sparta.
- Know the Ancient Greeks had many gods and built temples as places of worship.
- Know democracy originated from Ancient Greece and can make comparisons to modern democracy.
- Know democracy is significant as it shapes our lives today.
- Know the Olympic games were first held by Ancient Greeks to avoid conflict.

Key Vocabulary

ancient, civilization, trade, city states, artefacts, pottery, statue, archaeology, temples, theatre, language, democracy, power, ruler, government, governance, vote, law, council, representative, religious beliefs

Enquiry question: Can we thank the Ancient Greeks for anything in our lives today?**Session 1: Who were the Ancient Greeks?**

Review prior learning and build a chronological timeline of previously taught units including the four earliest civilisations (Indus Valley, Shang Dynasty, Ancient Egyptian, Ancient Sumer).

Recap the terms 'chronological order', 'prehistory', 'in living memory', 'beyond living memory' and 'source'. Recap the terms 'ancient' history and 'civilization' with the children and recap BC/ AD (Taught in Y3). Remind children that sometimes the terms BCE/CE are used instead of BC/AD. Recap how when looking at events that occurred BC, the number of years counts down, but after that, the years count upwards. There is no year '0': the year 1 BC is followed immediately by AD 1.

Locate Ancient Greece on a wider timeline in relation to other civilizations and discuss the longevity of Ancient Greece.

Focus in on the period between 500BC to 323BC known as the 'Classical Golden Age', which marked the height of Ancient Greek civilisation and power.

- When we talk about the ancient Greeks, we are usually referring to this period.
- This was a time when there was a lot of cultural, social and scientific progress. The Classical Period or Golden Age of Greece has given us the great monuments, art, philosophy, architecture and literature which are the building blocks of our own civilization.

Map work – Locate Greece on a map. Discuss Ancient Greece's key features and its location:

- Mainland Greece and its numerous islands (over 1,000 islands)
- Physical land features (The tallest mountain was Mount Olympus. Around 80% of Greece is mountain, which made a lot of the land uninhabitable. This is why many ancient Greek settlements were built along the coast instead).
- Seas - The seas which surrounded Ancient Greece were the Mediterranean, the Aegean and the Ionian (The Aegean was where most travel and export/importing occurred, as it had access to many islands).
- Climate (Ancient Greece had hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters).
- The significance of its position (proximity to Europe, the Middle East and North Africa for travel and trade).
- The Geography of Ancient Greece was different from the Greece of today - some of the land of Ancient Greece is now known as Türkiye, and the surrounding countries have since changed. Furthermore, Ancient Greece wasn't a single country but rather made up of self-governed states.

On map of Ancient Greece locate the city states (settlements) of Athens, Sparta and Thebes. Look at settlements on the island of Crete and the Minoan civilization.

Tell the children that these city states had their own laws, money, rulers, and were rivals.

Key Vocabulary: ancient, civilization, trade, city states, settlement

Session 2: **Did all Ancient Greeks get along?**

Recap the geography of the different city states from the previous session.

Teach or investigate the differences between the city states.

- The two big city-states that ruled a lot of ancient Greece were Athens and Sparta. They often fought, but also worked together at times to protect Greece from invaders. The two cities were very different culturally; Sparta was mostly focused on war and fighting, whereas Athens was more focused on the arts and learning.

Athens

- The name of the city comes from the Goddess Athena.
- This classical city birthed some of the western world's most famous philosophers, including Plato, Aristotle and Socrates.
- **Democracy** - Athens was the birthplace of democracy, where citizens participated in decision-making.
- **Culture:** Athens was a thriving intellectual and artistic centre, known for philosophy, drama, and architecture.
- **Economy:** Athens had a strong naval power due to its location near the Aegean Sea. It engaged in trade and commerce.
- **Military:** While not as heavily focused on military strength as Sparta, Athens had a strong navy and a citizen army.

Sparta

- Known as a warrior society, Sparta's power reached its peak when they defeated Athens in the Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C.E.).
- By age 7, boys were expected to undergo military education. It's believed that girls held a higher status in Sparta than in many other Greek cities. They were allowed freedoms such as education.
- **Government:** Sparta was an Oligarchy, ruled by two kings and a council of elders.
- **Culture:** Sparta was a militaristic society which emphasized discipline, obedience, and physical strength.
- **Economy:** Most wealth came from agriculture, relying on the labour of helots (enslaved people).
- **Military:** Sparta was famed for its highly disciplined and powerful army.

Provide the children with photographs and artefacts of Ancient Greek pottery and statues- including illustrations/representations of conflict between Greek settlements (Trojan Horse, Peloponnesian War, Spartan warriors, hoplites and triremes).

Explain that these are sources – something that has survived from the past that help us understand and learn about this ancient civilisation.

Explore what they tell us about life in Ancient Greece.

Key Vocabulary: artefacts, pottery, statue, rival

Session 3: **Who were the ancient Greek gods?**

Provide the children with photographs of modern-day places of worship and discuss why people gather there?

Provide the children with photographs and plans of Ancient Greek archaeological sites such as temples (The Temple of Apollo at Delphi, The Parthenon in Athens). Discuss the importance of religion in Ancient Greece.

- Religion was very important to the Ancient Greeks as they believed that religion kept them safe and helped them to live better and happier lives.
- The Ancient Greeks believed that the gods would take care of them when they died if they showed them the right love and respect.
- People believed in all the gods, but it was common for temples to be erected to specific gods.
- Each of the 12 gods and goddesses had a specific role.
- Cities would have a patron god or goddess that was worshipped more than the others, such as Athena as the namesake for the city of Athens.
- To please the gods, people brought gifts of money, flowers, food and drink. They offered these gifts as sacrifices.

Tell or investigate some of the main gods in Ancient Greece.

Zeus

- Zeus was the king of the gods, god of the sky, and the most powerful.
- He had the power to transform himself into anything on earth.
- Zeus lived on Mount Olympus with the other Olympian gods and is often shown holding a lightning bolt.
- As god of the sky and king of Olympus, his temper affected the weather.

Poseidon

- Poseidon was the ancient Greek god of the sea and storms.
- He is the brother of Zeus and Hades.
- He is depicted holding a three-pronged spear called a trident.
- Poseidon's temper controlled the seas, so sailors would pray to Poseidon before voyages to ensure safe passage.

Hades

- Hades was the god of the Underworld.
- He was the brother of Zeus and Poseidon.
- As the ruler of the Underworld, Hades was tasked with supervising the passing of souls after death and with the trial and punishment of wicked souls after their death.

Apollo and Artemis

- Artemis was the goddess of the hunt, the wilderness and wild animals.
- She is believed to have roamed through the forests of ancient Greece and was widely worshipped. Amongst the rural population, Artemis was the favourite goddess.
- The twin brother of Artemis, Apollo was the ancient Greek god of many things, including the sun, music, poetry, art, dance, archery, and healing.
- Apollo taught humans the art of medicine and is sometimes referred to as 'The Healer'.

Hera

- Wife of Zeus, Hera was queen of the Greek gods.
- She was the goddess of marriage, women, families and birth, acting as their protector.

Athena

- Athena was the goddess of warfare, wisdom and strategy.
- She held an important place in the religion of ancient Greece, and the Greek city of Athens is named after her.
- Athena did not have a mother, being born directly from Zeus' head wearing a suit of armour!

Investigate the Ancient Greek belief in an afterlife and the 'Elysian Fields'.

- The ancient Greeks believed that the Underworld was one of the three realms that make up the world.
- The underworld is the world of the dead and a place where people's souls go after their death.
- In Greek mythology, the Elysian Fields (also called Elysium) are a place in the Underworld where the souls of heroic and virtuous individuals go after death. It's often described as a beautiful, peaceful and happy place.

Compare to Ancient Egyptian beliefs.

Key Vocabulary: archaeology, temples, theatre, afterlife

Session 4: **How were the Ancient Greeks governed and are there any similarities with how we are governed today?**

Discuss how we are governed today and what democracy means.

Tell or investigate who is allowed to vote today and who governs using sources provided (images of Parliament, 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister, local council offices, courts, people voting, access to a web page showing who is eligible to vote).

Discuss how throughout the centuries, Ancient Greece witnessed a wide variety of governments and systems of rule. Tell or investigate the differences in Ancient Greek governance between Sparta and Athens including who ruled and who was allowed to vote in each city state.

Explore the roles of The Ekklesia, The Boule and The Dikasteria.

Draw comparisons from Ancient Greece to today discussing women's involvement.

Sparta

- Sparta was ruled by an Oligarchy.
- It was headed by two kings who ruled jointly. Each king acted as a check on the other.
- They served as high priests and as leaders in war.

- The Spartan government was founded on the principle that the life of every individual, from the moment of birth, belonged absolutely to the state. The elders of the city-state inspected the newborn infants and ordered the weak and unhealthy ones to be carried to a nearby chasm and left to die.

Athens

- The modern word, democracy, is taken from the Greek language and means 'government by the people'.
- The assembly of Athens (a gathering of all citizens who were allowed to vote) would gather on the Pnyx hill. This was a special meeting place for Athens. The assembly was held at least once a month and could accommodate 6000 citizens. Any male citizen over 18 was allowed to speak during this assembly and vote on important matters for the city.
- Historians can learn a lot about the different governments of Ancient Greece, because it was common for Greek scribes to write down the history of their city. For example, it is possible to piece together a complete history of the city of Athens from over 150 surviving political speeches and 20 000 inscriptions.

Key Vocabulary: democracy, power, ruler, government, governance, vote, law, council, representative

Session 5: **How have the Olympic Games changed since they were first held in Ancient Greece?**

Provide the children with images and film clips of London 2012 Olympic games. Discuss the clip – What are the Olympic games? What events/sports occur during the games? Who can take part in the games? What other Olympic games do we carry out today (Paralympics).

Tell or investigate the history of the Olympic games discussing its religious purposes and how it was originally used to end conflict between Greek city states.

- Originating in ancient Greece in 776 B.C. and revived in the 19th century, the Olympics are the world's greatest sporting competition.
- The earliest evidence highlighting the existence of the Games is in the form of written records from nearly 3,000 years ago.
- Legend has it that Heracles, son of Zeus, founded the Olympic Games.
- The games were held once every four years during a religious festival held in mid-August to honour the Greek god, Zeus.
- The games were held in the sanctuary of Zeus, located in Olympia, Greece. This is where the games got its name.
- People came from all over to watch and take part, though only freeborn Greek men could compete. These men represented the different city-states of ancient Greece. Women were not allowed to compete, and married women were not allowed to watch.

Discuss the role of archaeologists in finding evidence of these ancient games. Share images of Greek pottery depicting the Ancient Olympic games – what sports do you think they are showing? Look at images of the remains of the stadium at Olympia.

Draw comparisons about the Olympic games from Ancient Greece to our modern-day games.

Key Vocabulary: archaeology, temples, theatre, religious beliefs

Session 6: **What are the legacies of Ancient Greece?**

Discuss the meaning of the term 'legacy'.

Investigate the life of Alexander the Great and his role in spreading Greek culture.

- Alexander III of Macedon, also known as Alexander the Great, was a king of the Ancient Greek kingdom of Macedonia.
- Alexander was tutored by famous philosopher and polymath Aristotle.

- He ascended to the throne in 336 BC at the age of 20.
- By the time he was 30, Alexander the Great had created one of the largest empires in history. Many people regarded Alexander as a liberator rather than a conqueror.
- He was a popular ruler because of his rational thinking. Where possible, he did not expend lives needlessly and would take avenues that led to peace that avoided violence if they were presented to him.
- He observed the customs of other cultures that he wanted to assimilate into his Empire, and he respected his rivals.
- His empire stretched from Greece to northwest India. This helped spread the Greek culture outside of Ancient Greece.
- By spreading Greek culture across his empire, Alexander the Great laid the groundwork for the global spread of democracy that would come hundreds of years later. He also enabled many aspects of various cultures from across the world to mingle and interact.
- Alexander the Great is considered to be one of the greatest rulers in all of ancient history.

Provide the children with a copy of the Greek alphabet with the names of the letters and how they are pronounced. Investigate which letters are the same as we use today and which are different. Discuss the etymology of the word 'alphabet' (The word alphabet comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet: alpha and beta).

Discuss how many English words have Greek roots. Explore common root words/ spelling rules we use that derive from the Greek language.

- Cycl = wheel/circular
- Hydr = water
- Meter = measure
- Tele = distant/far
- Micro = small

Discuss the lasting impact of Greek culture.

- Ancient Greece's pottery was well sought after.
- Ancient Greek sculptors created some of the most recognizable pieces of art ever produced which often depicted the mythical figures of Ancient Greek myths and stories in stone and bronze.
- Ancient Greece had a lasting influence on theatre. They actually invented it!
- Greek architects provided some of the finest and most distinctive buildings in the entire ancient world and were renowned for their grand temples.
- Most cities had a theatre where they would put on plays. This is where the famous Greek comedies and tragedies were played. Thousands would flock to Athens to watch plays by famous writers like Sophocles, Euripides and Aeschylus. Some of these plays are still performed today.

Explore Ancient Greek myths such as The Labours of Heracles and Thesus and the Minotaur.

Discuss how Greek culture made incredible contributions to Maths and Science. Tell or investigate Ancient Greek scientists, philosophers and mathematicians such as Aristotle and Pythagoras.

- Some of the first observations of planets and their orbits were developed by Ancient Greek scientists who wanted to understand the stars and the heliocentric system.
- Hippocrates, an Ancient Greek scientist, established a medical school, wrote many medical treatises, and is credited with being the founder of modern medicine. The Hippocratic oath, a medical standard for doctors, is named after him.
- Aristotle was a Greek philosopher who was tutor to Alexander the Great. He is the earliest natural historian whose work has survived. He is the founder of logic (reasoning) and rhetoric (persuasion).
- Pythagoras was a Greek philosopher who also made significant discoveries in maths and astronomy.

Discuss how Ancient Greece became a part of the Roman Empire and continued to spread Greek ideas throughout their empire. The influence of Ancient Greek culture was felt for centuries after it ended (in

language, politics, educational systems, philosophy, science, and the arts). Much of the Roman Empire, which immediately followed the Greek civilization, was based on its predecessor's way of life.

Key Vocabulary: legacy, culture, philosopher