

Ancient Greece



History Year 4 Autumn

Unit learning journey:

Lesson 1: Ancient Greece: City states

Lesson 2: Athens & democracy

Lesson 3: Sparta

Lesson 4: The Persian wars

Lesson 5: Alexander the Great

Lesson 6: Philosophy

Lesson 7: Gods

Lesson 8: Mythology

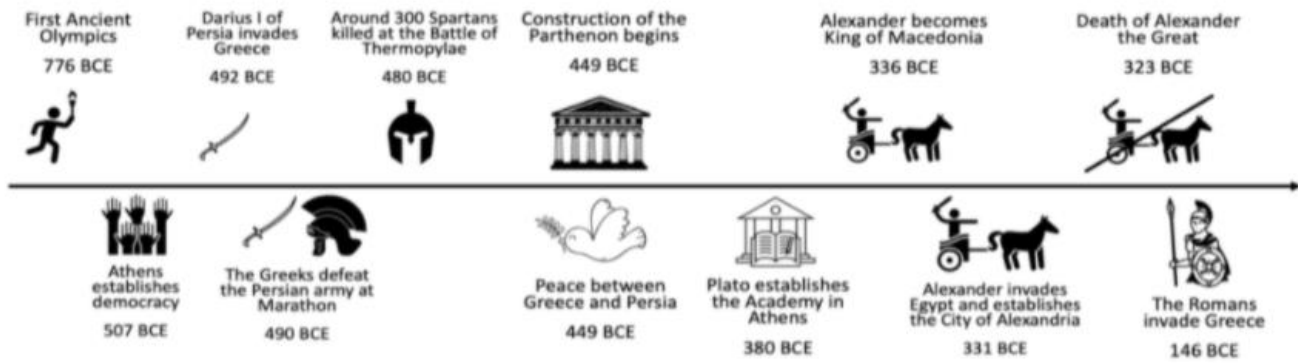
Lesson 9: Art & architecture

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Lesson 1: Ancient Greece- city states

Ancient Greek civilization emerged after **800 BCE** and reached its peak in **330 BCE** with the conquest of Alexander the Great.



Key vocabulary

civilization

A city that with its surrounding territory forms an independent state.

city-state

The capital and largest city of Greece

Athens

A prominent city-state in ancient Greece.

Sparta

The stage of human social and cultural development and organization that is considered most advanced.

Use the atlas to identify the sea surrounding Greece.



The **Mediterranean sea**, **black sea** and **Aegean sea** are close to Greece.



The **Ancient greek civilization** did not begin near a big flooding river like the river Nile. Greece is mostly rocky, dry land broken up by many **hills and mountains**.



Ancient Greece is a **peninsula**, which means many Greeks lived near to the sea many became **explorers** and **traders**.



In land, the hills and mountains kept groups of people apart. Some of these groups grew into larger **communities** which had their own leaders and became '**city states**'. As you can see from the map, Greece was not one country but a **civilization** made up of city states, who fought frequently. The city states were enemies who fought each other for resources and **power**, however a war reunited some of the city-states.



Using the map can you identify all of the city states?



Sparta and **Athens** were quite different. The **Spartans** focused on building their army. Where as, the **Athenians** focused on study. The citystate of Athens was the birthplace of many significant ideas. Ancient Athenians enjoyed systematic study of subjects such as science, philosophy, and history.

A famous Greek leader was born in **Macedonia**: Alexander the Great



The **Greek islands** are well known for their beautiful beaches and are popular with **tourists** today.



The city states were enemies who fought each other for resources and power, but later, the war would unite some of the city states.



Lesson 2: Athens & Democracy

Key vocabulary



Tyrant

Democracy

Vote

Ostraca (single)

Ostrakon (plural)

A pottery fragment usually unearthed as an archaeological relic.

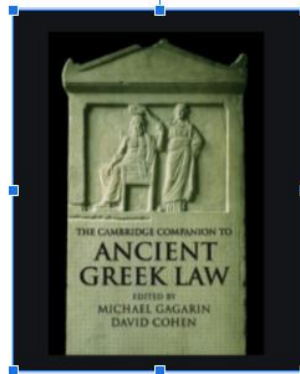
A system of government typically through elected representatives.

A cruel and oppressive ruler who puts their own interest before those of their people.

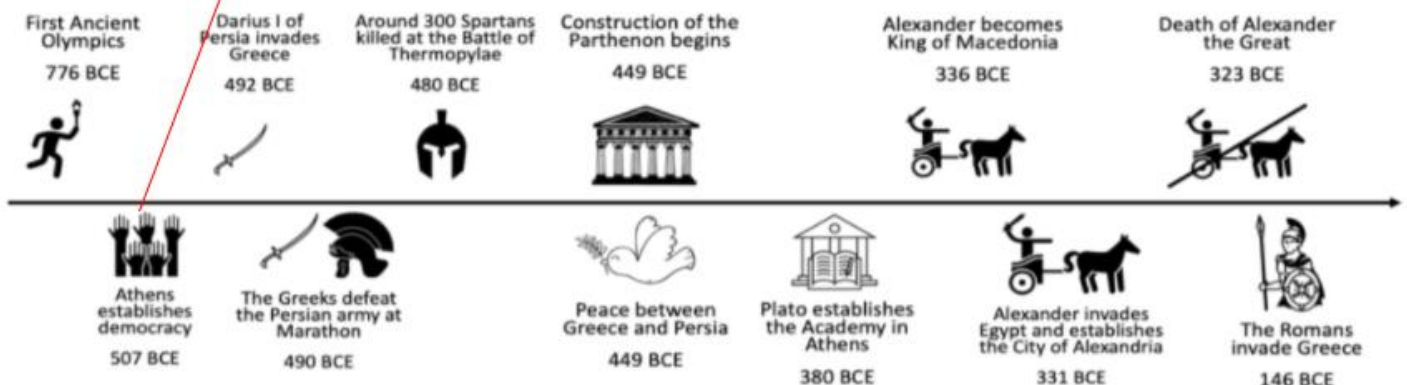
Many pottery fragment usually unearthed as an archaeological relic.

When people in a country vote they choose their leader the word is formed from two Greek words; 'demos' meaning people and 'kratia' meaning power.

Over **2,500** years ago **Athenians** (people who lived in **Athens**) argued about the best way to **rule** their **city-state**.



507 BCE Athens established **democracy**. Before this took place Athens was led by a **tyrants**, and the people wanted a better way for their city to be run.



The **Athenians** invented a new type of **government** where the people chose a **leaders**. This system is called '**democracy**' which means '**power from the people**'.

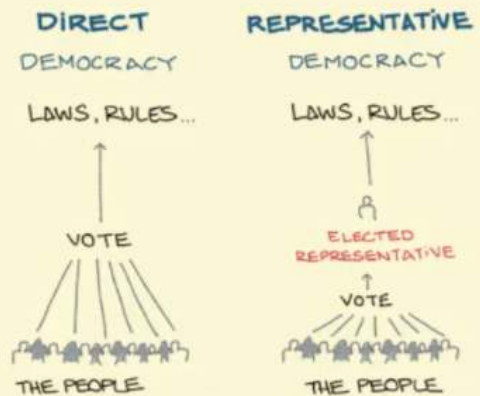


Lesson 2 - Talk task

Athens is famous throughout the world for having been the first state to have been governed according to **democratic principles**. However it is not democracy as we know it.

In Britain we have **representative democracy**, where members of parliament are elected every five years to represent a local area.

Athens had a **direct democracy** where every decision taken by the **ruling council** could be approved or **voted** by the **citizens**.



Talk frame

I think representative democracy is better.....
because

I think direct democracy is better.....
because

Citizens made up a small proportion of Athens' **population**, as **slaves** and women were not allowed to **vote**. If the citizens of Athens did not like their leader, they could vote to get rid of them. This was known as **ostracising**.



Athenians often used broken pieces of **pottery** and scattered people's names onto the surface to **vote**. These broken pieces of pottery were cheaper than using **papyrus**.



Ostracoon



Papyrus

Lesson 3: Sparta

Key vocabulary

Sparta

A brave or experienced soldier or fighter.

Spartans

Training people to obey rules or a code of behaviour.

Warrior

People who lived in Sparta.

Discipline

Old meaning: A city state in ancient greece
New definition: self-restrained, simple, frugal and austere

The sparta city state

Sparta was a city state built on the bank of the Eurotas river in **Southern Greece**, this gave sparta a source of freshwater. Sparta was famous for its warriors.



Plutarch description of a spartan boy

Lesson 2 - Talk task

The Spartan soldier state

Fighting wars was what the Spartans did best. Greeks said that in battle one Spartan was worth several other men.

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. Only those who went through this gruelling training system were considered true Spartan citizens.

It was a hard life. A boy was only allowed one tunic and had to walk everywhere barefoot, 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. Spartan women also had more freedom than other Greek women. A wife ran the family farm and gave orders to the slaves (known as 'helots').

Spartan mothers told their sons before they left for battle, "Come back with your shield, or on it." Dead Spartans were carried home on their shields - only a coward would drop his shield and run away.



Spartan soldiers wore red cloaks, so bloodstains wouldn't show up. They also grew their hair long and would comb it before going into battle.

Talk frame

From Plutarch's description of spartan boys what does it tell you about spartan boys.

Spartan boys were I know this because.....

Sparta's military success

The secret to **Sparta's military** success was an extremely tough child rearing regime, where children were taken from their homes at the age of seven and entered the **Agoge**. As soon as they entered the **Agoge** their heads were shaven.



Spartan boys



The boys lived **communally** under **austere** conditions. They were subjected to physical challenges, competitions (which sometimes involved violence), were given **rations** and were expected to become skilled at **stealing food**.

The boys were only given rough clothing, no shoes and little food. They slept in beds with no covers. This was all done to make them **tough** and ready for **war**.

Living conditions

The boys lived **communally** under terrible conditions. They were subjected to **physical challenges, competitions** (which sometimes involved violence), were given **rations** and were expected to become skilled at stealing food.



Ancient Greek Olympics



The differences between, Athens and Sparta

Spartans were extremely **disciplined** and disliked the **luxury** and **indulgence** of **Athenians**. The word **sparta** today means plain, simple and without luxury. This definition sums up the spartans attitude towards life.



Growing up in Athens vs Sparta

Spartan and Athenian girls

Girls would be **trained in sports**, and this was shocking to the **Athenians** who believed young girls should be quiet and gentle. The **spartans** wanted the girls to grow into **tough** women who could **raise warriors**.



Athenian women



Spartan women

Lesson 4: The Persian wars

Key vocabulary

Athenian	→	Another civilization that was growing to the east of Greece.
Persia	→	People who lived in Sparta.
Spartan	→	A person, group, or nation that help each other.
Allies	→	A native or citizen of Athens.

Empire	→	an group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch.
Civilization	→	A person who is actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.
Conquered	→	A place or people that have been taken control of by military force.
Enemy	→	Human social and cultural development considered most advanced.

Persian Empire

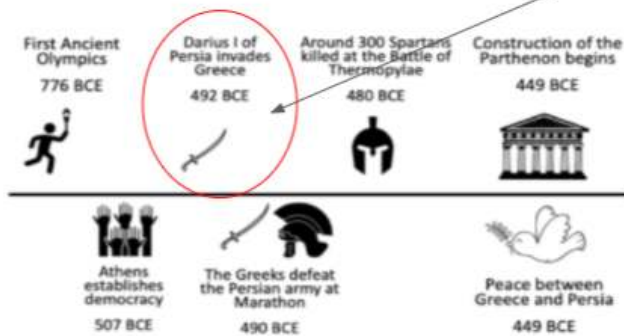
Before the **reign of Alexander the great**, the **persia Empire** controlled much of **Eastern Europe, Asia, North Africa**. **Persia** was based around a modern-day Iran, and their forces **conquered** a number of **Greek cities**.



Mosaic of Alexander the great

When did the Persians first come to Greece?

Persians first came to Greece around **492 BCE**.



They **conquered a region** called **Ionia** in **492 BCE**, but Ionia didn't want to back down and let the **Persians rule**. The people of Ionia asked **Athens** for help, who then sent ships and soldiers to fight the **Persians**.

Darius the Persian king

The **Persian king** called **Darius** was furious that the **Greeks** were fighting back, and this led to a **thirty-year war** between **Greeks and Persians**. The war against the Persians caused the **city states in Greece** to become **allies** to fight a **common enemy**.



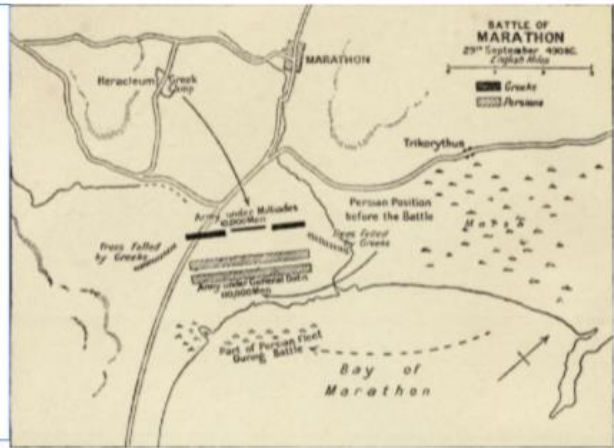
Major battles

Two major battles that were fought during this time were the **Battle of Marathon** and the **Battle of Thermopylae**. During the battle of **Marathon**, the **Athenians** fought the **Persians** and were victorious.



Battle of Marathon

After the **Battle of Marathon**, an **Athenian messenger** ran **26 miles** back to **Athens** to tell the **Athenians** that the **Persians** had been **defeated**. The **Battle of Marathon** is remembered today as people run 'Marathons' of 26 miles.



Battle of Thermopylae



Ten years later, the **Battle of Thermopylae** took place, the **Greek city states** formed an **alliance** led by **Spartan King Leonidas I**. A **local** betrayed the **Greeks** and showed the **Persian army** a path they could take to reach the **Greek army** and take them by surprise.

Spartan warriors

King Leonidas, knowing his side would lose, send many men back in **retreat**. **300 Spartan warriors** stayed to fight, knowing they would be killed. **A famous Spartan, Dienekes**, on being told the **Persian army** had so many soldiers their arrows would block out the sun, he replied, 'Good, then we shall fight in the shade'. (Being easier to fight in the shade than in direct sunlight).



Lesson 5: Alexander the Great

Key vocabulary

Conquer,

Slavery,

Empire

Gordian Knot

people who are the legal property of another and are forced to obey them.

An extremely difficult problem.

A place or people that have been taken control of by military force.

an group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch.

Alexander the Great

Alexander the Great became **king** of **Macedonia** when he was 19, in **336 BC**, and had **conquered** the whole of **Greece** when he was 21.



Alexander the great

Historians believe that **Alexander the Great** was a strong and intelligent ruler, but he could also be hot-headed and cruel.



Map of Alexander's empire.



The City-state Thebes

When the **city-state Thebes** decided it did not want to be **ruled** by **Alexander the Great**, he burned the city to the ground and sold all of the people as slaves (**30,000 citizens**).

This sent a clear message to the rest of **Greece** that **Alexander** was not to be opposed.



Alexander's army

Alexander the Great was **ambitious**, and his army could not be stopped. Once they had **conquered** all of **Greece**, they marched East. There is a famous story about **Alexander the Great** cutting the '**Gordian Knot**'.



Midas was king of Phrygia. He was the son of Gordius, a poor countryman. The previous king of Phrygia had died and the Oracle had prophesied that their future king would come in a wagon on the break of the day. People were still discussing what the Oracle had said when Gordius, with his son and wife, came driving his wagon through the gates of the city.

Gordius was made the king. His son Midas, to show their gratitude, dedicated their wagon to the deity of the Oracle and tied it up in its place with an intricate fast knot which became famous as the Gordian knot. It was said that whosoever would untie this knot would become the lord of whole Asia. No one succeeded in untying this knot, till Alexander the Great came to Phrygia in 333 BC. He tried to unravel the knot like many others before him but despite his efforts, he could not untie the knot. Growing impatient, he drew out his sword and cut the knot. When afterward he became successful in conquering Asia people began to think he had complied with the terms of the Oracle. Maybe by 'cutting', the oracle had meant 'cutting'.



Cutting the Gordian knot

It is said that whoever **untied the knot** would become **ruler** of all of **Asia**, or 'have their world as their **kingdom**'. You are going to **Re-enact** the cutting of the Gordian knot.

Instructions

- Prepare a tightly tangled rope in which the ends are hidden within the knot.
- Your task is to try to untie the knot. Hopefully, you will be unable to untie it.
- one of you will be chosen to act as Alexander, and cut straight through the knot with scissors (in place of Alexander's sword!).