

Key Vocabulary		
democracy		A fair political system where all adults vote for an elected government. This government then makes decisions on how to run the country.
city-state		A state made up of an independent city and the surrounding area.
Sparta		A famous Greek city-state. It was famous for having a strong and disciplined military. The Spartans were focused on their military training and education. Men and women were more equal than in Athens.
Athens		Now the capital of Greece, it was the most powerful city-state in Ancient Greece.
hoplite		A heavily armed foot soldier. They were famous for having strong shields and working well in big groups.
Trojan Horse		The huge wooden hollow figure of a horse left outside Troy by the Greeks when they pretended they were trying to make peace. If you describe a person or thing as a Trojan horse, you mean that they are being used to hide someone's true purpose or intentions.
Alexander the Great		King of Macedon, who conquered Greece. His empire stretched from Greece all the way to India, and that's how Greek ideas were able to travel all over the world.

Key Dates	
1200 BC	The Trojan War and the destruction of Troy.
850-700 BC	Development of Greek Alphabet.
776 BC	First Olympic Games .
490 BC	The Battle of Marathon .
472 BC	Greek theatre becomes popular.
432 BC	The Parthenon is finished.
336 BC	Alexander the Great takes control of Greece.
146 BC	Greece falls under the Roman Empire.

Greek Democracy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Democracy started in Ancient Greece and helped shape many types of democracy around the world today. They invented direct democracy: one vote per person. But in Ancient Greece only male citizens of Athens could vote. They also used juries and courts to decide how people should be punished for crimes.

The Trojan War
The Trojan War was a war between the Spartans and the people of Troy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trojan prince Paris abducted Helen, wife of Menelaus of Sparta because he fell in love with her. Menelaus persuaded his brother Agamemnon to lead an army against Troy. After a 10-year battle, the Spartans constructed a huge wooden horse, and hid soldiers inside it — The Trojan Horse. The Trojans thought it was a gift and brought the horse into the city of Troy. The Spartans won the war and Helen went back to Sparta.

The Battle of Marathon
The battle took place in 490 BC between the Athenians and the Persians. The Persians had a much bigger army than the Athenians. Marathon was a town near Athens where one of the main battles took place. The Greek hoplites used their famous battle strategies to defeat the Persians, even though they were outnumbered. The Athenians won and they sent a soldier, Pheidippides, to run back to Athens to tell the city they were safe. The soldier ran for 26 miles from Marathon to reach Athens .

Greek Olympics
The Greeks loved to watch sports, just like we do now. Athletes often prayed to Nike, the goddess of Victory. Greek men and boys used to train at the gymnasium, what we now call a gym. Every four years the Greeks held a special sporting event at Olympia — the Olympic Games . These inspired the modern Olympic Games and like the Greeks, it is held every four years.

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