

Unit 6 Ancient Greece and Rome

The Ancient Greeks lived in Greece and land that is now part of Turkey.

Where is Greece?

Greece is in the continent of Europe. The sea almost surrounds it. Mountains cover most of the land.

Traders and sailors

Most of the land was not good for farming but it was good for growing olive trees.

The Greeks sent olives, olive

oil, and **earthenware** pots that they made to other lands. They got wheat, corn, cloth, and wood from other lands. This is called **trading**.

The Ancient Greeks fished in the sea and sailed to the places they traded with. They built big trading ships, small fishing boats, and strong, fast warships. People in other lands liked their way of life.



Map showing location of Ancient Greece



(An Ancient Greek trading ship was wide so that it could hold a big **cargo**.) This picture is on a pot that archaeologists found. They also found parts of ships in the ground.



Talk about these questions.

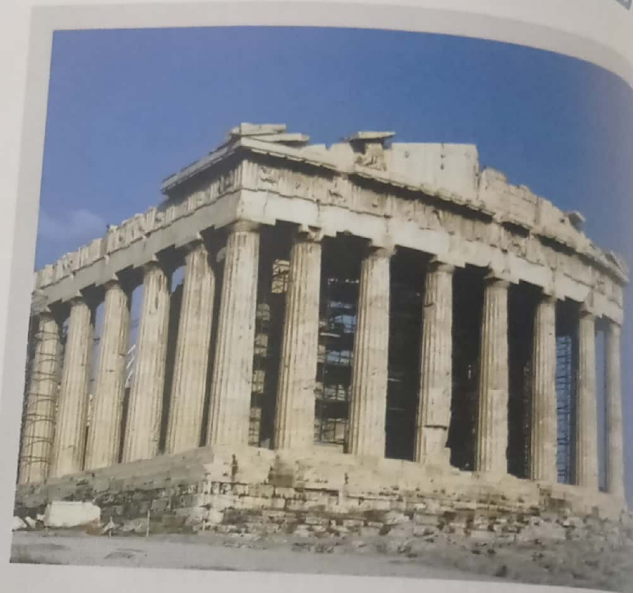
1. In what ways was the sea important to the Ancient Greeks?
2. How do we know what Ancient Greek ships were like?
3. Ancient Greek ships had no engines. So how did they move?

Gods and goddesses

The Ancient **Greeks** worshipped many **gods** and **goddesses** in temples. We can still see the **remains** of many of their **temples** and **statues**.

The Ancient Greeks believed that their gods and goddesses looked and behaved like humans, but had magical powers and could live for ever.

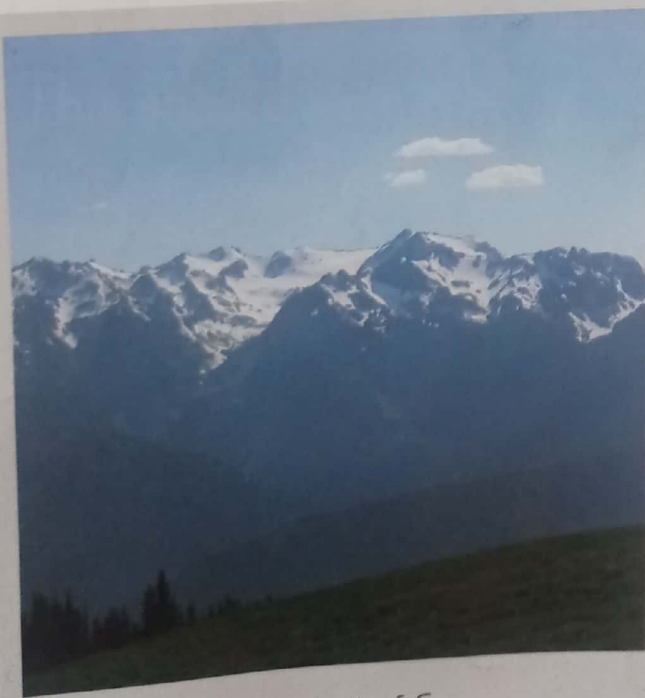
They believed that different gods and goddesses were in charge of



The Parthenon, in Athens, is a temple for the goddess Athena. It is on a hill called the Acropolis.

different things. The god Apollo was in charge of the Sun and, they believed, rode in a golden chariot that pulled the Sun across the sky.

The Ancient Greeks believed that their twelve main gods and goddesses were a family who lived at the top of **Mount Olympus**. Their main god was called Zeus.



Mount Olympus in the north of Greece

A. Copy the sentences into your notebook. Write true or false after each sentence. Correct the false sentences. Write the corrected sentences.

1. The Ancient Greeks worshipped one god.
2. There were temples for the different gods.
3. We can still see the remains of many temples.
4. The Ancient Greeks believed that their gods lived under the ground.

B. Name three Ancient Greek gods or goddesses.

Greek myths and legends

Myths are stories that people make up to explain things—like why we have thunder and lightning or why the seasons change.

Legends are stories about real people or places or real events. They are not true at all because storytellers made up parts to make them more interesting.

Here is a legend about a war the Greeks fought against the Trojans (the people of Troy).

The Wooden Horse of Troy

The Greeks fought a war for ten years against their enemies, the Trojans.

The Greeks thought up a clever trick to play on the Trojans. They made a large wooden horse that was hollow. At night they left it near the walls of Troy, the home of the Trojans. There were some Greek soldiers hiding in it.

➡ The Wooden Horse of Troy may have looked like this.



The Greek army pretended to sail away. Some Trojans saw the wooden horse. They took it into the city. It was a fine thing to take from their enemy!

That night the Greek soldiers came out of the horse and opened the city gates. The Greek army crept in. The Trojans were sleeping and not ready for battle, so the Greeks won easily.

Work in a group of four to tell part of the story.

Each of you should pretend to be a different character in the story:

- a Greek soldier in the wooden horse
- a Greek soldier waiting outside the walls of Troy
- a Trojan soldier finding the wooden horse
- a Trojan soldier waking up when the Greeks attacked

The Olympic Games

The **Olympic Games** were first held more than 2700 years ago in Greece, in a place called **Olympia**. They were held in honour of Zeus, the main Greek god.

People from different parts of Greece came to Olympia to take part in the games. Sports kept the men fit to be good soldiers.

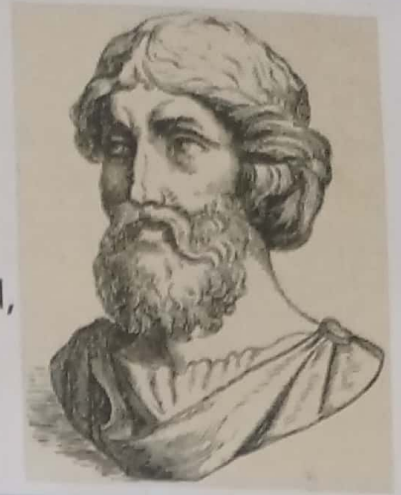
They held the games in a **stadium**.

There were different kinds of sports. The **athletes** threw the **javelin** and **discus** as far as they could. They fought each other in boxing and wrestling matches. Others raced each other on foot and on horses. They gave each winner a crown made of olive leaves.



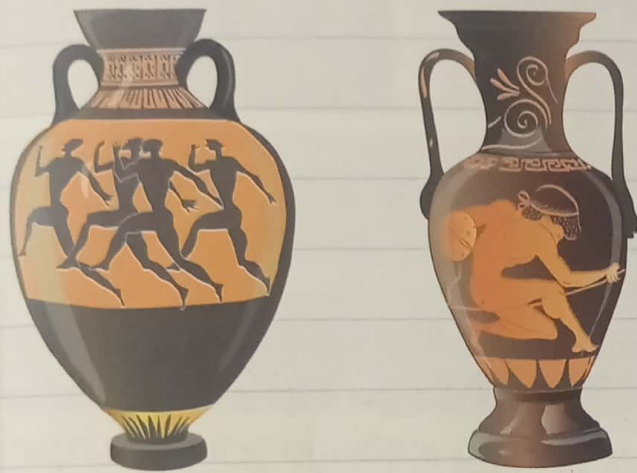
The stadium at Delphi was big enough for 7000 people to watch the sports. You can see the seats. On the track archaeologists found grooves where the runners stood at the start of a race.

Now we have the modern Olympic Games every four years. People from all over the world meet to run races and play other sports. New sports have been added, some of these are basketball, swimming, tennis, and gymnastics. The winners are awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals.



Write the answers in your notebook.

Look at these pots from Ancient Greece.



1. Which sports do you think the pictures show?
2. How can you tell?

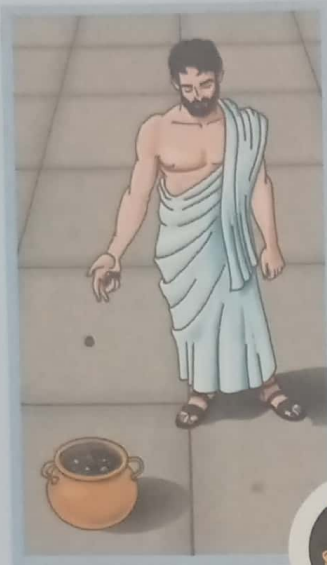
↑ The Ancient Greeks have also influenced the modern world. Geometry comes from Ancient Greek mathematicians, such as Pythagoras, Euclid, and Archimedes. In the 3rd century BCE, an Ancient Greek astronomer, Aristarchus of Samos, was the first to argue that the Sun was at the centre of the solar system, with the planets moving in orbits around it. This was forgotten until the sixteenth century, when the Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus explained how the planets orbit the Sun.

Athens—a land with no king

In ancient times, Greece was made up of many small and large cities. Athens was the largest of these cities. It was a rich and beautiful city. No king or emperor ruled Athens. Instead, people chose their leaders by **voting**. The people of Athens agreed to their own rules and laws.


They had meetings on a hill near the Acropolis. All the men went to the meetings. They could choose what should happen in Athens. Slaves and women were not allowed to **vote**.

You might have heard of the **Hippocratic oath**, which is named after Hippocrates, the Greek physician who wrote it in the time of Pericles. All medical doctors today must swear to follow many parts of the Hippocratic oath.



The **leaders** had to ask the people about important things, like 'Should we go to war?'

If people just put up their hands to say 'yes' or 'no' it was hard to count them. So they put a black or white stone into a pot. White meant 'yes' and black meant 'no'.

 The remains of the place where the people of Ancient Athens held their meetings.




Talk to a friend about this. Tell your teacher the answers.

- 1. What was good about the way Ancient Athens was ruled? Say why you think this.*
- 2. What was not so good about the way Ancient Athens was ruled? Say why you think this.*

Alexander the Great

The most famous of all Greek conquerors was Alexander of Macedonia, a place in the north of Greece. He became the emperor at the young age of 20, after the death of his father, and decided to conquer the world. He defeated the **Persians** and spread his empire from Egypt in the West to India in the East. He conquered the northern areas of the land that is now Pakistan. But when his soldiers did not want to go any further, he had to go back to Macedonia. He left Greek governors on the conquered lands, and Greek scholars began to travel there: philosophers, mathematicians, scientists, philosophers, architects and sculptors. They spread Greek influences through parts of Asia and Africa. The influence of the Ancient Greeks can be seen in the **ruins** of Gandhara and Taxila.



 A sculpture of Alexander of Macedonia, who became known as Alexander the Great.

Roman Civilisation

The Romans developed what the Greeks did. By 509 BCE, Rome had become a republic. A republic is ruled by governors chosen by the people of the land. This way, they no longer had unpopular kings. Their society split people into five main classes.

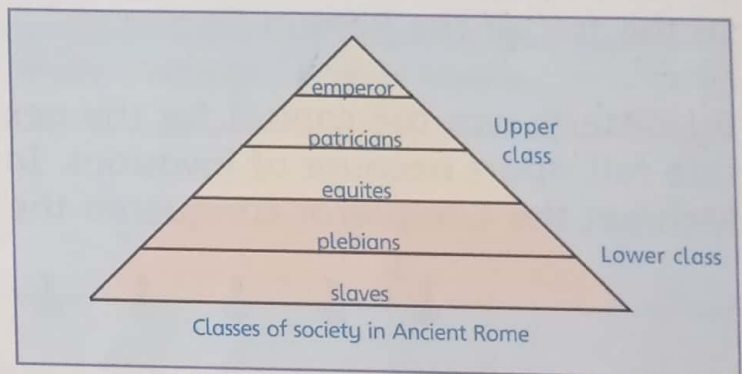
Patricians belonged to noble families. They made the main decisions in the senate.

Equites were men from patrician families, who were in charge of the banks, collected taxes and managed trade, imports and exports. The largest class was of the plebeians, who could vote in the assemblies that elected the senate. They were workers such as farmers, bakers, builders and craftsmen. Slaves had no rights at all.

By 27 BCE, Rome had changed again. It became an empire. An empire is ruled by an emperor. He is not elected by the people. An emperor could choose the next emperor. It could be his son or another member of his family, or someone else he trusted. The Ancient Romans protected their borders with well-trained armies. They had great engineers who made grand buildings such as the Colosseum and other amphitheatres, forums, public baths, libraries and temples. Architects have copied their styles for centuries. Examples include Jinnah Library in Lahore and The White House in

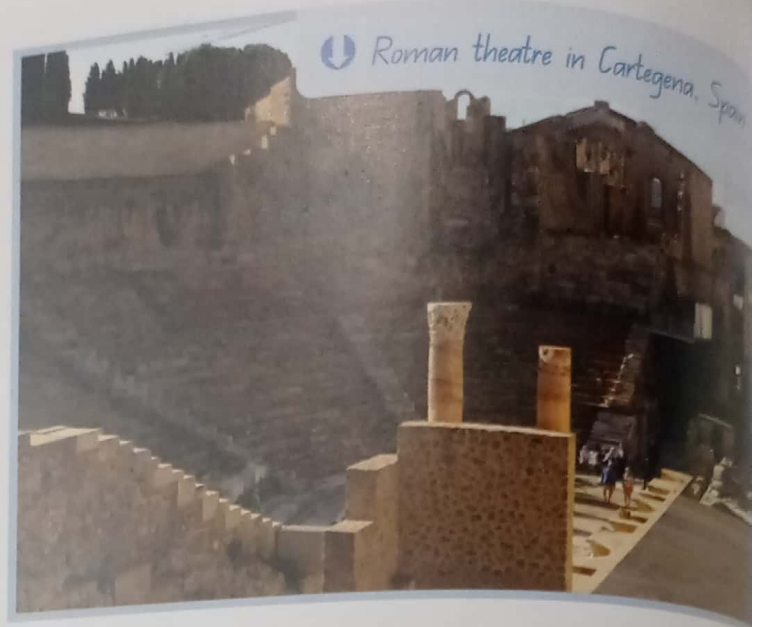


1 An ancient map of the growth of the Roman Empire, c. 200 CE: note the Latin names for their colonies, and the seas.



1 Colosseum is in Rome, Italy

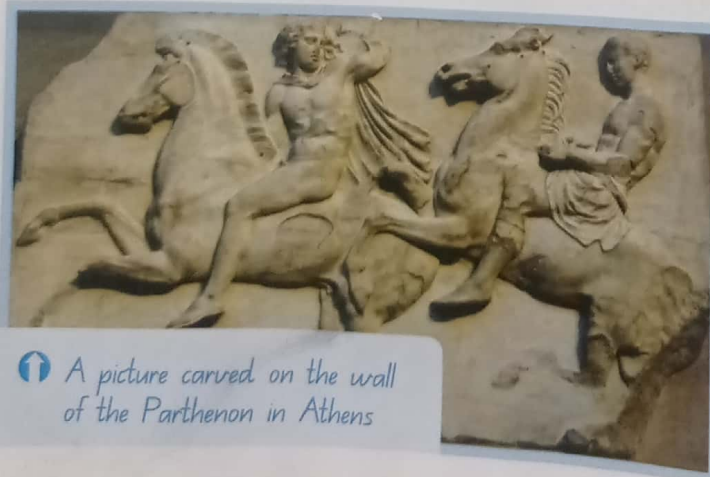
Washington DC, USA.
Roman religion grew from Ancient Greek religion. They gave the Greek gods and goddesses new names, but their myths and legends were similar. By 33 CE, Christianity began to spread through Palestine. People were unhappy with the Roman religion and started to like the Christian belief in one God. When the Roman Emperor Constantine split the empire in two to make it easier to rule, the eastern part (the Byzantine Empire), stayed Christian. This split led to the fall of the Roman Empire.



Byzantium was the capital for the next thousand years, but the western side fell apart because of invasions. In 1453 CE, the Ottoman emperor Mehmet the Conqueror conquered the great Roman Empire.

Write the answers in your notebook.

1. In what ways were the Romans more advanced than the Greeks?
2. What caused the fall of the Roman Empire?



A picture carved on the wall of the Parthenon in Athens



This picture on a pot shows Greek soldiers fighting the Persians.

Key Facts

- 1 The Ancient Greeks lived in land that is now part of Turkey, and modern-day Greece.
- 2 Trading means buying and selling goods and services.
- 3 Greek men played sports to keep fit so that they would be good soldiers.
- 4 The Olympic Games began in Ancient Greece.
- 5 Ancient Rome started as a kingdom in 753 BCE, became a republic in 509 BCE, then became an empire in 27 BCE.
- 6 The Romans developed what the Greeks did in all matters like wars, education, democracy, etc.
- 7 Ancient Greeks and Romans worshipped mainly the same gods but gave them different names. Their myths and legends were similar.

A. Copy the sentences into your notebook. Write true or false after each sentence.

Correct the false sentences. Write the corrected sentences.

1. Greece is a long way from the sea.
2. Olive trees grow well in Greece.
3. The people of Ancient Greece were great shipbuilders.
4. All the people in Athens were allowed to vote.
5. The modern Olympic Games are held every four years.

B. Write the correct answer in your notebook.

1. Name a god and a goddess that the Ancient Greeks worshipped.
2. Which modern sports meeting is like the sports of Ancient Greece?
3. List three sports of the Ancient Greeks.
4. Compare the ancient Olympic Games to the modern Olympics.
5. How did the people in Ancient Athens choose their leaders?