



## History

### Ground-breaking Greeks - Pentecost 2

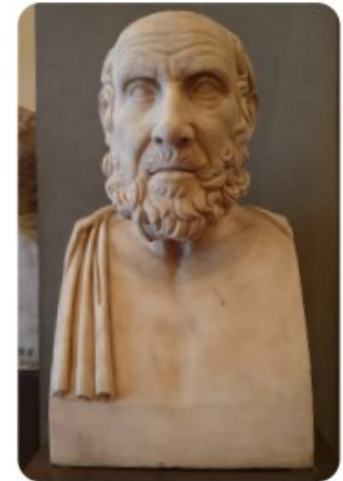
## Groundbreaking Greeks

Ancient Greek lands were made up of the Greek mainland, surrounding islands and Greek colonies across the Mediterranean Sea. Ancient Greece was almost entirely surrounded by sea, and the mountains on the mainland made travelling by land difficult.



### **Philosophy and mathematics**

Socrates, Plato and Aristotle were some of the greatest philosophers of their time, and their ideas are still influential today. Socrates' method of questioning and discussion, known as the 'Socratic method', is still used in schools and universities. The ancient Greeks also made hugely significant advances in mathematics and the ideas of mathematicians, such as Pythagoras and Archimedes, are still relevant today.



### **Olympic Games**

The Olympic Games were invented in ancient Greece. It was one of the greatest sporting and religious festivals of its time and drew in competitors and spectators from all parts of Greece. Today's Olympic Games share some of the same core values of excellence, respect and friendship that underpinned the original Olympic Games.



## Significant periods of Greek history

Ancient Greek history can be divided into seven main periods or civilisations: Neolithic, Minoan civilisation, Mycenaean civilisation, Dark Age, Archaic period, Classical period and Hellenistic period. Greece is often referred to as the birthplace of Western civilisation because of the advances that its people made in politics, science, mathematics, philosophy, literature and art.

### **Democracy**

The world's first democratic system was created in Athens in the fifth century BC. The system was designed to give the Athenian people a say over how their city was run. Today's democratic systems, although different from Athens', follow the same principles and allow ordinary citizens to have a say in how their country is governed.



## City states

During the Classical period, ancient Greece was a collection of city states, rather than one united country. Each city state, known as a *polis*, included a city and its surrounding villages, farms and land. Each city state had its own government and hierarchy, although they spoke the same language and followed the same religion. The design of each city was also similar. They all had a connection to the sea for trade and transport, outer walls for protection, a variety of buildings inside the city walls and an acropolis built on a hill. Despite similarities and trade links between the city states, they were often at war with each other in a bid to gain power and land.

## Family life and social class

In ancient Greece, class and gender determined the roles people could play in society and at home. Only male citizens were allowed to vote and make decisions. Below them in society came men called *metics*, who were not citizens and lastly, slaves. Men worked as politicians, landowners, artists, architects, sculptors, scientists and scholars. Women were expected to run the home, bring up the children, supervise the slaves and make clothing. They were not allowed to own land, vote or take part in politics.

### Glossary

Acropolis: The upper fortified area of a Greek city that is usually built on a hill.

Architect: Someone who designs building and makes sure that they are built correctly

Athenian: A person from Athens

Citedel: A central fortified area of a city or town

Civilisation: A highly developed culture, including its social organisation, government, law and arts.

Democracy: A political system, which allows people to have a say in the way their country is governed.

## Timeline

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>c6000–c3000 BC</b> | People start to farm and make produce in Neolithic Greece.                  |
| <b>c3000–c1100 BC</b> | The Minoan civilisation exists on the island of Crete.                      |
| <b>c1600–c1100 BC</b> | The Mycenaean civilisation exists on the Greek mainland.                    |
| <b>c1450 BC</b>       | The Mycenaeans take control of Crete.                                       |
| <b>c1100–c800 BC</b>  | Greek cities are destroyed or abandoned during the Greek Dark Age.          |
| <b>c800–c500 BC</b>   | Greece develops quickly and city states are founded in the Archaic period.  |
| <b>776 BC</b>         | The first Olympic Games are held in Olympia.                                |
| <b>c507 BC</b>        | Cleisthenes introduces the world's first known democratic system to Athens. |
| <b>c500</b>           | The Classical period begins.  |
| <b>356 BC</b>         | Alexander the Great is born.  |
| <b>323 BC</b>         | Alexander the Great dies and the Classical period ends.                     |
| <b>323–30 BC</b>      | Greece becomes divided during the Hellenistic period.                       |
| <b>30 BC</b>          | Ancient Greece is conquered by the Romans.                                  |