

Key Vocabulary:



Acropolis – A fortified part of an ancient Greek city, typically built on a hill. The Parthenon is built within the acropolis at Athens.



Bio – Greek word meaning 'life'.



Civilisation – A group of people with their own languages, rules and way of life.



Culture – A way of life of a group of people.



Democracy – 'cracy' means power and 'demo' means people. A democracy is where people have the power to vote and govern for themselves.



Kilo – Greek word meaning 'one thousand'.



Mount Olympus – The highest mountain in Greece and believed to be the birthplace of the Olympian gods.



Myth – From the Greek word 'mythos' meaning speech. Myths are traditional stories, which are likely to be fictional, told through time and explain events from the past.



Oligarchy – 'Oligos' means few, and 'archy' means to rule. An oligarchy is a type of government where the power is in the hands of only a few people.



Philosophy – The study of knowledge, reality and existence.



Polytheistic – In Greek, 'poly' = many and 'theos' = god. Polytheistic means to believe in more than one god.

Living in the Past: *Ancient Greece*



- **Population:** about 10.6 million people live in Greece (2020)
- **Capital:** Athens with 3.2 million inhabitants
- **Seas:** Ionian sea (West), Mediterranean sea (South), Aegean sea (East)
- **National Language:** Greek
- **Currency:** Euro

Important mythological figures:



Zeus – King of the gods on Mount Olympia who had several wives and children to gods and mortals.

Aphrodite – Daughter of Zeus and goddess of love.

Athena – Daughter of Zeus and goddess of wisdom and war.

Hades – Ruler of the dead and the underworld.

Hermes – Son of Zeus and messenger of the gods.

Apollo – God of knowledge and prophecy.

Poseidon – God of the sea.

Hephaestus – God of blacksmiths and craftsmen.

Thanatos – God of death.

Hypnos – Twin brother of Thanatos, god of sleep.

Nike – Goddess of victory.

Nemesis – Goddess of revenge.

Key events:

- 776 BC** – The first Olympic games take place.
- 750 BC** – The Greek poet Homer begins to write the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad*.
- 508 BC** – Cleisthenes, introduces **democracy** to Greek laws.
- 490 BC** – The battle of Marathon, where the Greeks defeated the Persians.
- 432 BC** – The most famous building in Athens, the Parthenon, is completed.
- 386 BC** – Pluto, the Greek philosopher and student of Socrates, creates the first institution of learning, called The Academy.
- 336 BC** – Alexander the Great becomes king and expands the Greek empire.
- 146 BC** – The Romans defeat the Greeks at Corinth, making Greece part of the Roman Empire.

Historical context:

