

Knowledge Map: What did the Greeks do for us?



Key Vocabulary

- Greece
- Europe
- Mediterranean
- Athens
- Ancient
- Crete
- Aegean Sea
- Ionian Sea
- Mt. Olympus
- Euro
- Tourism
- Volcanoes
- Seafaring
- Santorini
- Milos

Comparison with the UK

- Both countries are in Europe: the UK is in northern Europe & Greece in southern Europe.
- Due to its more southerly position (closer to the Equator) Greece is warmer than the UK. On average, Athens is 9°C hotter than London.
- Greece is smaller than the UK – 131,957 sq. km compared to 243,610 sq. km.
- Significantly more people live in the UK – 66 million compared to 10.8 million.
- London has a much larger population than Athens: 8.4 million compared to 3.1 million.
- Greece has higher mountains than the UK. Mt. Olympus is 2,917m high. The highest in the UK is Ben Nevis, at 1,345m.
- Greece is made up of many more islands than the UK. It has a much longer coastline.

Selected Ancient Greek Gods

Zeus	Kind of the Gods, God of the Sky, Lightning and Thunder.
Hades	God of the Dead and King of the Underworld
Poseidon	God of the Sea, Earthquakes & Storms.
Hera	Queen of the Gods; Goddess of Marriage.
Apollo	God of Music, Art, Knowledge & the Sun.
Aphrodite	Goddess of Love and Beauty.
Hermes	Messenger of the Gods, God of Trade & Travelers.
Ares	God of War.
Athena	Goddess of Wisdom, Courage and Strategy.
Demeter	Goddess of Agriculture and the Harvest.



Key People

Sophocles	Influential playwright known for writing over 120 plays, mainly tragedies. Most famous plays include: Oedipus & Antigone.
Aesop	Former slave and storyteller famous for writing Aesop's Fables.
Homer	Legendary author famous for writing the Iliad & Odyssey.
Pythagoras	Philosopher & mathematician most known for his right angle proof.
Archimedes	Scientist & mathematician; famous for reportedly yelling 'Eureka!' after realizing the link between volume, density & displacement.
Socrates	Credited as the Father of Western philosophy. Known for dialogues over writing.
Plato	Philosopher and student of Socrates; best known for writing 'Republic'.
Aristotle	Philosopher and student of Plato; pulled together existing philosophies resulting in his ideas influencing Western civilization for centuries to come.
Alexander the Great	King of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedonia; united and secured the whole of Greece and fought against the Persian Empire to the East. Died aged 32.

Human Geography

Greece has a long and rich history, and a culture which has developed over thousands of years from the time of the Ancient Greeks. Its warm climate also makes it a popular holiday destination for people from across the world.

Population	-The population of Greece is around 10.8 million people. This makes it the fourteenth most populous country in Europe. The population density is 82 people per square kilometre. This is the 30 th highest population density in Europe.
Settlements	-The most populous and capital city of Greece is Athens. It has a population of over 3 million people. Other large settlements include Thessaloniki, Patra, Piraeus and Larisa. Most settlements were founded around the coast, as Greeks historically were seafaring people.
Economic Activity	-Greece is a part of the European Union and its currency is the Euro. Greece has suffered many financial problems in recent years, and have had to be helped by other countries. Tourism is a large source of income for Greece.
Resources/Trade	-Greece have many natural resources, and are a large trader of petroleum products. In terms of food, Greece exports high quantities of fresh fish, olive oil, tomato-based products and wine.

Term	Definition
Acropolis	Fortified city core located on a rocky outcrop above Athens.
Polytheistic	Religious system where people believe in or worship more than one god.
Democracy	A system of government where eligible people elect representatives.
Oligarchy	A system of government where a small group of people control everything.
Mount Olympus	The highest mountain in Greece and the mythological home of the Greek Gods, primarily twelve Olympian Gods.
Parthenon	Temple dedicated to Athena located on the Athenian Acropolis.
Titans	An older generation of Gods including Cronus & Rhea who were the children of earlier Gods and parents to the Olympian Gods (who later overthrew them).
City State	A city that had its own government and rules the area around it e.g. Athens, Sparta, Corinth, Delphi & Thebes (Greek = Polis)
Olympics	Sporting event and sacrifice held every four years in honour of Zeus.

Timeline not to scale.

First coins introduced 600 BCE	Battle of Marathon (Athens vs Persia) 490 BCE	Peloponnesian Wars between two sides led by Athens and Sparta 431-404 BCE	Founding of the library at Alexandria 323 BCE	Roman rule of Greece begins with the sacking of Corinth 146 BCE
First Olympic Games 776 BCE	Athens introduces democracy 505 BCE	Sophocles writes his first tragedy 468 BCE	Alexander the Great dies not long after defeating Persians 323 BCE	
Archaic Period (800 – 480 BCE)		Classical Period (480 – 323 BCE)		Hellenistic Period (323 – 146 BCE)