

Ancient Greece - History Y3

Ancient Greece - An ancient civilisation based on the Greek peninsular and the surrounding islands.

City State - An area around a city that had its own rulers, customs and laws. They often fought each other but sometimes joined together to battle foreign enemies.

Athens - A city state in Ancient Greece best known for its democracy.

Sparta - A city state in Ancient Greece best known for its military.

Mount Olympus - The place where the Greeks believed that the Gods and Goddesses lived on earth.

Democracy - A system of government where the people vote to decide things.

Ostraca - A piece of pottery that Athenians used to vote (plural **Ostrakon**).



Persia - An empire to the east of Greece, ruled by kings. Persia tried to invade Greece and caused the city-states to become allies and join together to fight back.

King Darius - The Persian king that ruled during the thirty year war with the Greeks.

Battle of Marathon - The Athenians were victorious in the battle with the Persians. After the battle an Athenian messenger ran 26 miles back to Athens to tell them that the Persians had been defeated.

Battle of Thermopylae - The Greeks (led by a Spartan king, Leonidas) were beaten by the Persians after a local betrayed the Greeks and showed them a path that they could take to reach the Greek army. Leonidas knew his side were going to lose and sent many men back in retreat. 300 Spartan soldiers stayed to fight knowing that they would be killed.



Alexander the Great - Alexander became King of Macedonia when he was 19. He had conquered all of Greece by the time he was 21. He was a strong and intelligent leader but could also be hot-headed and cruel.

Philosopher - A person who seeks wisdom and knowledge and tries to reason and solve problems.

Socrates - A Greek philosopher with many students.

Plato - A Greek philosopher and student of Socrates.

Aristotle - A Greek philosopher and student of Plato.