

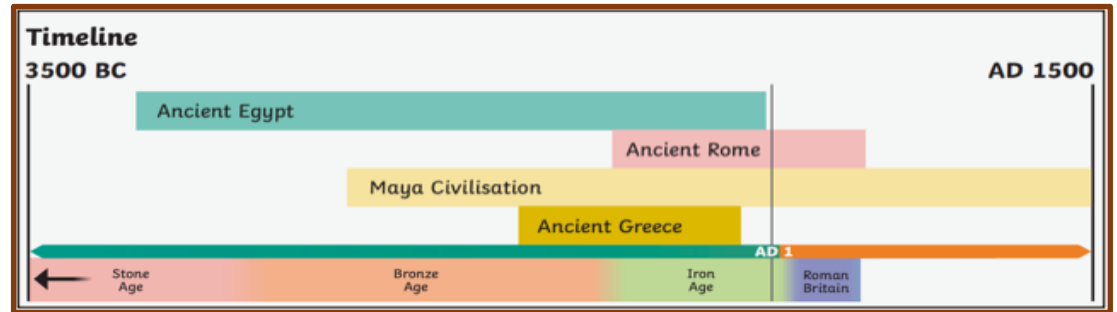
# How did life compare between the different city states of Ancient Greece?

## Prior Learning

- I can name significant ancient civilisations, and understand that they ran concurrently in different parts of the world.
- I can describe the way people lived in ancient Egypt and Maya.
- I can describe developments in these societies, and the impact they had on later periods in history.
- What do we already know about Ancient Greece?

## City States

Ancient Greece was not a single country, it was made up of lots of city states (polis). These were independent of each other (they had different leaders and laws, and their own army). Although they shared a common language and religion, they often fought for dominance in the region. However, they would sometimes come together to defend themselves against a common enemy (such as Persia). Important cities included **Athens, Sparta, Corinth, Olympia, and Delphi**.



### Athens



For centuries, Athens was the most powerful city. Many great artists, thinkers and writers lived there. At the centre was a rocky hill, the **Acropolis**, with important buildings such as the **Parthenon** (a temple to the goddess Athena). Athens was one of the first democracies, ruled by a leader who was voted for by 30,000 free men (citizens). Women (like slaves) were not counted as citizens; they had few rights and no vote.

### Sparta



The Spartans were famous for their fearsome warriors. They lived simple lives, farming the land and fighting in battles. Children trained in fitness and combat at school from the age of seven. Women and girls had more rights here than in other cities (such as going to school and running a business). Sparta was led by two kings – one would lead the army into battle, while the other would rule the city.

### Corinth



Corinth was one of the largest and wealthiest cities in ancient Greece. It was located right at the centre, so was in a good place for trade. They were famous for their building and pottery. Corinthians used a special type of silver coin called a **stater**, which traders had to use in the city.

### Olympia



It was believed that the gods lived high in the mountains of Olympus. Every four years, the Olympic Games were held in honour of Zeus, the king of the gods. Athletes came from all city states to compete in events from wrestling to horse-racing. It was a very important religious festival – wars stopped so that people could travel freely to watch and compete.

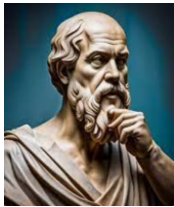
### Delphi



Delphi was one of the holiest cities, believed to be the centre of the ancient Greek world. People travelled from all over the country to visit and pay to see the famous oracle, Pythia. She was the high priestess at the Temple of Apollo. They believed that when she was in a trance, Apollo (the god of the sun) would give her prophecies and advice.

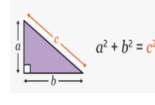
# Where can we see the influence of Ancient Greece on our world today?

The people of the Greek city states settled across Europe, spreading their culture and ideas – nowhere more so than in Rome (Italy). They heavily influenced European culture and ideas, and 2000 years later, the Ancient Greek legacy continues to influence the modern world. Today, many countries hold democratic elections, where the citizens vote for which leaders will run their country, and every four years, the nations of the world come together to celebrate the achievements of athletes in the Olympic Games. **But that's not all...**



## The Thinkers

Many philosophical and scientific ideas that are used to challenge current thinking and further understand the world around us were first developed in Ancient Greece. The works of Socrates, the philosopher, are still studied today, as are the scientific ideas and inventions of Archimedes. People across the world still use mathematical formula created by Pythagoras when calculating facts about shapes.



## The Writers

The ancient Greeks developed many of the letters and sounds we use in our alphabet: the first two ancient Greek letters were 'alpha' and 'beta'. They introduced the world to theatre - comedies and tragedies were

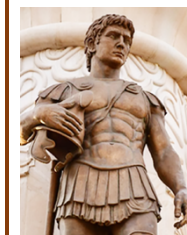


performed to tell stories from the past, and to poke fun at the rich and powerful. Many modern books, plays and films owe their origins to ancient Greek playwrights such as Aristophanes and Euripides.



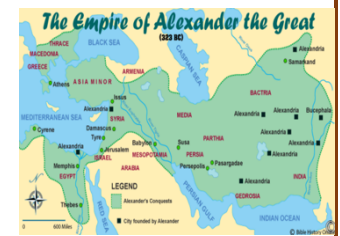
## The Builders

Ancient Greek architectural design became popular thousands of years later, and many grand public buildings across Europe are built in the classical Greek style, using doric, ionic or Corinthian columns.



## The End

Alexander the Great of Macedon (a city state) ruled the newly unified ancient Greece in 336BC. By the age of 30, he had created one of the largest empires in



history, stretching across Europe and northern Africa, all the way to north-western India. He was undefeated in battle, and is widely considered to be one of history's greatest and most successful military commanders. However, this spelt the end of the ancient Greek city states, and 200 years later, the Romans defeated the Greeks at the Battle of Corinth in 146BCE: ancient Greece became part of the Roman Empire.

## Key Vocabulary

**Ancient, civilisation, concurrent, city states, Hellenic, Athens, Sparta, Corinth, Olympia, Delphi, language, mythology, Persia, empire, legacy, government, democracy, ostraca, naval, port, military, architecture, Mount Olympus, philosophy, influence, Socrates, Archimedes, Pythagoras, Alexander the Great**