

Project glossary

acropolis

The upper fortified area of a Greek city, usually built on a hill.

agora

A central public space in ancient Greek city states.

Archaic period

The period between c800 BC and c500 BC when city states were founded and Greece developed quickly, gaining overseas colonies.

architecture

The art and study of designing buildings.

aristoi

The highest ranking male citizens in ancient Greece.

artefact

An object made by people.

Assembly

A group of all eligible citizens who were expected to vote and join in with political discussions.

Athens

A city state in ancient Greece consisting of an urban centre and surrounding countryside. It was the centre of power, art, science and philosophy.

citadel

A central fortified area of a city or town.

citizen

A free man in ancient Greece who had the right to vote.

city state

A city and its surroundings with an independent government.

Classical period

The golden age of Greece between c500 BC and 323 BC, famed for its many discoveries and achievements.

Corinth

One of the wealthiest and most powerful city states in ancient Greece.

Dark Age

The period between c1100 BC and c800 BC when many Greek cities were destroyed or abandoned, and Greek writing and art disappeared.

Delian League

A group of ancient Greek city states, led by Athens, formed to challenge threats from Persia.

democracy

A system that allows people to have a say about how their government and country are run.

evidence

A piece of information that provides knowledge, proves a point or answers a question.

golden age

A time in ancient Greece when there was peace and prosperity, and cultural activities were at a peak.

Hellenistic period

The time between 323 BC and 30 BC after Alexander the Great died, when Greece became divided and many inventions and discoveries were made.

hierarchy

A system in society where people are organised into different levels of importance from highest to lowest.

legacy

Something that is a result of a period of history that continues to exist after the period comes to an end.

metic

A skilled worker who did not come from Athens.

Minoan civilisation

A peaceful civilisation of skilled farmers, potters and sailors that formed on the island of Crete between c3000 BC and c1100 BC.

Mount Olympus

The highest mountain in Greece, believed in Greek mythology to be the home of the Greek gods.

Mycenaean civilisation

A warrior civilisation between c1600 BC and c1100 BC based on the Greek mainland and made up of farmers, soldiers, builders, hunters and fishermen.

mythology

A collection of religious and cultural stories.

Neolithic

The time between c6000 BC and c3000 BC when hunter-gatherers started to grow crops, rear livestock and live in huts.

oligarchy

A country that is controlled by a small number of powerful people.

Olympic Games

A sporting event, first held in 776 BC in Olympia, and then every four years until cAD 393.

Parthenon

A temple on the Acropolis in Athens.

Peloponnesian War

A war fought between the city states of Athens and Sparta from 431 BC to 404 BC.

philosophy

The study of the basic ideas about knowledge, right and wrong, reasoning and the value of things.

polis

Another name for a city state in ancient Greece.

primary source

Evidence made during the time period being studied, such as an artefact, written source, building or art.

secondary source

Evidence created after the time period being studied, which may have been made using primary sources, such as information books, historians' reports and reconstructions.

Sparta

One of the most powerful city states in ancient Greece, with one of the strongest armies.

strategoi

An army general in ancient Greece.

Trojan War

A conflict between the Mycenaean Greeks and the people of Troy in western Anatolia, modern-day Turkey, in the 12th or 13th century BC.

tyranny

Unfair or cruel use of power.