

Ancient Greece

Y6 Autumn Term 2017

Key Dates

The Ancient Greek era began around **800BC**

The first Olympic games were held in honour of Zeus in **776BC**

The Battle of Marathon was in **490BC**

The era ended in **146BC** when they were conquered by Rome

Key Vocabulary

Government: the group of people who make the decisions about the running of a country or state.

Democracy: a system of government where the people choose their rulers by voting for them. The word democracy comes from the Greek 'demos' meaning people and 'kratia' meaning power. People power is the basis of democracy today.

Hoplite: a heavily armed foot soldier of Ancient Greece.

Siege: where enemy forces surround a town or building, cutting off essential supplies, with the aim of making those inside surrender.

City states: were like very small countries with just one city. Each had their own government. Famous city states include Athens, Sparta, Thebes and Corinth.

Aesop: a Greek storyteller who created many fables such as 'The Tortoise and the Hare' and 'The Wind and the Sun'.

Mount Olympus: home of the 12 major gods and goddesses known as the Olympians.

Key Figures in the Battle of Troy

Helen: the most beautiful woman in the world and wife of Menelaus

Menelaus: King of Sparta and husband of Helen

Agamemnon: brother of Menelaus and commander of the Greek army

Achilles: strong, courageous and loyal Greek warrior

Hector: Prince of Troy and leader of the Trojan army

Paris: younger Prince of Troy who falls in love with Helen



City States:

Athens: Largest city state in Greece. Was the birthplace of democracy with citizens voting on change. Was known for theatre, arts, philosophy and literature.

Sparta: Unlike Athens, it did not study philosophy, art or theatre. Instead, the people studied war and the Spartans were widely considered to have the strongest army. Sparta was ruled by two kings of equal power.

