

Year 4 Swifts

History

Autumn 1

Ancient Greece

Ancient Greece and nearby regions



Key Vocabulary	Definition
ancient Greece	An ancient civilisation based around the Greek peninsula and the surrounding islands.
Athenian	People who lived in the city-state of Athens.
civilisation	From the Latin word 'civilis' meaning society, a civilisation is a well organised group of people who live together, building cities, writing, making laws and producing food.
democracy	A system of government where the people can vote to decide things. Athens was the first city - state to develop this system.
Olympics	A religious festival held in honour of Zeus, attended by people from all over Greece.
legacy	Something that is part of our history that remains from an earlier time.
Persia	An empire to the east of Greece, ruled by kings. Persia tried to invade Greece. Ancient Persia is modern-day Iran.
philosophy	The study of general and fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind and language.
Spartan	People who lived in the city-state of Sparta. They were known for being great warriors.
The Persian Wars	A series of wars fought by the Greek city-states and the Persian Empire over a period of almost half a century.

What is an Ostrakon?

Athens is regarded worldwide as the 'birthplace of democracy'. Athenians often used broken pieces of pottery and scratched people's names onto the surface to vote. Ostracism was the process by which any citizen, including leaders, could be exiled from the city-state for 10 years. Once a year, Athenian citizens would nominate people they felt threatened democracy because of political differences, dishonesty or just general dislike.

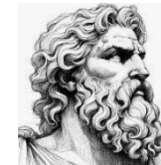


Gordian Knot

In Phrygia (modern Turkey) there was a legendary prophesy about a unique knot that could only be loosened by the man who would rule all of Asia. This mythical knot was complex and tangled and called the "Gordian" knot because it was supposed to have been created by a man named Gordius. According to a traditional version of the story, Alexander the Great cut the knot with his sword, solving the problem in a way no-one else had. The term is often now used as a metaphor for a problem that has no easy or obvious solution.

Important People

Zeus



The king of the Greek gods who lived on Mount Olympus

Darius I



King of the Persian Empire (522- 486 BCE), the largest in the ancient world.

Alexander the Great



Conquered Greece. Created the largest empire in human history.

Socrates



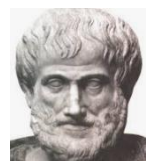
469 – 399 BCE
Greek philosopher
Founder of western philosophy.

Plato



427 – 348 BCE
Greek philosopher of the classic period

Aristotle



384 – 322 BCE
Greek philosopher and first genuine scientist in history.