



Runnymede St. Edwards Primary Catholic School - Knowledge Organiser

Topic: History

Ancient Greece

Year 3

Term: Summer 1

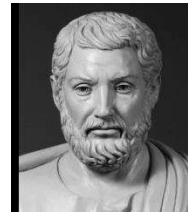
Key Vocabulary

City-states	Small areas that ancient Greece was divided into, each with their own governments, laws and army.
Citizens	The free men who had been born in Athens . 'Citizens' did not include women in Athens , slaves or anyone not born in Athens .
Assembly	A place where all the Athenian citizens met once a year to vote.
Golden Age	Over a period of fifty years, the empire of Athens began to grow and became rich and powerful. This period is called the Golden Age of Athens .
Temple	A building for religious worship.
Literatures	Plays, poetry and stories are called literature .

Democracy

Ancient Greece was not a country. It was made up of **city-states**. Nearly every **city-state** was ruled by either one man or ruled by a small group of very rich men.

Around year 507BC, a man called Cleisthenes came up with the idea '**democracy**'. In this **democracy**, the people of **Athens** would hold the power in their **city-state** - the Athenian **citizens** would decide how their city would be ruled.



The Peloponnesian War

Over time, **Athens** became rich and powerful. The empire of **Athens** began to grow. Sparta became jealous of **Athens** and thought they were becoming too powerful.

In the year 431 BC, Sparta declared war on Athens. The two **city-states** now fought each other. For nearly thirty years, Sparta and Athens were at war.

The Parthenon

Pericles was an **Athenian** leader and army general who wanted **Athens** to be the leader of all **Greek city-states**. He buildings and large monuments to be built in the polis.

Pericles wanted to show how Athens would lead the other **Greek city-states** so he decided to build a huge **temple**. This **temple** would be built on the highest point in **Athens**; it would be built on top of the acropolis. **Pericles** wanted the temple to be so magnificent that every visitor who came to **Athens** would wonder at the power and important of this polis. **The Parthenon** was dedicated to the goddess Athena and a huge statue of Athena stood inside it.



Greek Literature

The **ancient Greeks** loved stories and **theatre**. Every Greek town had an outside **theatre** that did not have a roof where thousands of spectators watched the actors on the stage. At first, the Greek **theatres** had been used for dances, songs and music. The early **theatres** had been used to show respect for the gods. As time went on, they began to act out stories.

Each Greek town loved to tell other towns about how wonderful their plays were and how marvellous their actors were – they were competitive! Many ancient Greeks wrote plays and some became well known playwrights. Ancient Greeks loved three types of plays:

- A tragedy (always had a sad ending)
- A comedy (was funny and had a happy ending)
- A satire (poked fun at real people and real events).