Burlington Junior School - History

Year 4

Ancient Greece

Background Information

The earliest Greek civilizations thrived nearly 4,000 years ago. The Ancient Greeks lived in Greece and the countries that we now call Bulgaria and Turkey. The Ancient Greek Empire spread over Europe as far as France in the East and was most powerful between 2000 BC and 146 BC. The Ancient Greeks developed new ideas for government, science, philosophy, religion and art. Ancient Greece was split into many different states: each one was ruled in its own way with its own laws, government and money but they shared the same language and **religion**. The two most important city states were **Athens** and **Sparta**.

In this unit the children will learn:

-where Ancient Greece is placed on a simple timeline.
-the similarities and differences between crime and punishment in Ancient Greece and crime and punishment now (Rights, Law)
-about the life of a child in Ancient Greece
-about the Greek Gods and their significance
-Geography linked objectives:
-Know how to locate Ancient Greece, Crete, Athens and Sparta on a map and identify key geographical features



Timeline of Key Events:

776BC – First Olympic Games
700 BC – Homer writes the Odyssey and the Iliad poems.
508 BC – Male citizens of Athens are given a chance to vote in order to decide how things should be run. Democracy begins.
500BC- Classical period starts. There is a lot of interest in Art, imagination and buildings.
490 BC – Battle of Marathon.
472 BC – Greek theatre becomes popular.
460 BC – Hippocrates is born- his ideas on medicine/the body are still used today.
432 BC – the Parthenon is finished in Athens.
338BC – Prince Phillip II of Macedonia takes control of Greece
336 BC – Alexander the Great takes over rule of Greece, aged 20, after the death of his father.
146 BC – Rome wins at the Battle of Corinth. Greece falls under the rule of the Roman Empire.

Historical Skills and Concepts:

- **Chronology** – key events in world history.
- **Questioning** – develop historical questioning skills.
- **Sources –** use a range of sources to explore our knowledge of the past.
- **Cause & Effect –** the impact of Historical events or developments.

Key People:

Gods:
Zeus: God of the Sky and King of Olympus
Poseidon: God of the Sea
Apollo: God of Light and Music
Athena: Goddess of Wisdom
Hermes: Messenger of the Gods

Philosophers:
Socrates (429 – 327 BC): Tried to answer questions such as 'What is the right thing to do?'
Plato (429 – 327 BC): Founded the world's first University

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Key facts:

Democracy:

The Athenians invented democracy, a system that allows citizens to vote on important matters. In the 6th century BC, Cleisthenes helped to introduce a new political structure of demokratia or 'rule by the people'. It was one of the earliest examples of democracy in history and is one of Ancient Greece's most lasting legacies. Government officials were elected by the citizens; however, women, children and slaves could not vote. The Assembly was made up of 60,000 male citizens and made the laws of the land. The Council was made up of 500 citizens who made up laws for the Assembly to consider.

Education

In Sparta, reading and writing was unimportant; boys learnt to be good fighters. In Athens, citizens had to be educated to take part in voting in The Assembly. Schools were not free so only the wealthy could afford to go; Greek girls were not allowed to go to attend and Athenian boys started school at 7 and stayed until they were about 14. The boys learned reading, writing and maths in the mornings and went to wrestling school in the afternoons. Children wrote on wooden boards covered with layers of wax and used a wooden pen called a stylus. Boys were educated to become good citizens and girls were educated in housekeeping.

Olympic Games

This sporting event was held every 4 years at Olympia. It was also a religious festival to honour the god Zeus. The 4 year period was known as the Olympiad. 776BC - first Olympics Games, a 'sacred truce' was sent out by messengers one month before the games so the fighting would stop and people could travel safely. Winners were given a wreath of leaves and a heroes welcome when they returned home.

Key Vocabulary:

Ancient civilisation - the first settled and stable communities that became the basis for later states, nations, and empires.
citizens - people who belong to a place
The Acropolis - is a group of ancient temples that were built on a high, rocky hill in Athens, Greece. The word **acropolis** even **means** 'high city' in Greek.
City State – is a **city** that has its own sovereignty. There were many important **city-states** in ancient Greece. In order to be considered a **city-state**, a **city** must govern itself independently.
Philosopher - a person who studies ideas about knowledge. Many great thinkers lived in Ancient Greek times.
Sparta - Sparta was a city-state in Ancient Greece that fought a long war against Athens, called the Peloponnesian War, from 431 to 404BC. Spartans - citizens of the city-state of Sparta. Fighting wars was what the Spartans did best. Greeks said that in battle one Spartan was worth several other men.
Athens - a city-state in Ancient Greece which produced many writers and artists whose work has survived to this day.
Athenians - Citizens of the city-state of Athens.
Olympic Games - sporting festival held every 4 years

Transferable vocabulary and concepts:

Culture - a pattern of behaviour shared by a society, or group of people. Many different things make up a society's culture. These things include food, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, customs, beliefs, and religion.
Democracy - a system of government in which people choose who is in charge by voting in elections.
Government - people who run a country
Artefact - an object made by a human being, especially an object of archaeological interest.
Legacy - something that is handed down from one period of time to another period of time.