



Meet the Greeks! - Ancient



What have I already learnt?

In Year 3 you learnt about the Egyptians. The Late Period of Ancient Egyptian history came to an end in 332 BC when Egypt was conquered by the Greeks. The Greeks formed their own dynasty called the Ptolemaic Dynasty that ruled for nearly 300 years until 30 BC.

Key Vocabulary

acropolis	The citadel of an ancient Greek city.
archaeologist	Someone who studies the past by exploring old remains.
democracy	A fair political system where all adults vote for an elected government. The government then makes decisions on how to run the country.
empire	A number of individual nations controlled by one government or ruler of a country.
mythology	myths from a particular country, religion or culture.
polis	An ancient Greek city—state.



Athens and Sparta

Athens and Sparta were the two main city states that ruled much of ancient Greece. They were often rivals and fought each other in the Peloponnesian Wars. At other times they united together in order to protect the Greek lands from invaders. The cultures of the two cities were very different. Sparta was almost entirely focused on war and how to fight, while Athens focused on the arts and learning.

Greek Gods and Goddesses

Zeus— the most powerful of all the gods. He was the God of the Sky and the King of Mount Olympus.



Poseidon— God of the Sea. He was the most powerful god except for his brother, Zeus.



Hades— the God of the Dead. He ruled the underworld where people went when they died.



Hera— The sister and wife of Zeus. She was powerful and beautiful but very jealous and vain. She is goddess of family and marriage.

Athena— the daughter of Zeus. She is the goddess of wisdom. She turned Medusa from a human into a monster.



Hermes— very fast on his feet and very clever, so Zeus decided to make him a messenger.

776BC



The year of the first Olympic games.

700BC



The Iliad and Odyssey poems are written by Homer.

508BC



Democracy begins in Athens.

490BC



The Greeks defeat the Persian invaders at the battle of Marathon.

472BC



Theatres become popular in Greece. Many famous plays are performed in Athens.

432BC



The Parthenon in Athens is completed.

336BC



Alexander the Great succeeds his father as king of the Greeks.

146BC



Rome conquers Greece. Greece becomes part of the Roman Empire.



Rotten Romans



How the Romans conquered Britain

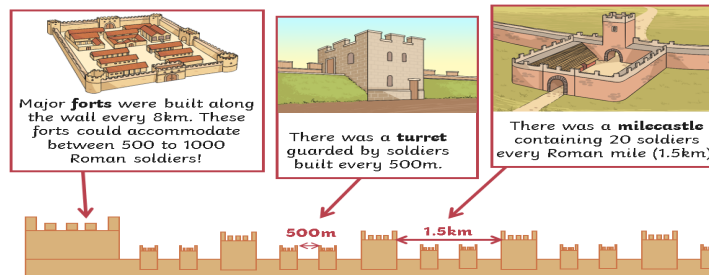
Around 2,000 years ago, Britain was ruled by tribes of people called the **Celts**. In **AD43**, the full might of the Roman army landed on the beaches in Kent. Over the next year it battled inland, storming through hillforts and chopping down anyone who stood in their way. The Romans wanted Britain's precious metals. However, they weren't just a destructive force - they built new forts, new settlements and roads. They spread their culture, language and



The Roman Empire

Hadrian's Wall

The Romans began building a wall to deal with frequent attacks from the Picts. The wall was started in AD 122 and it took 16 years to build. The wall was built by three Roman legions (15,000 men) using mostly stone. It was 117.5km long (or 80 Roman miles), up to 6m high and 3m wide.



Mosaics

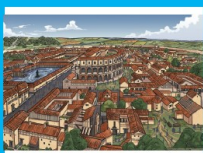
The Romans made pictures from coloured tiles called mosaics. The mosaics have been able to survive the test of time better than some paintings. Mosaics could be art on a wall, but also decorative flooring.



Key Vocabulary

amphitheatre	An oval or round building with seats rising on rows.
aqueduct	A structure like a bridge for carrying a waterway or pipe.
centurion	An officer in command of about 100 men.
chariot	A vehicle with two wheels pulled by horses and driven from a standing position.
emperor	The male ruler of an empire.
toga	A long, loose outer garment worn by citizens of ancient Rome.
villa	A large, luxurious country house or estate.

753BC



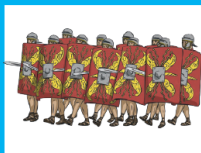
The building of Rome begins.

202BC



Rome conquers territories outside Italy.

130BC



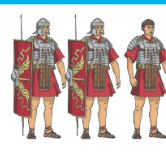
Rome conquers Greece and Spain.

55BC



Julius Caesar first invades Britain but is forced to return home.

AD43



The Roman army lands in England.

AD61



Boudicca rebels against the Romans.

AD122



The building of Hadrian's Wall begins.

AD410



Roman rule in Britain ends.

AD455



The Roman Empire collapses.