CHARLES DICKENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

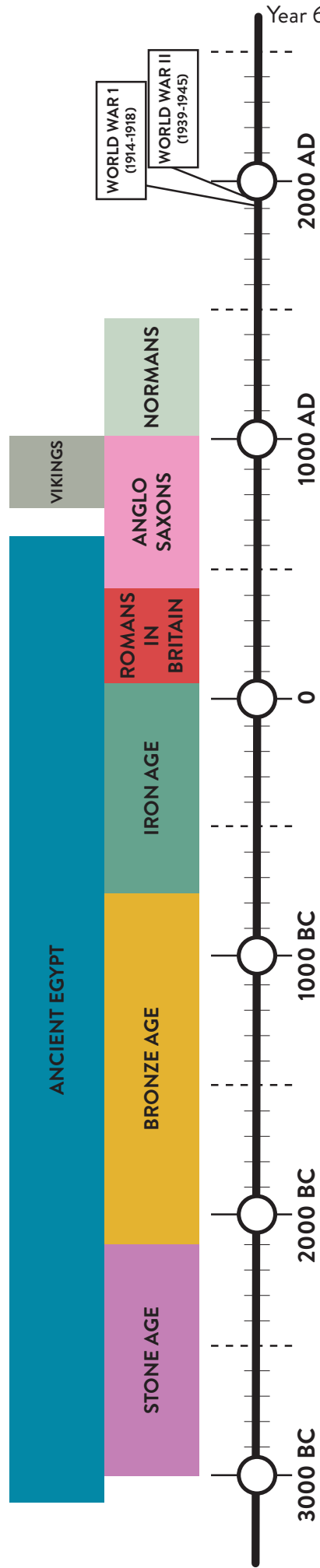# Ancient Greece

Name _____   Class _____

WHO WERE THE ANCIENT GREEKS?

GLOSSARY

Ancient — belonging to the very distant past. No longer exists today.

Civilisation — the society, economy and culture of a particular society.

Trade — the action of buying and selling goods and produce.

Export — to send goods to another country for sale.

Import — to bring goods into a country from abroad for sale.

City states/ poleis — an urban centre which controlled its surrounding territory.

Hierarchy — a system where members are ranked on account of their status.

Citizens — an inhabitant of a particular town or city.

Peloponnesian — relating to the Peloponnesus, or southern peninsula of Greece.

Ambition — the strong desire to achieve something.

Civic — relating to a city or town.

Year 6 History - Ancient Greece

WHERE DOES THIS LEARNING FIT IN WITH WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT SO FAR?

WORLD WAR 1 (1914-1918)

WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

2000 AD

NORMANS

VIKINGS

ANGLO SAXONS

1000 AD

ROMANS IN BRITAIN

ANCIENT EGYPT

IRON AGE

0

BRONZE AGE

1000 BC

2000 BC

STONE AGE

3000 BC

ANCIENT GREECE

The ancient Greek civilisation spanned from the **8th Century BC to 146 BC**.

The ancient civilization of Greece was located in south eastern Europe along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. This is the geographical location of modern day Greece.

Ancient Greece was not comprised of one country. Rather, it was formed of many **city states** or '**poleis**'. As their civilisation thrived, there were up to 1000 poleis formed. Among the most important were Athens, Sparta, Corinth, Thebes, Argos and Rhodes.

This unit of work will explore the rich and diverse culture of ancient Greece and will consider why their ancient civilisation is considered to be one of the most influential in the world.

Geography

The geographic position of Ancient Greece in the Mediterranean gave them lots of opportunities to use trade routes and seaports to their advantage.

They imported and exported many of their goods via these sea channels. The most common ship in Ancient Greece was their cargo ship, used for carrying and transporting trading items. Unlike the warships that used oarsmen to row the boat, cargo ships used sails to move. These ships were made of wood and weighed around 150 tons.

What did the Ancient Greeks trade?

The ancient Greeks exported olive oil, wine and pottery. They imported grains and pork from Sicily, Arabia, Egypt and Ancient Carthage.

Why were they so heavily reliant on trade by sea?

The terrain (land) was mountainous and therefore difficult to navigate. This made it difficult to travel between city-states on land. Furthermore, the soil in ancient Greece was of very poor quality. They were heavily reliant on agricultural trade because crop growth was limited.

CITY STATES

Trade in ancient Greece

From around 800BC, villages started to band together to create city-states, in part for protection and in part for more organised trade. Because of the geography of the area, there was no central government in ancient Greece.

There were no formal roads interconnecting the many city-states. The mountains and the winding coastlines made travel by land quite difficult so travel was mostly by sea.

The Greek city-states did know each other. They fought with each other, and teamed up against a common enemy with each other. For example, the Trojan wars.

People were free to visit or even move to a different city-state if they wished. Each city-state was independent and developed its own government.

SPARTA AND ATHENS: IN PROFILE

SPARTA

Population:

Estimated between 40,000-50,000.

What was it famous for?

The city state of Sparta, albeit considerably smaller then Athens, was recognised throughout Ancient Greece for its military strength.

How was it run?

Most city-states, like Corinth, were ruled by kings. Sparta was ruled by councils (a small group of people).

ATHENS

Population:

Estimated between 250,000-300,000.

What was it famous for?

Athens was the largest city state in Ancient Greece and was most famous for its democratic approach to governing,

How was it run?

All adult citizens had to take an active part in government (rule by many) if called on to do so. At this time, citizens were free men. Women, children, and slaves were not citizens, and thus could not participate or vote.

Can you recognise some similarities and differences between the two city states?

Can you think of the benefits and risks of settling near a large body of water?

How did the ancient Greeks utilise this water?

Spartan Warrior 'Leonidas'

Athenian statesman and intellectual, ' Demosthenes'

THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

The Peloponnesian War was fought between the city states of Athens and Sparta from 431 - 404 BC. After the Persian War, Athens and Sparta had agreed to a Thirty Year Peace. During this time, Athens became powerful and wealthy and the Athenian empire grew under the leadership of Pericles.

Sparta and its allies became increasingly jealous and distrustful of Athens. Finally, in 431 BC, when Sparta and Athens ended up on different sides in a conflict over the city of Corinth, Sparta declared war on Athens.

The first Peloponnesian War lasted for 10 years. During this time the Spartans dominated the land and the Athenians dominated the sea. Athens built long walls all the way from the city to its seaport Piraeus. This enabled them to stay inside the city and still have access to trade and supplies from their ships.

Although the Spartans never breached the walls of Athens during the first war, many people died inside the city due to plague. This included the great leader and general of Athens, Pericles.

1. Why was the Thirty Year Peace declared between Athens and Sparta?

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2. Why did Sparta initiate an attack on Athens?

_____

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3. Why did Athens decide to build long walls?

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4. Do you think this ultimately helped or hindered their war efforts? Why, why not?

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