



## Wellington Primary Topic Assessment

### Parental Information

**Year Group – 5**

**Term – Summer**

**Topic – Ground Breaking Greeks**

**Memorable Experiences –**

In the Groundbreaking Greeks project, your child will learn about different periods of Greek history, exploring the earliest civilisations, the devastation of the Dark Age and the breakthroughs and developments of the Archaic and Classical periods. They will understand how the geography of Greece affected the development of city states and explore Athens, learning about the structure of the government and society. They will get to know some of the most significant Athenians and understand why Greek art, culture, architecture, philosophy, medicine and mathematics were so significant. Your child will learn about the leadership of Alexander the Great and discover how ancient Greece became part of the Roman Empire after the Hellenistic period. They will explore how the Romans respected and developed Greek ideas, making them their own and spreading them throughout the Roman Empire. To end the project, your child will decide which was the ancient Greeks' greatest idea, and explore how the legacy of ancient Greece affects their lives today.

**Your child will receive a copy of the knowledge organiser below to aid their learning. Please take time to look through this at home with your child.**

**Your child will be bringing home a 'Home Learning' guide and workbook, in which they can record home learning tasks for this topic. Included is a further reading suggestion list and some suitable child friendly websites, which can be used to deepen their understanding of the topics that they will be covering in class.**

**Class teachers will guide your child on activities which will directly support that week's learning and any homework expectations – there is no requirement for the children to complete all of the tasks in the pack.**

**Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the Year Group Team.**

## Groundbreaking Greeks

Ancient Greek lands were made up of the Greek mainland, surrounding islands and Greek colonies across the Mediterranean Sea. Ancient Greece was almost entirely surrounded by sea, and the mountains on the mainland made travelling by land difficult.



## Significant periods of Greek history

Ancient Greek history can be divided into seven main periods or civilisations: Neolithic, Minoan civilisation, Mycenaean civilisation, Dark Age, Archaic period, Classical period and Hellenistic period. Greece is often referred to as the birthplace of Western civilisation because of the advances that its people made in politics, science, mathematics, philosophy, literature and art.

## Minoan civilisation

The Minoan civilisation existed between c3000 BC and c1100 BC on the Greek island of Crete. At the civilisation's peak, around 10,000 people lived in 90 cities. As Europe's first developed civilisation, the Minoans lived in towns with roads, wells and a basic sewerage system. They were capable farmers and skilled craftspeople. Their architects oversaw the building of palaces. They were also skilled in making pottery. They traded goods, such as olive oil, pottery and cloth. The Minoans also used an early writing system known as Linear A.



Reconstruction of the palace of Knossos

## Mycenaean civilisation

The Mycenaean civilisation existed between c1600 BC and c1100 BC on the Greek mainland. They took control of Crete in c1450 BC. The Mycenaean were excellent warriors. They invaded and settled in areas around the Mediterranean Sea and developed trade links with Egypt, Cyprus and many Greek islands. The Mycenaean chiefs lived in palaces within fortified hilltop citadels. The Mycenaean people were influenced by the Minoans. They developed the Minoan Linear A script into Linear B and were the first people to speak the Greek language.



Artist's impression of the citadel at Mycenae

## Dark Age and Archaic period

In c1100 BC, the Minoan and Mycenaean civilisations collapsed and society began to decline. Greece entered its Dark Age. Many people left Greece and skills, including writing, were lost. The few remaining people lived in small family groups and reared livestock for food. They also began to mine iron to make spears and tools. Then, around 800 BC, Greece entered the Archaic period. This was characterised by the re-emergence of society, government, art and architecture. A new alphabet was devised, the population grew, city states developed and the first Olympic Games were held.

## Classical period

The Classical period started in c500 BC and ended in 323 BC. It is known as the golden age of ancient Greece because many discoveries and advancements were made. People in the Classical period believed in gods and mythology from earlier periods, although philosophers and scientists at the time began to challenge those beliefs. Their architecture featured symmetrical designs and columns. Like the Minoans and Mycenaean before them, people in Classical Greece established trade links both within Greece and with surrounding countries.



Aerial view of the Acropolis

## City states

During the Classical period, ancient Greece was a collection of city states, rather than one united country. Each city state, known as a polis, included a city and its surrounding villages, farms and land. Each city state had its own government and hierarchy, although they spoke the same language and followed the same religion. The design of each city was also similar. They all had a connection to the sea for trade and transport, outer walls for protection, a variety of buildings inside the city walls and an acropolis built on a hill. Despite similarities and trade links between the city states, they were often at war with each other in a bid to gain power and land.

## Family life and social class

In ancient Greece, class and gender determined the roles people could play in society and at home. Only male citizens were allowed to vote and make decisions. Below them in society came men called metics, who were not citizens and lastly, slaves. Men worked as politicians, landowners, artists, architects, sculptors, scientists and scholars. Women were expected to run the home, bring up the children, supervise the slaves and make clothing. They were not allowed to own land, vote or take part in politics.

## Significant people

Ancient Greece is known for its many great thinkers, including philosophers, political leaders, scientists, mathematicians, historians and writers.

**Pythagoras (c580–c500 BC)** was a philosopher and mathematician. He developed a method to help people to calculate the longest side of a right-angled triangle.

**Cleisthenes (c570–c508 BC)** was a political leader in Athens. He developed the first democratic system.

**Pericles (c495–429 BC)** was a political leader in Athens. He ordered the construction of the Acropolis and Parthenon.

**Socrates (c470–c399 BC)** was a great philosopher. He used questions to help people to examine their knowledge and beliefs.

**Hippocrates (c460–c375 BC)** was a doctor. He carried out medical research and became known as the 'father of medicine'.

**Plato (c427–c347 BC)** was a philosopher and student of Socrates. He founded the first university in Athens.

**Alexander the Great (356–323 BC)** was a military leader. He expanded Greece's territory to create the ancient world's largest empire.

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## Sow, Grow and Farm

### Farming in the UK

Farming is the business of growing crops and rearing livestock. Up to 70% of the land in the UK is used for farming. There are three main types of farming in the UK. These are arable, pastoral and mixed.



Arable farming is growing crops, such as cereals and vegetables.



Pastoral farming is rearing animals, such as cows and sheep.



Mixed farming is both growing crops and rearing animals.

The type of farming depends on the climate, the quality of the soil and the topography of the area. For example, the flat, nutrient-rich land in the east of England is perfect for arable farming, whereas the wet and windy hills of central Wales are most suited to pastoral sheep farming.

### Allotments

Allotments are small pieces of land that individuals can rent to use for growing fruit, vegetables and flowers. The location of allotments in the local environment depends on many factors, including soil quality, drainage, transport links, availability of water and local facilities.



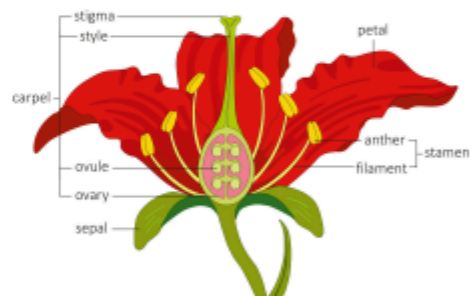
During the Second World War there were food shortages and rationing. The Dig for Victory campaign encouraged people to grow fruit and vegetables on open land, increasing the number of allotments by over 70%.



### Plant life cycles

Plants can reproduce in one of two ways. Firstly, by sexual reproduction where two parent plants are needed, and the offspring are genetically different to either parent. Secondly, by asexual reproduction where only one parent plant is needed, and the new plants are genetically identical to that parent. Some plants can reproduce in either way.

Flowers are needed for sexual reproduction. Flowers have both male and female parts. Pollen from the male stamen gets transferred to the female carpel in a process called pollination. Following pollination, the ovules are fertilised and seeds are produced.



### Modern farming techniques

Some farmers use modern farming practices, including new machinery, technology and scientific discoveries, to produce more food. Whilst this has increased food production there have also been some negative effects on the environment.

Modern farming techniques include chemical pesticides, synthetic fertilisers and irrigation technologies.

## Climate zones

The world is divided into five main climate zones. These are areas of similar average temperature and average rainfall. Mountains have variable climates depending on altitude.



The **polar zone** is cold and dry with long, dark winters. Average temperatures are 10°C to -55°C.



The **temperate zone** has warm summers, cool winters and year-round rainfall. Average temperatures are 0°C to 20°C.



The **Mediterranean zone** has hot summers and mild, rainy winters. Average temperatures are 15°C to 30°C.



The **desert zone** is hot year-round and has very little rainfall. Average temperatures are 25°C to 40°C.



The **tropical zone** has a wet season and a dry season. It is hot and humid. The average temperature is around 31°C.



**Mountains** have changeable climates with colder temperatures and more rainfall as the elevation increases.

## North and South America

The continents of North and South America can be divided into environmental regions based on their physical features, climate and soil types. The characteristics of these environmental regions determine which type of farming will thrive in that area.

### Citrus farming in California

The climate in California, on the west coast of North America, is hot and sunny in the summer and mild in the winter. The soil is fertile and well drained. This suits the growing of citrus fruits, particularly oranges. Several different types of orange are grown and sold in the United States or transported around the world.



orange grove

### Coffee growing in Peru

Peru, in South America, has a cool to warm, tropical climate with frequent rainfall and rich soil. This makes ideal growing conditions for coffee. Growing and processing coffee is a difficult and time-consuming task because most of the work is still done by hand. The Fairtrade Foundation offers training to farmers to improve how they process coffee, so they can earn a better living.



coffee plant

## Food miles

Consumers in the UK have come to expect that they can buy most foods all year round, regardless of the growing season. This means that some foods are transported from where they are grown to where they are eaten. The distances food travels is known as food miles. However, this movement of goods means more energy is being used to transport the food and keep it fresh, which can add to pollution and contribute to climate change.

## Glossary

<b>carpel</b>	The female part of a flower, consisting of the stigma, style, ovary and ovules.
<b>climate</b>	The general weather conditions found in a place over a period of time.
<b>fertiliser</b>	A natural or chemical substance that is spread on the land or given to plants to make them grow successfully.
<b>irrigation</b>	The practice of supplying land with water so that crops and plants will grow.
<b>livestock</b>	Animals and birds that are kept on a farm, such as cows, sheep or chickens.
<b>pesticide</b>	A chemical substance used to kill animals and plants that are harmful to crops.
<b>stamen</b>	The male part of a flower, consisting of a thin stem, called the filament, and the anther that is covered with pollen.

