

Year 4—Ancient Greece

Key vocabulary

Alliance

A relationship of support formed of mutual benefit or interest. Countries which have an alliance will help each other out.

City-states

Groups of villages that banded together to protect one another. Each had its own government and army.

Olympic Games

First held in 776BCE. Only men were allowed to compete.

Direct Democracy

All adult men had a say in how the state was run. They voted at the assembly. The majority ruled.

Assembly

A regular opportunity for all male citizens of Athens to speak their minds and exercise their votes regarding the government of their city.

Marathon

Site of the famous Battle of Marathon (490BCE) between an alliance of Athenians and Spartans and the Persian Army.

Athens

The largest and most powerful city state. It was ruled by its people as a democracy. It proved many artists and writers.

Sparta

A military state surrounded by mountains to protect it from invaders.

Trojan War

In Greek mythology, the Trojan War was waged against the city of Troy by the Achaeans after Paris of Troy took Helen from her husband Menelaus, king of Sparta.

Mount Olympus

Greece's highest mountain. According to mythology, home of the 12 Olympian gods.

Gods of Olympus



Map of Ancient Greece



Legend of the Trojan War

Odysseus and the Cyclops



1) The ancient Greeks believed in many different gods and goddesses. The most powerful 12 lived on the top of Mount Olympus. This is where meetings were held and arguments were settled.

2) Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the King of Mount Olympus.

3) 776 BC The first Olympic games takes place in Olympia.

4) The Olympics actually started in Ancient Greece. The different city states often fought but during the Olympics, peace was declared and everyone came together to enjoy the games. It is believed that the games were a religious event to honour Zeus who was the king of the Gods.

5) 508 BC The first democracy begins in Athens.

5) 490 BC Persian invaders defeated by the Greeks in the battle of Marathon.

6) The Trojan war is a famous story told in the Iliad, which is a poem written by a famous Greek writer.

7) Sparta was a state in Greece. Spartan boys were sent to a boarding school at the age of 6. In Spartan schools, science or math were not considered important subjects, students could hardly read even after they were out of school. Teachers mostly cared about raising good soldiers.

8) Boys in Athens started school around the age of 7. They were taught reading and writing, physical training, and music.

9) Only men were allowed to make pots in Ancient Greece, although women were allowed to decorate them.

10) The Cyclopes were one-eyed giants. They were famous for making Zeus his thunderbolts and Poseidon his trident. Odysseus also came into contact with a Cyclops while on his adventures in the Odyssey.

