

First Greek civilisations

Around 4000 years ago

Minoan civilisation was the first to develop in Ancient Greece.

After 1450BCE

The Mycenaeans had come to dominate mainland Greece and expanded through former Minoan territory.

A mountainous country, it was difficult to unite Greece under a single government.



Athens and Sparta

- Athens and Sparta were the two most important city-states.
- Athens was built at the base of the Acropolis.
- Sparta was surrounded by mountainous landscape.
- In the Peloponnesian War, Sparta defeated Athens in 404BCE.
- Thebes defeated Sparta in 371BCE.

Classical Period

- The Classical Period is often referred to as the 'Golden Age of Greece'.
- From 508BCE, Athenian democracy was established.
- Athenian democracy was structured in three separate parts: Ekklesia, Boule, and Dikasteria.
- After defeating the Persians at war, Greek culture flourished.

How do we know about the first Greek civilisations?

British archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans excavated ruins and found evidence of the Minoans.

City-states

- The Greeks lived in cities called city-states.
- Each city-state ruled itself and had its own government, laws, and army.
- Despite living in different city-states, all Greeks had a shared Greek identity.

Alexander the Great ...

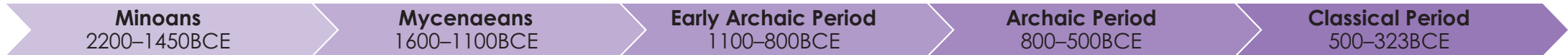
... conquered an empire and several kingdoms between 333BCE and 323BCE



... never lost a single battle, and his military tactics are still studied today

... was successful because he accepted foreign customs in an attempt to be accepted by local people

... died aged 32 years old in 323BCE and left no single heir, which led to his generals carving up the empire



Word	Definition
acropolis	a walled part of an Ancient Greek city, usually built on a hill.
alliances	a union formed for mutual benefit, especially between countries or organisations.
alphabet	
archaeologist	
Boule	
citizens	
city-state	Ancient Greek city which had its own laws, governments,
civilisation	an advanced society, culture, and particular way of life in a certain area
Classical Period	
conquer	
conquest	: the invasion and control of a country or place.
culture	the language, art, and ideas of a group of people.
customs	
democracy	a type of government where the people are able to vote.
Dikasteria	
drama	
Ekklesia	
enquiry	

Word	Definition
ethics	a system of rules about how to behave based on what is thought to be right and wrong.
excavation	digging to find buried remains or artefacts.
government	the person or group of people who run a country.
influence	the capacity to have an effect upon someone or something
military	
Minoan	
monarchy	a society where the people are ruled over by a monarch (a king or queen).
mountainous	somewhere which has land with many mountains.
Mycenaean	
oligarchy	a society where a small group of powerful individuals rules over the people.
Parthenon	
philosophy	a way of thinking and asking questions about subjects such as morals, ethics, the world, and society.
ruins	
tactics	
tyranny	a cruel and oppressive government or ruler.
unite	
warrior	