



## **Ancient Greece - The Ancient Greeks**

1 Ancient Greece was a community that was located around the Mediterranean Sea thousands of years ago. The Greeks came before the Romans. The Roman culture was influenced by the Greeks.

### **What were the Ancient Greek's homes like?**

2 Greek homes were built around an outdoor courtyard. The courtyard was the center of family activity. It usually had a well for water, an altar to worship the gods, and was a good place for the kids to play. Around the courtyard were the rooms of the house. Different rooms included a workroom, store room, and bedrooms. The walls of Greek homes were made from sun-dried bricks. They also had small windows. These were set high in the walls. They were designed to keep the house cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

### **What was it like growing up in Ancient Greece?**

3 Greek children had toys and spent the day playing games. When boys became seven years old, they started school. They learned math, reading, and writing. Sometimes they would also learn a musical instrument. When they got older, they learned how to debate. Girls did not go to school. Children were considered adults by the age of thirteen.

### **What food did they eat?**

4 The Ancient Greeks mostly ate bread dipped in wine and cheeses, fish, olives, and vegetables. Meats, like pork and beef, were only eaten on special occasions.



### **What clothes did they wear?**

5 The ancient Greeks wore a tunic called a chiton. Both men and women wore the chiton. It was a basic tunic made from a single rectangle of cloth cut into two. It was fastened at different places, and a belt was used at the waist. There were chitons of different lengths and colors. They were generally made out of thin wool material. Some people could afford linen or even silk chitons.

### **Jobs in Ancient Greece**

6 There were many jobs for men in Ancient Greece, including farmer, fisherman, soldier, teacher, government worker, and craftsman. The women, however, were generally homemakers and would raise the children and cook the meals.

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## Ancient Greece – Sparta

7 The Spartans didn't study philosophy, art, or theatre; they studied war. The Spartans had the strongest army. They also had the best soldiers of any city-state in Ancient Greece.

8 All Spartan men trained to become warriors from the day they were born. The Spartans spent their lives practicing for battle, and it showed. They could defeat much larger armies. The basic equipment used by the Spartans included their shield, a spear, and a short sword. The most important piece of gear to a Spartan was their shield. The biggest shame a soldier could have was to lose his shield in battle.

9 Spartan society was split into social classes. At the top of Spartan culture were the Spartans. There were only a few Spartan citizens. Spartan citizens were those people who could trace their roots to the original people who formed the city of Sparta.

10 The Perioikoi were free people who lived in Spartan land. They were not Spartan citizens. They could travel to other cities, own land, and were allowed to trade.

11 The Helots made up the largest part of Sparta. They were slaves or serfs to the Spartans. They farmed their own land. They had to give half of their crops to the Spartans as payment.

12 Spartan boys were trained to be soldiers from their youth. They were raised by their mothers until the age of seven. Then, they would enter a military school. At the school, the boys would learn how to fight. They also learned how to read and write. It was a tough school. The boys lived in barracks. They were often beaten to make them tough. They were given little to eat. This way, they would know what life would be like when they went to war. When the boys turned twenty, they entered into the Spartan army.



13 Spartan girls also went to school at the age of seven. Their school wasn't as tough as the boys. They did train in sports and exercise. It was important that women stay fit. This way, they would have strong sons who could fight for Sparta. The women of Sparta were allowed to go to school. They were also given more rights than the women of most Greek city-states. Girls usually were married at the age of eighteen.

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## Ancient Greece - Gods and Goddesses

14 Everyone believed in different gods and goddesses in Ancient Greece. Each one had a different job to do. They also had different powers. All of the gods and goddesses worked to help the people of Ancient Greece as they went about their day-to-day activities.

15 The head god was Zeus. He was the father of many other gods, including Hermes, Apollo, and Athena. He lived at the top of Mount Olympus. He was called the king of the gods. When Zeus was angry, he would throw lightning bolts down from the sky. When he was happy, good things would happen to the people of Greece. If you had bad luck, you knew Zeus was mad at you.

16 Zeus' grandmother was called Gaia. She was known for creating the planet Earth. She was also known as the Earth Mother. Besides making the Earth, her main job was to protect Zeus from harm.

17 One of Zeus' daughters was Athena. She was the goddess of wisdom and helped people make decisions. She also guided them to make good choices. Her symbol is the owl, an animal known for its wisdom.

18 Poseidon was also a god. He ruled over the sea and could cause earthquakes. He was an angry god. He could create storms that could sink the ships of sailors. Poseidon's symbol was his trident. A trident is a spear with three sharp points.

19 Apollo was a sky god. He was one of Zeus' sons and was known for being very wise. He could see into the future. People would pray to him to help them make good decisions.

20 Another of Zeus' sons, Hermes, was known as a messenger god. He was sneaky and liked to play tricks on other gods. He also had an important job. His job was to take people to the afterlife when they died. He also protected them from anything that might get in their way.

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## **The Ancient Greeks – Athens**

21 During the time of Ancient Greece, Athens was the center of power, art, science, and philosophy. It was the birthplace of democracy and the heart of the Ancient Greek civilization.

22 Athens was named after the Greek goddess Athena. She was the goddess of wisdom, war, and civilization and the patron of the city of Athens. Her shrine, the Parthenon, sits on top of a hill in the center of the city.

### **The Agora**

23 The Agora was the place of government for ancient Athens. It had a large open area for meetings. Many of the buildings were temples. Some of the buildings were government buildings like the Mint, where coins were made. The Strategion was where the ten military leaders of Athens called the Strategoi met. The Agora was a place for people to meet and discuss ideas on philosophy and government. This was the place where the democracy of ancient Greece was first discussed.

### **The Acropolis**

24 The Acropolis was built on a hill in the middle of the city of Athens. It was surrounded by stone walls. It was originally built as a fortress where the people would go when the city was attacked. Many temples and buildings were built here to overlook the city. It was still used as a fortress for some time,



## **The Parthenon**

25 At the center of the Acropolis was the Parthenon. This building was dedicated to the goddess Athena. It was also used to store gold. Other temples were in the Acropolis, including the Temple of Athena. Plays were performed and festivals were celebrated on the hill of the Acropolis.

26 The largest theatrical celebration was at the Theatre of Dionysus, patron god of the theatre. There were competitions held there to see who had written the best play. Twenty-five thousand people could attend, and the design was so good that everyone in the theatre could see and hear the play.

## **The Age of Pericles**

27 The city of Ancient Athens reached its peak when Pericles was in charge. 461 to 429 BC was called the Age of Pericles. During this time, Pericles promoted democracy, the arts, and literature. He also built many of the cities great structures. This included rebuilding much of the Acropolis and building the Parthenon.

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