



Alexander's empire collapsed when he died aged 33.



Ancient Greece is split into three main periods: Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic.

# Year Three Ancient Greece



Spring 1

Ancient Greece was a hilly, rocky peninsula surrounded by the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas.



Legend says that Alexander heard of the Gordian knot, a knot so tangled that it was said if you untied it the "world was your kingdom". He sliced the knot to the cheers of the crowd!

**Alexander the Great** was the ruler of Macedonia in northern Greece. He created a huge empire which spread over most of the ancient world.

**800BC** Ancient Greece was the birth place of many ideas and beliefs that are still important to us all today.

## Glossary

**City-state** - a large community with it's own rules and laws

**Democracy** - when the people have the power to elect their leaders and get to vote on political decisions

**Empire** - when a country conquers and takes charge of other lands

**Monarchy** - when one person, usually a King or Queen, rules over a group of people

**Oligarchy** - when two or three wealthy men share power to rule over a group of people

**Olympic Games** - an athletic event where men competed to win a wreath made of olive leaves

**Peninsula** - an area of land surrounded by water on most sides but not all sides

**Philosopher** - a person who creates theories in answer to profound questions

**Polytheistic** - a religion where multiple Gods and Goddesses are worshipped

**Tyrant** - a leader who rules on their own and makes bad laws which harm their people

During the battle of Marathon, the Athenians joined forces with their enemies the Spartans!



To the east of Ancient Greece was the **Persian empire**. They tried many times to conquer Greece. The most famous battles were "**Marathon**" and "**Thermopylae**".



There were three main types of government in Ancient Greece: **monarchy, oligarchy and democracy.**

**The Athenians invented democracy.** This allowed citizens to vote for their leaders bringing "power to the people". This is a system we still use today! However, not everyone could vote as women and slaves were not considered citizens.



The three most important Greek philosophers were: Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.

Athens was the home of many great thinkers. These thinkers were called **philosophers** which means 'lovers of wisdom'.

Ancient Greece was divided into around 1,000 **city-states**. The most powerful city-states were: **Athens and Sparta.**

**Athens**, named after the Greek Goddess Athena, was the birth place of democracy. Its people pioneered the arts, science and philosophy.



**Sparta** was the only city-state in Ancient Greece with a full time army. It's people were raised through a "warrior culture" where they were encouraged to be tough and strong.

Socrates taught Plato and Plato taught Aristotle! They all believed in the importance of education and created many schools in Athens.



Historians have learnt much more about the lives of Athenians because of all the **artefacts** they left behind.



**Archaic Period**  
800-480BC

**Classical Period**  
480-323BC

**Hellenistic Period**  
323-31BC



776BC



The year of the first Olympic games.

508BC



Democracy begins in Athens.

490BC



The Greeks defeat the Persian invaders at the battle of Marathon.

431BC



The Peloponnesian Wars between Sparta and Athens.

336BC



Alexander the Great succeeds his father as king of the Greeks.

333 - 323BC



Alexander the Great conquers many countries.

146BC



Rome conquers Greece. Greece becomes part of the Roman Empire.