

Ancient Greece

The ancient Greeks lived about 4000 years ago. Ancient Greece was made up of many city-states. These city-states were protected by a powerful city. Each city-state had its own laws, customs and rulers. Many city-states were at war with each other.

Greek myths

Greek myths are stories about the gods and magical creatures of ancient Greece. They taught people about values such as bravery, intelligence, right and wrong.

Icarus and Daedalus

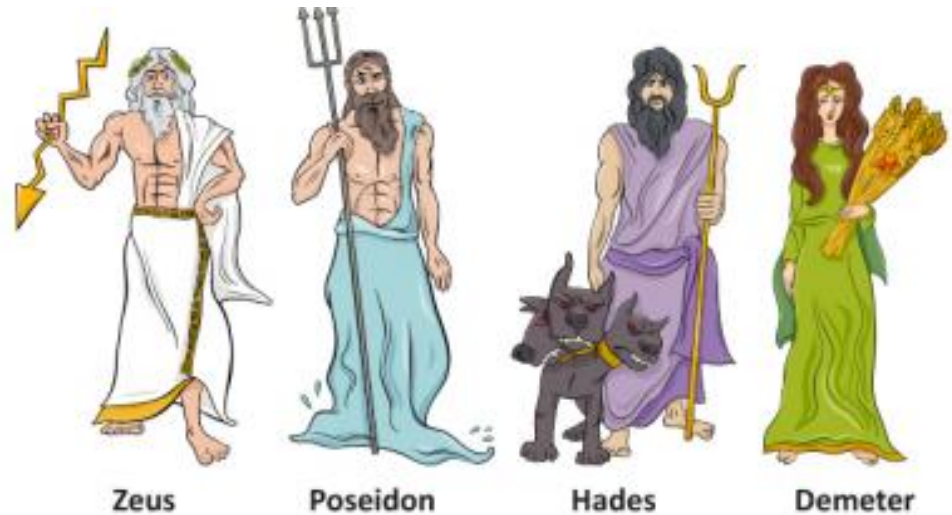
Daedalus and his son, Icarus, built a labyrinth for King Minos of Crete. They were locked up but escaped by making wings from feathers and wax.

Theseus and the Minotaur

Theseus from Athens killed the minotaur belonging to King Minos and escaped from Crete with Princess Ariadne.

Pandora's box

Zeus gave a box to Pandora and told her never to open it. She opened the box and terrible things, such as hate and sickness, came into the world. The last thing to come out of the box was hope.



Gods and goddesses

The ancient Greeks believed the gods and goddesses watched over them from the top of Mount Olympus and that each god or goddess had power over a different part of the world.

Zeus	king of the gods and ruler of the skies
Poseidon	god of the sea
Hades	god of the underworld
Demeter	goddess of the Earth and harvest

Timeline of ancient Greece

c1600 BC	Greek civilisation begins. City-states are formed.
c1200 BC	The Trojan War is fought between ancient Greek city-states and the city of Troy.
c850–700 BC	The Greek alphabet is developed.
776 BC	The first Olympic Games are held in honour of the god Zeus.
c750–700 BC	Homer, a great poet, writes two long poems about the Trojan War called <i>The Iliad</i> and <i>The Odyssey</i> .
c600 BC	Greek coins are introduced.
c508 BC	Democracy is introduced in Athens, where citizens vote for people to be their representatives.
490 BC	The Greeks win the Battle of Marathon against the Persians.
c461 BC	The first Peloponnesian War is fought between Athens and Sparta.
c449–431 BC	Pericles, ruler of Athens, builds a temple called the Parthenon and supports playwrights, sculptors and thinkers.
431 BC	The second Peloponnesian War begins between Athens and Sparta.
336 BC	Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia, invades and conquers Persia and Egypt.
323 BC	Ancient Greek civilisation begins to decline after the death of Alexander the Great.
146 BC	The Romans conquer ancient Greece and Greece becomes part of the Roman Empire.

Useful Vocabulary

Deity

Warrior

God

Theseus

Hero

Aphrodite

Labyrinth

Zeus

Legend

Apollo

Minotaur

Hades

Mortal

Poseidon

Pandora's Box

Persephone

Temple

Medusa