

## Ancient Greece – What Happened When?

Ancient Greece is widely regarded as one of the foundations of Western civilisation. Greek culture developed over many centuries, but historians often focus on the period between around 800 BC and 146 BC — a time of extraordinary achievement in politics, science, philosophy, and the arts.

Greece was not a single, unified nation. It consisted of hundreds of independent city-states, each governing itself. Athens and Sparta were the most powerful and represent two very different visions of society. Athens prioritised education, the arts, and democratic government. Around 507 BC, the statesman Cleisthenes introduced a system allowing male citizens to vote on laws — one of the earliest examples of democracy in the world.

Sparta, by contrast, dedicated itself almost entirely to military excellence. Children — boys and girls alike — underwent rigorous physical training. Boys entered the agoge at age seven, a brutal programme designed to create disciplined, fearless soldiers.

Greek thinkers transformed human knowledge. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle developed approaches to philosophy still studied today. Pythagoras and Euclid laid the foundations of mathematics. Hippocrates, often called the father of medicine, encouraged treating illness through observation rather than superstition.

Greek achievements in theatre, architecture, and the Olympic Games also left a lasting legacy. When Rome conquered Greece in 146 BC, it adopted much of Greek culture, ensuring these ideas spread throughout Europe and beyond — shaping the world that followed.

## Questions

1. What is Ancient Greece described as being "one of the foundations of"?
2. What period do historians mainly focus on when studying Ancient Greece?
3. What does it mean to say Greece was made up of "independent city-states"?
4. What did Athens prioritise as a society?
5. Who introduced democracy in Athens, and when?
6. How was Sparta's society different from Athens'?
7. What was the agoge, and how old were boys when they entered it?
8. Name two Greek thinkers mentioned in the article and briefly describe their contribution.
9. Why is Hippocrates considered significant?
10. The article says Rome "adopted" Greek culture after conquering Greece in 146 BC. Why might a conquering civilisation choose to adopt the culture of the people it had defeated, rather than replacing it entirely?



Text D Quiz



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