

Life in Ancient Greece

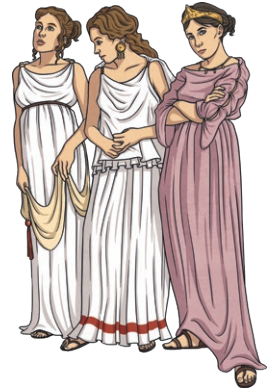
The ancient Greeks lived over 3000 years ago. Many of their ideas and inventions still influence how we live today.

Society

There was not one country called 'ancient Greece'. Instead, Greece was made up of 'city states', each with its own government, army and laws. A city state included the city at the centre of it as well as the surrounding villages and countryside.

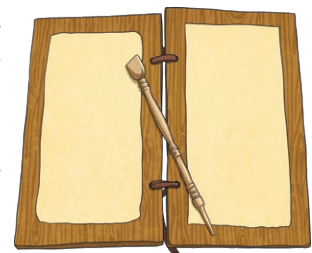


Important and powerful city states of ancient Greece included Athens, Sparta and Corinth. These city states often fought against each other.



Education

From the ages of seven to fifteen, boys in most ancient Greek city states went to school, where they learnt to read and write. In school, boys mostly wrote using a **stylus** on a tablet. This was a wooden frame filled with beeswax. When they wanted to start again, they held the wax near to the fire so it melted away what they had written. They were also taught music, maths and physical skills, like using a bow and arrow and a sling, wrestling and swimming.



tablet and stylus

In most city states, girls did not attend school. Some were taught to read and write at home. In many cases, girls were only taught the skills they would need for looking after a family, such as cooking and making clothes.



Life in Ancient Greece

The Olympic Games

The first recorded Games were in 776 BC, in the Greek city of Olympia, as part of a festival to honour the Greek god, Zeus. Events included boxing, wrestling, running, jumping, throwing and chariot



racing. The toughest running race was the 'hoplitodromos', in which competitors wore armour and carried a shield. Winners of the events were given a **wreath** of leaves and a hero's welcome back home.



Did You Know...?

- Just before each Olympics, a **truce** was called to stop the city states fighting so that people could travel to the Games safely.
- Married women were not allowed to compete or even attend the Games.



theatre mask

Greek Theatre

Going to the theatre was very popular in ancient Greek times. Theatres were generally built into a hillside with rows of stone benches in a semicircle, one above the other, and the stage at the bottom of the hill. Some theatres in large cities could hold more than 10 000 people! All of the actors were men and they wore costumes and masks to play different characters.

Glossary

stylus – Rod made from wood or metal which was scraped into the wax of a tablet.

truce – Agreement between enemies to stop fighting or arguing for a while.

wreath – Arrangement of flowers or leaves in the shape of a ring.



Questions

1. Which of these was **not** an ancient Greek city state? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Sparta
 ☐ Greece
☐ Athens
 ☐ Corinth

2. At what age did boys in most ancient Greek city states start school? Tick **one**.

- ☐ fifteen
 ☐ five
☐ seven
 ☐ seventeen

3. Draw **four** lines to match each item to its description.

Olympia	Greek god
hoplitodromos	prize for winning an event at the Olympics
Zeus	Greek city
wreath of leaves	race in which runners wore armour and carried a shield

4. Why did a truce have to be called before each Olympics?

5. Find and copy **one** word that shows lots of people enjoyed going to the theatre in ancient Greek times.

6. Name **two** things actors in ancient Greek theatres wore.

7. Number the sections from 1 to 4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- ☐ Greek Theatre
☐ Education
☐ Society
☐ The Olympic Games

8. Why are some words written in **bold** in the text?

Answers

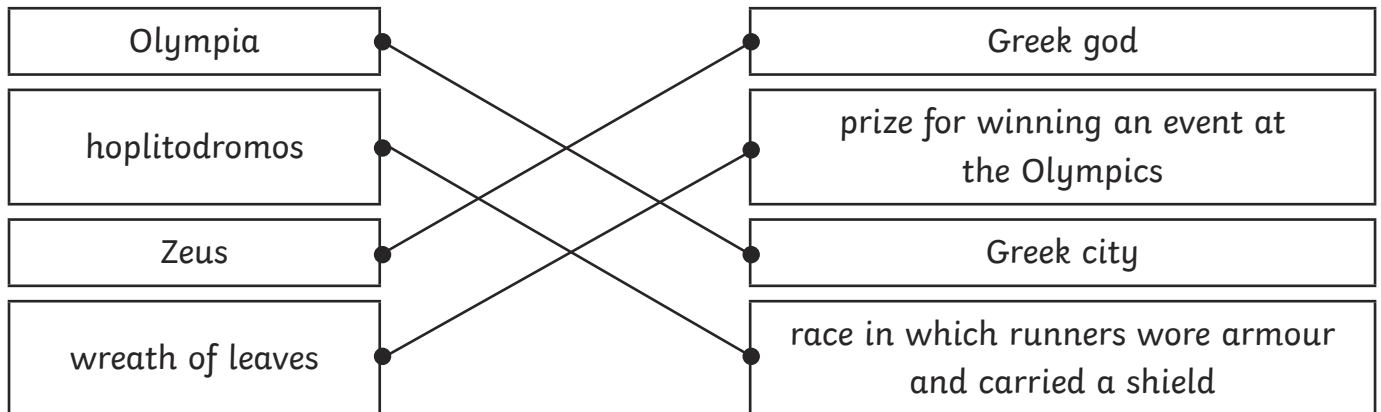
1. Which of these was **not** an ancient Greek city state? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Sparta
 ☒ **Greece**
☐ Athens
 ☐ Corinth

2. At what age did boys in most ancient Greek city states start school? Tick **one**.

- ☐ fifteen
 ☐ five
☒ **seven**
☐ seventeen

3. Draw **four** lines to match each item to its description.



4. Why did a truce have to be called before each Olympics?

Because the city states were often fighting, it would be dangerous to travel to the Games. A truce was called to stop the fighting so that people could travel to the Games safely.

5. Find and copy **one** word that shows lots of people enjoyed going to the theatre in ancient Greek times.

popular

6. Name **two** things actors in ancient Greek theatres wore.

costumes and masks

7. Number the sections from 1 to 4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- 4** Greek Theatre
2 Education
1 Society
3 The Olympic Games

8. Why are some words written in **bold** in the text?

The meaning of the words in bold can be found in the glossary.

Life in Ancient Greece

The ancient Greeks lived over 3000 years ago. Many of their ideas and inventions still influence how we live today.

Society

There was not one country called 'ancient Greece'. Instead, Greece was made up of 'city states', each with its own government, army and laws. A city state – or 'polis' – included the city at the centre of it as well as the surrounding villages and countryside.

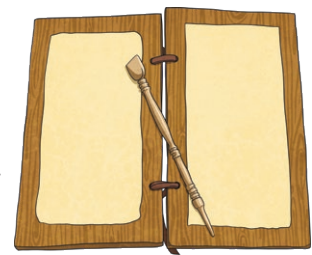


Important and powerful city states of ancient Greece included Athens, Sparta and Corinth. These city states often fought against each other and usually only joined together if they were threatened by a bigger enemy.



Education

From the ages of seven to fifteen, boys in most ancient Greek city states went to school, where they learnt to read and write. In school, boys mostly wrote on a tablet (a wooden frame filled with beeswax) using a **stylus**. When they wanted to start again, they held the wax near to the fire so it melted away what they had written. They also learnt about music and how to play an instrument, such as a **lyre**. In addition, boys were taught maths and physical skills: using a bow and arrow and a sling, wrestling and swimming. Most schools had a 'palaestra', which was a training ground for physical education, close to the school



tablet and stylus



In most city states, girls did not attend school. Some were taught to read and write at home. In many cases, girls were only taught the skills they would need for looking after a family, such as cooking and making clothes.

Life in Ancient Greece

The Olympic Games

The first recorded Games were in 776 BC, in the Greek city of Olympia, as part of a festival to honour the Greek god, Zeus. Married women were not allowed to compete or even attend the Games. Just before each Olympics, a **truce** was called to stop the city states fighting so that people could travel to the Games safely.

Events included boxing, wrestling, running, jumping, throwing and chariot racing. The toughest running race was the 'hoplitodromos', in



which competitors wore armour and carried a shield. Winners of the events were given a **wreath** of leaves and a hero's welcome back home, including free meals and the best seats at the theatre!



theatre mask

Greek Theatre

Theatre was a very popular form of entertainment in ancient Greek times. Theatres were generally built into a hillside with rows of stone benches in a semicircle, one above the other, and the stage at the bottom of the hill. Some theatres in large cities could hold more than 10 000 people! All of the actors were men and they wore costumes and masks to play different characters. The masks had a variety of exaggerated expressions on them to help the audience understand the characters.

Glossary

lyre – Instrument made from the shell of a tortoise with strings made from the guts of sheep.

stylus – Rod made from wood or metal which was scraped into the wax of a tablet.

truce – Agreement between enemies to stop fighting or arguing for a while.

wreath – Arrangement of flowers or leaves in the shape of a ring.



Questions

1. Find and copy **one** word that means the same as 'city state'.

2. Which of these was **not** an ancient Greek city state? Tick **one**.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Sparta | <input type="radio"/> Greece |
| <input type="radio"/> Athens | <input type="radio"/> Corinth |

3. Draw **four** lines to match each item to its description.

lyre	wooden frame filled with beeswax used for writing on
tablet	stringed musical instrument
palaestra	wooden or metal rod used for writing with
stylus	training ground for physical education

4. How was life different for boys and girls in most ancient Greek city states?

5. Why did a truce have to be called before each Olympics?

6. Find and copy **one** word that shows lots of people enjoyed going to the theatre in ancient Greek times.

7. What did the actors in ancient Greek theatres wear?

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- ---

8. Why are some words written in **bold** in the text?

Answers

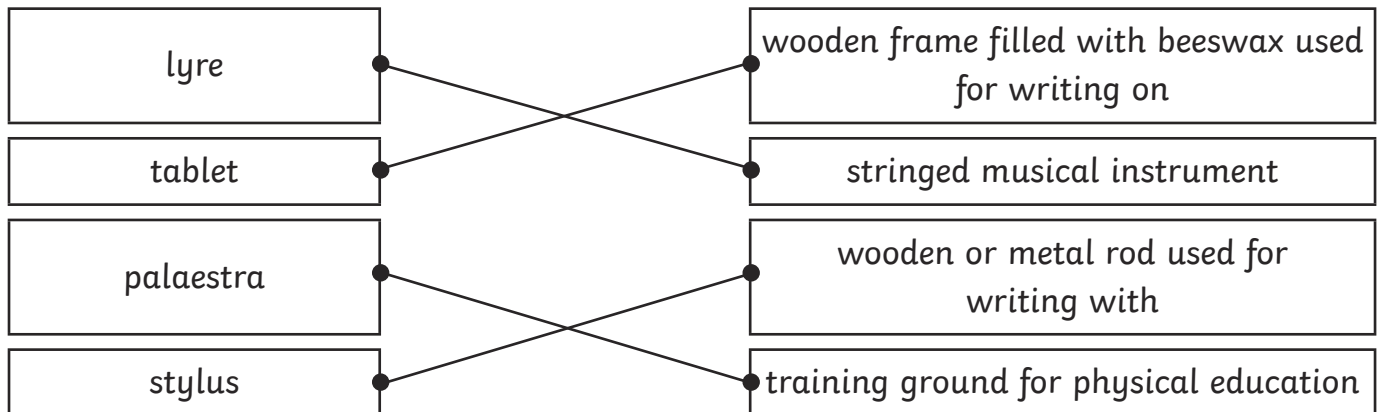
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polis

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4. How was life different for boys and girls in most ancient Greek city states?

Boys went to school from the ages of seven to fifteen in most city states whereas girls did not.

Boys were taught to read and write. They were also taught music, maths and physical skills.

Although some girls were taught to read and write, most were only taught skills such as cooking and making clothes.

5. Why did a truce have to be called before each Olympics?

Because the city states were often fighting, it would be dangerous to travel to the Games. A truce was called to stop the fighting so that people could travel to the Games safely.

6. Find and copy **one** word that shows lots of people enjoyed going to the theatre in ancient Greek times.

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7. What did the actors in ancient Greek theatres wear?

- **costumes**
- **masks**

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The meaning of the words in bold can be found in the glossary.

Life in Ancient Greece

The ancient Greeks lived over 3000 years ago. Their legacy inspires people to this day and, indeed, many of their ideas and inventions still influence how we live in modern times.

Society

There was not one united country called 'ancient Greece'. Instead, Greece was divided up into individual 'city states', each with its own government, army and laws. A city state – or 'polis' – included the city at the centre of it as well as the surrounding villages and countryside.



Important and powerful city states of ancient Greece included Athens, Sparta and Corinth. These city states often fought against each other and usually only joined

together if they were threatened by a common enemy.



Instead of referring to themselves as Greeks, people would use the name of their city state, for example Athenians, Spartans and Corinthians.

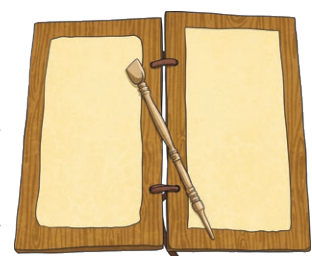


Homes

Most ancient Greek homes were designed and built around a central courtyard. The houses were constructed from stone, clay or wood. The floors were made of tiles, which helped to keep them cool in the hotter months. If a house did have windows, these were small and high up and did not have glass in them. Instead, curtains or wooden shutters were used.

Education

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tablet and stylus



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Life in Ancient Greece

In most city states, girls did not attend school. Some were taught to read and write at home. In many cases, girls were only taught the skills they would need for running a household, such as cooking and making clothes.

The Olympic Games

The first recorded Games were in 776 BC, in the Greek city of Olympia, as part of a festival to honour the Greek god, Zeus. Married women were not allowed to compete or even attend the Games. This was because women were not treated as equals to men and had fewer freedoms.

Because of fighting between city states, a truce was announced just before each Olympics. This meant that people could travel to the Games safely.



Events included boxing, wrestling, running, jumping, throwing and chariot racing. The most gruelling running race was the 'hoplitodromos', in which competitors wore armour and carried a shield. Winners of the events were given a wreath of leaves and a hero's welcome back home, including free meals and the best seats at the theatre!



theatre mask

Greek Theatre

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Questions

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2. What was the relationship between city states in ancient Greece like?

3. Name **one** material that was used to construct ancient Greek houses.

4. Draw **four** lines to match each item to its description.

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tablet	stringed musical instrument
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5. How was life different for boys and girls in most ancient Greek city states?

6. **Because of fighting between city states, a truce was announced just before each Olympics.**

What do you think is meant by a 'truce'?

7. Find and copy **one** word that means the same as 'tough'.

8. What did the actors in ancient Greek theatres wear?

- ---

- ---

9. What **three** features of a non-chronological report can you identify? How do these features help to make the text easier to read and understand?

Answers

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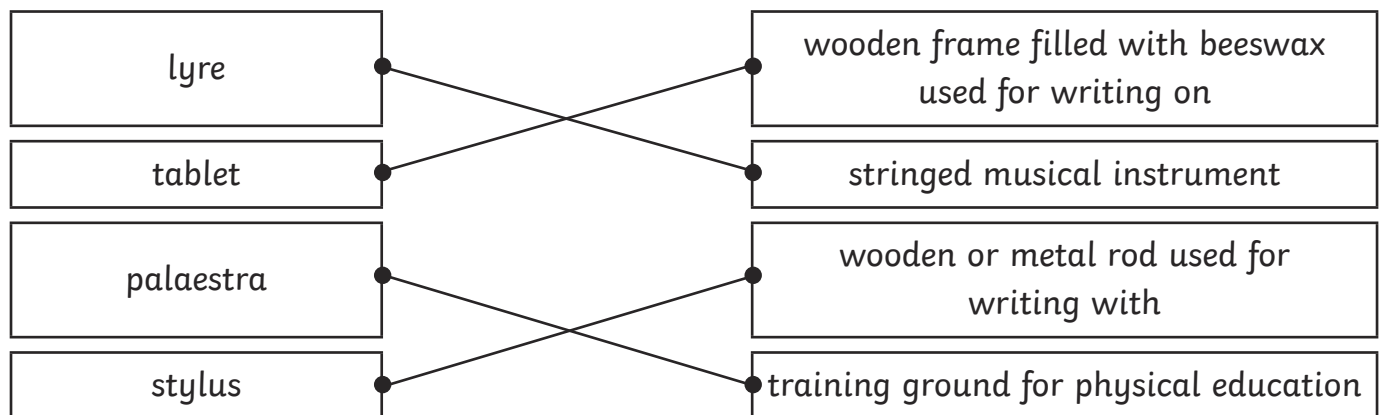
2. What was the relationship between city states in ancient Greece like?

The city states were often fighting against each other. However, they did unite if they were threatened by a common enemy.

3. Name **one** material that was used to construct ancient Greek houses.

Accept one from either stone, clay or wood.

4. Draw **four** lines to match each item to its description.



5. How was life different for boys and girls in most ancient Greek city states?

Boys went to school from the ages of seven to fifteen in most city states whereas girls did not.

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6. **Because of fighting between city states, a truce was announced just before each Olympics.**

What do you think is meant by a 'truce'?

A truce is an agreement between enemies to stop fighting or arguing for a while.

7. Find and copy **one** word that means the same as 'tough'.

gruelling

8. What did the actors in ancient Greek theatres wear?

- **costumes**
- **masks**

9. What **three** features of a non-chronological report can you identify? How do these features help to make the text easier to read and understand?

Accept three from main heading, subheadings, paragraphs, text in boxes, pictures, captions, glossary.

They help to break up the text to make it easier to read; they give more information about the text; they organise the text into topics; they help us to understand new vocabulary.