

A Day in Ancient Greece with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the daily life and culture of the Ancient Greeks.

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions using full sentences.

Ellie the elephant loves exploring the history of Ancient Greece. Over two thousand years ago, this fascinating civilisation thrived around the Mediterranean Sea. The Greeks lived in city-states, the most famous being Athens. It was here that they developed democracy, a system where citizens could vote on important laws. Life in Athens was busy and creative. Men often spent their days discussing philosophy in the open-air markets, while others attended grand theatres to watch plays. Greek architecture was equally impressive; builders constructed massive temples, such as the Parthenon, using marble and tall, sturdy columns. Children in Ancient Greece did not all go to school. Boys from wealthy families studied music, maths, and gymnastics, while girls usually stayed at home to learn how to manage a household. Everyone enjoyed the Olympic Games, a grand festival held every four years to honour their gods. By studying these ancient people, we can see how their ideas about laws, art, and sport still influence the way we live our lives today.

Word bank: civilisation · democracy · philosophy · theatre · architecture

1. According to the text, what system did the people of Athens develop to help them make laws? (2 marks)

2. What are two subjects that boys from wealthy families were taught in Ancient Greece? (2 marks)

3. Based on the text, why might we describe Ancient Greek society as a 'creative' one? (2 marks)

4. The text mentions that children did not all go to school. What does this suggest about the roles of children in that society? (2 marks)

5. Why do you think it was important for the Ancient Greeks to hold the Olympic Games every four years? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of an Ancient Greek temple with tall marble columns and a peaceful garden nearby.



Extension challenge: Research one Ancient Greek god or goddess and write three interesting facts about them to share with the class.