

Exploring Ancient Greece with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the structure of Ancient Greek society, the importance of the city-states, and the legacy of the Olympic Games.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of Ancient Greece to provide detailed answers. Remember to use full sentences.

Ellie the Elephant has been travelling through time to learn about Ancient Greece. She has discovered that Greece was not one single country, but a collection of independent city-states. Some, like Athens, were famous for inventing democracy, while others, like Sparta, were known for their strong warriors. Ellie is excited to see what you have remembered about these fascinating people!

Word bank: City-state · Democracy · Olympics · Acropolis · Athens · Sparta · Philosopher

1. Explain the difference between a city-state and a country. Why did Ancient Greece function as a collection of city-states rather than one united kingdom? (3 marks)

2. The city of Athens is often called the 'birthplace of democracy'. What does the term 'democracy' mean, and how was it different from being ruled by a King? (2 marks)

3. The Ancient Olympic Games were held every four years to honour the gods. List two sports that were popular in the ancient games and explain why they were important. (2 marks)

4. Look at the word 'Acropolis'. Describe what an acropolis was and why it was usually built on the highest point of a city-state. (2 marks)

5. If you were living in Ancient Greece, would you have preferred to live in Athens or Sparta? Give one reason for your choice based on their different lifestyles. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of a Greek temple, including the tall columns (pillars) and a decorative triangular roof called a pediment.



Extension challenge: Research a famous Greek myth involving a monster or a hero. Write a short paragraph explaining the moral of the story and why it was important to the Ancient Greeks.