

Exploring Ancient Greece with Ellie

Learning objective: To retrieve and infer information about Ancient Greek civilisation.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Think about how the information tells us about life in the past.

Ellie the elephant loves to travel back in time to Ancient Greece. This fascinating civilisation, which thrived thousands of years ago, was not one single country. Instead, it was made up of independent city-states, such as Athens and Sparta. Each city-state had its own government and laws. Athens is famous for being the birthplace of democracy, where citizens could vote on important decisions. The Greeks were also master builders, creating grand temples like the Parthenon with sturdy marble columns that still stand today. They valued wisdom and held deep discussions about philosophy, science, and mathematics. Life was not just about hard work; the Greeks also loved competition. They started the original Olympic Games to honour their gods, testing their strength in running, wrestling, and chariot racing. Ellie finds it amazing that so many of our modern ideas, from how we vote to how we design our buildings, were shaped by these clever people who lived so long ago. By studying their pottery, ruins, and written stories, we can piece together a vivid picture of their daily lives and their lasting impact on the world.

Word bank: civilisation · philosophy · democracy · city-state · architecture · Olympics

1. Name two specific city-states mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what was the original purpose of the Olympic Games? (2 marks)

3. Why does the text describe the Ancient Greek city-states as 'independent'? (2 marks)

4. What does the author mean when they say the Greeks have a 'lasting impact on the world'? (2 marks)

5. Ellie suggests that the Greeks were 'clever'. Based on the text, do you agree with her? Explain your answer using evidence. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from an Ancient Greek city-state, including a large temple with columns and someone participating in an early Olympic sport.



Extension challenge: Research one Ancient Greek god or goddess and write a short paragraph explaining their role in Greek mythology.