Ancient Greece with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To retrieve and infer information from a text about Ancient Greece.

Read the story below carefully. Look at the word bank if you get stuck. Fill in the answer boxes using full sentences.

Ellie the Elephant loves to travel back in time to learn about Ancient Greece. Long ago, the people of Greece lived in city-states. They did not have one leader for the whole country. Instead, they invented democracy. This means the people had a say in how their city was run.

Life in Greece was very busy. They loved to go to the theatre to watch funny and sad plays. They wore long white clothes called chitons. The Greeks also loved sports. They started the first Olympic Games to honour their gods. Athletes ran races, wrestled, and threw heavy discs.

At home, children played with wooden toys and dolls made of clay. They went to school to learn maths, music, and how to read. They wrote on wax tablets with a sharp tool. Ellie thinks the history of Greece is amazing because so many of our ideas today started there. From voting for leaders to watching sports, the Ancient Greeks changed the world forever.

Word bank: Ancient · Greece · Olympics · theatre · democracy · history

1. What is one activity that the Ancient Greeks did at the theatre? (2 marks)

2. What did children in Ancient Greece use to write on? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the Greeks created the Olympic Games? (2 marks)

4. How can you tell that Ancient Greek life was different from life today? (2 marks)

5. Which part of Ancient Greek life do you think is the most interesting? Why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of an Ancient Greek athlete competing in a race or a person watching a play at the theatre.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are living in Ancient Greece. Write two sentences about what you would do for fun after school.