

Ellie's Ancient Greece Inquiry: A Legacy of Innovation

Learning objective: To analyse and evaluate the impact of Ancient Greek civilisation on modern society, focusing on democracy, architecture, and the Olympic Games.

Use this writing scaffold to structure your historical report. Ensure you use evidence to support your claims and maintain a formal, academic tone suitable for a Year 5 historian. Refer to the word bank to enhance your sentence structures.

The civilisation of Ancient Greece, often referred to as the cradle of Western society, left an indelible mark on the world that continues to influence our lives today.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · in contrast · significant · legacy · foundation · demonstrates · in retrospect · subsequently · nevertheless

1. The Birth of Democracy: Explain how the Athenian system of government functioned and compare it briefly to the democratic processes we use in the United Kingdom today. Start with: 'The concept of democracy, or "rule by the people", first emerged in Athens because...' (3 marks)

2. Architectural Marvels: Justify why the architectural techniques developed by the Greeks, such as the use of columns and pediments, were considered revolutionary. Start with: 'Ancient Greek architecture was not merely aesthetic; it was fundamentally designed to...' (3 marks)

3. The Olympic Games: Compare and contrast the original Olympic Games in Olympia with the modern Olympic Games. What remained the same and what has evolved? Start with: 'While the ancient Olympic Games were primarily a religious festival dedicated to Zeus, they also...' (3 marks)

4. Critical Evaluation: If the Ancient Greeks had not developed their advancements in philosophy and science, how might our current understanding of the world be different? Start with: 'If the philosophical inquiries of thinkers like Socrates and Plato had never occurred, it is likely that...' (4 marks)

5. Evidence Analysis: Examine the impact of Greek myths on their culture. How did these stories help the Greeks make sense of the natural world? Start with: 'Ancient Greek mythology served as a framework for explaining natural phenomena, such as...' (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Synthesise your findings. Which aspect of Ancient Greek life do you believe has had the most significant impact on the modern world and why? Start with: 'In conclusion, the most enduring legacy of Ancient Greece is...' (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a previously unknown Greek artifact. Write a formal catalogue entry describing the object, its purpose, and what it reveals about the daily life of a citizen in a city-state like Sparta or Athens.