Ellie’s Ancient Greek Expedition: Sorting the Past

Learning objective: To identify and categorise key features, achievements, and figures of Ancient Greek society.

Ellie the elephant has been travelling through time! She has gathered several facts about Ancient Greece, but they have all become mixed up. Your task is to sort the items in the list below into three categories: 'Government and Society', 'Arts and Beliefs', and 'Inventions and Warfare'. Draw a line or use a table to place each item into its correct group.

Word bank: Democracy · Mount Olympus · Trireme ships · The Olympic Games · Philosophy · Phalanx formation · City-states · Pottery · The Parthenon · Archimedes' Screw

1. Sort the word bank items into the three categories. Explain why you placed 'Democracy' into your chosen category. (4 marks)

2. Which of these items do you think had the biggest impact on the modern world today? Give a reason for your choice. (2 marks)

3. Ellie found a coin worth 5 drachmas. If 1 drachma could buy a loaf of bread for £0.50, how much would the 5 drachmas be worth in modern currency? (2 marks)

4. Name one Greek god or goddess and one myth they are associated with. (2 marks)

5. Why were city-states like Athens and Sparta often considered different from one another? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of a Greek trireme ship or a scene from the original Olympic Games, showing the detail of the clothing or the design of the ship.

Extension challenge: Research a 'hidden' invention from Ancient Greece, such as the Antikythera mechanism. Write a short paragraph explaining what it was and why historians find it so mysterious.