A Journey to Ancient Greece with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand key aspects of Ancient Greek life, including their society, beliefs, and lasting contributions to the modern world.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use your best handwriting and full sentences.

Ellie the elephant has a wonderful memory for history, and she loves sharing stories about Ancient Greece. Thousands of years ago, Greece was not one single country like it is today. Instead, it was made up of independent city-states, such as Athens and Sparta. Each city-state had its own laws and ways of living, but they all shared the same language and gods. The Ancient Greeks were famous for building magnificent temples with tall stone columns, many of which are still standing today. They were also great thinkers who loved to debate philosophy, science, and maths. Perhaps their most famous invention is democracy, which means 'rule by the people', an idea that many countries still use today. Every four years, the Greeks held a massive festival called the Olympics to honour their king of the gods, Zeus. Athletes from across the land travelled to compete in running, wrestling, and chariot racing. Their clever ideas and beautiful art have influenced how we live, learn, and build in the modern world, making Ancient Greece a truly remarkable civilisation to study.

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

1. According to the text, what was the name of the festival held every four years to honour Zeus? (1 mark)

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

3. Why do you think the Ancient Greeks are considered 'great thinkers'? (2 marks)

4. How does the passage suggest that Ancient Greece is still important to us today? (2 marks)

5. If you could visit an Ancient Greek Olympic game, which event would you most like to watch and why? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of an Ancient Greek temple with tall stone columns, surrounded by olive trees and blue skies.

Extension challenge: Research one Ancient Greek god or goddess and write three interesting facts about them to share with your class.