Architects of Ancient Greece: Designing a Polis

Learning objective: To understand the layout and key features of an Ancient Greek city-state (polis) and identify the purpose of its civic architecture.

Use the drawing prompt below to create a detailed sketch of an Ancient Greek city. Once your drawing is complete, use the labels from the word bank to correctly identify the features of the city.

Draw: Draw a panoramic view of an Ancient Greek city. In the background, draw a steep hill with a temple (the Parthenon) at the very top. Surround the hill with stone walls. In the foreground, draw a large open square (the Agora) featuring long, roofed walkways with columns (Stoa). To the side of the city, draw a semi-circular, tiered outdoor theatre. Use a clean, architectural style with straight lines for buildings and flowing, natural shapes for the surrounding hills.

Label words: Acropolis · Parthenon · Agora · Theatre · Stoa · City Walls

Steps:

1. Explain why the Ancient Greeks chose to build their most important temples on the highest point of the city (the Acropolis).
2. The Agora was described as the 'heart' of the city. List two activities that would take place in this area.
3. Label the most important building on your drawing. Why was this building significant to the people of the

city?

4. If Ellie the elephant were to visit your city, why would she head straight for the theatre?

5. Why were City Walls essential for the survival of a Greek polis?