

Ancient Greece Fact File



The ancient Greek people were alive about **3000 years ago**. They ruled over Europe before the **Romans**, who copied a lot of **Greek building** and **painting techniques**. Greek buildings were very special because they had big stone **columns** and lovely pictures **carved** out of stone on them.



The ancient Greeks worshipped lots of **gods** and **goddesses** because they thought that each one was in charge of different parts of everyday **life**. There were lots of **temples** built to help the Greeks pray to certain gods or goddesses, but they were believed to all live together on **Mount Olympus**. Here are a few examples of the different gods and goddesses:

- △ **Aphrodite** – goddess of love
- △ **Apollo** – god of the sun and music
- △ **Athena** – goddess of war
- △ **Hermes** – the messenger of the gods
- △ **Zeus** – king of the gods



Sport was a very important part of life 3000 years ago and the **athletes** (sports men and women who took part) were praised like heroes. **Olive wreaths** were presented to the winners of competitions to show how great they were. It was the ancient Greeks who invented the **Olympic Games** which included sports like **running** and **wrestling**. The very first **marathon** was run in ancient Greece too, when **Pheidippides** ran **26 miles** from **Marathon** to **Athens**.



They were also a very **artistic** group of people. The ancient Greeks liked to **play music, paint, make things out of clay** and **put on plays** for everyone to watch. They are especially famous for their beautiful **clay pots** with black pictures **painted** on them.



Did you know that the ancient Greeks invented the **alphabet**?

They don't look much like the letters in our alphabet, but the first two letters of the Greek alphabet are **alpha** and **beta**. When you put them together, you get the word alphabet!

Α	Β	Γ	Δ
Alpha	Beta	Gamma	Delta
Ε	Ζ	Η	Θ
Epsilon	Zeta	Eta	Theta
Ι	Κ	Λ	Μ
Iota	Kappa	Lambda	Mu
Ν	Ξ	Ο	Π
Nu	Xi	Omicron	Pi
Ρ	Σ	Τ	Υ
Rho	Sigma	Tau	Upsilon
Φ	Χ	Ψ	Ω
Phi	Chi	Psi	Omega