



# London Colney Primary and Nursery School - Knowledge Organiser

Name of Topic Ancient Greeks

Year Group 6

## Key Vocabulary and Spellings

1	acropolis	The <b>citadel</b> of an ancient Greek city.
2	culture	Activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of <b>civilisation</b> .
3	citadel	A strong building in or near a city, where people could shelter for safety.
4	empire	A number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country.
5	merchant	A person who buys or sells goods in large quantities.
6	military	Relating to or belonging to the army
7	mythology	A group of myths, especially all the myths from a particular country, religion, or culture.
8	trade	The activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services.
9	urban	Belonging to, or relating to, a town or city.
10	warfare	The activity of fighting a war.

Places, People, and Daily Life in Ancient Greece				
The Acropolis		The Acropolis of Athens is the best known acropolis in Greece - an acropolis is a settlement built on high ground. It was built during the rule of Pericles, a golden age for Athens, as a monument to the city's greatness.	Where? Athens	<b>Key Facts</b> The Acropolis is on a flat-topped rock that rises 150m above sea level.
The Parthenon		The Parthenon is a temple in the middle of the Acropolis in Athens. It was a temple to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, and originally had a statue to her. It has now stood for nearly 2,500 years, a superb architectural achievement!	Where? Athens	<b>Key Facts</b> The building used 22,000 tonnes of marble!
Mount Olympus		Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece. It was believed in Ancient Greek times that when things needed to be decided in the mythical world, the 12 main Gods would gather at Mount Olympus, and that many lived there.	Where? 50 miles southeast of Thessaloniki	<b>Key Facts</b> Mount Olympus rises to 2,918m
Knossos Palace		Knossos Palace is positioned in what was the capital of Minoan Crete. It is the site of a beautiful and expansive palace, which is supposed to be the same location as the fabled labyrinth in which the minotaur dwelt!	Where? Northern Crete	<b>Key Facts</b> The Knossos Palace was renowned to originally hold 5000 rooms!
Socrates		Socrates was a famous philosopher, who taught others to question things. This led to his downfall, as he questioned the Gods and was arrested for influencing the young.	When? Socrates was born around 470BC	<b>Key Facts</b> Socrates died when he drank poison in prison.
Plato		Plato, a philosopher, was a student of Socrates. After Socrates' death, Plato founded the first university, called the Academy. He believed a philosopher's job was to seek the truth.	When? Plato was born around 428BC	<b>Key Facts</b> Plato was one of the first to argue that women should receive the same education as men.
Aristotle		Aristotle was a philosopher and scientist. At the age of 17, he travelled to Athens to attend Plato's university. He began to dissect animals to learn more about their anatomy.	When? Aristotle was born around 384BC	<b>Key Facts</b> Aristotle was the private tutor of Alexander the Great!
Alexander the Great		Alexander the Great gained a strong and united Greece when he became King. He used his military genius to then win battle after battle, conquering eastern Europe and Egypt.	When? 356-323BC	<b>Key Facts</b> He died aged only 32. He accomplished a lot in his short life!
Greek Homes		Ancient Greek homes were built around a courtyard, which was the centre of activity. Around the courtyard were the rooms of the house, including work rooms and bedrooms.	How? Homes were made of sun-dried bricks.	<b>Key Facts</b> Most houses had an 'andron' - a room just for men.
Childhood		When a child was born, a father could decide whether to keep or abandon the child. At age seven, the child could start school, learning maths, reading, and writing.	How? Sometimes, children also studied music.	<b>Key Facts</b> Children were considered adults at only 15!
Food		The Ancient Greeks mostly ate bread dipped in wine, cheese, fish, olives, and vegetables. Meat was eaten on rare occasions, such as festivals. Watered down wine was the main drink.	How? Foods/wines were traded between cities.	<b>Key Facts</b> Many food festivals were for men only!
Clothes		The Ancient Greeks wore a tunic called a 'chiton' - worn by both men and women. These were fastened together at different places, and a belt was also normally worn at the waist. Chitons came in many sizes and colours.	How? Chitons were generally made out of a thin wool material.	<b>Key Facts</b> The rich could afford linen and silk chitons.



## Top 5 Topic Facts

- Greece was divided into city-states (**polis**) that each had their own laws and way of life,
- Greek styles of art, **architecture**, **philosophy** and theatre were developed and shaped our modern society along with science, language and maths
- Religion was very important in ancient Greece. They were **polytheists**. Temples were built in their honour and they featured heavily in the stories of Greek **mythology**.
- Athens and Sparta were the two major city -states
- Greece is made up of mainland and islands. Greeks were seafaring people as they lived by the sea.

