

Ancient Greece

- The earliest Greek civilizations thrived nearly 4,000 years ago. The Greek Empire was most powerful between 2000 BC and 146 BC.
- Ancient Greece was split into many different states, each one was ruled in its own way. Each state had its own laws, government and money but they shared the same language and religion. The two most important city states were Athens and Sparta.

Legacy of the Ancient Greeks -

The Ancient Greeks had a major impact on our lives today, such as:

- **Trial by Jury**
- **Greek Myths**
- **Democracy** -The word 'democracy' is Greek. It means 'government by the people. We have a form of democracy in Britain, and this is a legacy of the Athenians and their assemblies and councils.
- **Theatre** -The word 'theatre' is Greek. Most modern theatres follow the Greek plan.
- **The Olympics** -The first Olympic Games were held in 776 BC at the Greek city of Olympia.
- **Marathon**-Pheidippides ran from Athens to Sparta to ask for help against the Persians just before the Battle of the Marathon (490 BC).
- **The first alphabet with vowels** -The Ancient Greeks played an important part in the development of the alphabet. The first two letters of the Greek alphabet - alpha and beta - have given us the word 'alphabet'.
- **Building styles (Architecture)**-Throughout the world, buildings have been constructed in the style of Ancient Greece. The British Museum (pictured on the right) is an example of this.

