

Ancient Greece

Knowledge organiser

Year 4

Ancient Greek achievements

The Greeks invented and developed many ideas that improved their civilisation:

- Olympics
- medicine
- philosophy
- democracy
- mathematics



Early Greece



During the Bronze Age, the Minoans developed a wealthy civilisation on the island of Crete. They built large palaces, traded across the Mediterranean and created art and pottery.

Later, the Mycenaeans became a powerful civilisation on mainland Greece. They built fortified cities, traded with other lands and developed a writing system.

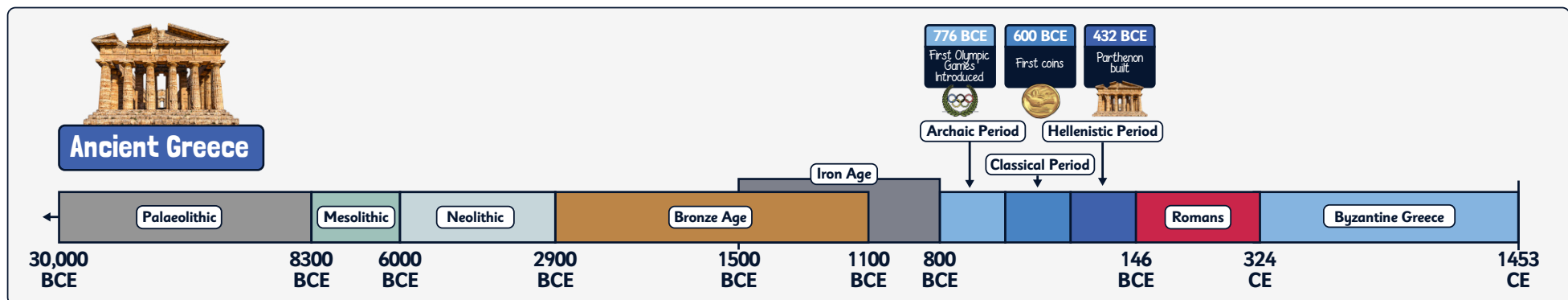
Their civilisation eventually declined, beginning a period known as the Greek Dark Ages.



Key vocabulary

army	artefact	bronze	ceramic	
				
citizen	civilisation	empire	excavate	
				
export	import	influence	invade	
				
island	legacy	trade	unite	warrior
				

Timeline



Greek city-states

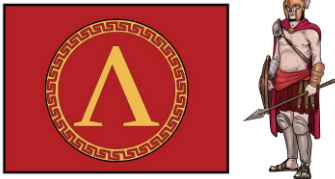
Ancient Greece was made up of many **city-states**, called poleis.

Each city-state had its own:

- **government**
- **laws**
- **army**
- **way of life**
- **values and ideas**



For example, **Athens** valued education, art, trade and democracy.



Sparta valued strength, discipline and military skills.

The city-states sometimes worked together. They also **argued and fought** over land, power and control.

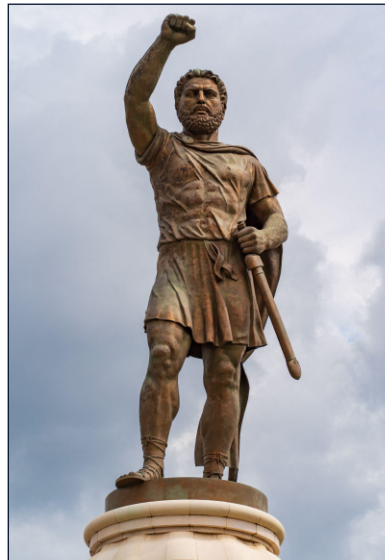
Philip II unifies Greece

After the **Persian Wars**, the Greek city-states were still divided.

Philip II, the king of Macedon, wanted to bring the Greek city-states under his control.

Philip had a **powerful, well-trained army** and gained control of the city-states.

Philip united the Greek city-states and became their leader. He wanted to invade the **Persian Empire**, but he was killed before he could begin. His son, **Alexander the Great**, carried out his plan.



Alexander the Great

Alexander the Great continued his father Philip II's plan to invade the **Persian Empire**.

Alexander led a huge and powerful army. He conquered a vast area of land, creating **one of the ancient world's largest empires**.

As his empire grew, he encouraged Greeks and local people to live and work together.

Alexander died in **323 BCE**.

His empire was divided between his generals. Greek culture continued to influence the lands he had conquered.

