



Wider Curriculum Unit Plan for Home learning

Subject: History

Unit: What did the Greeks do for us?

Year: 5

Session

Session 1

KQ: What was important to the Ancient Greeks?

- The Ancient Greeks lived thousands of years ago. Have a look at the timeline; see if you can spot other periods of history you have learned about so you know who came before and after them. What is a civilisation?
- Write down, on a piece of paper or use **Resource 1**, or record in some other way what you already know about Ancient Greece. Watch the unit introduction [video](#).
- Have a look at **Resource 2** and watch this [video](#) too. You can also explore the information [here](#) and [here](#).
- Write down new things you have learned. What would you like to find out?

Session 2

KQ: How did the Ancient Greeks influence art?

- Many civilisations that came after them have inherited ideas from the Greeks that remain with us to this day. The Greeks even influence us today! Watch this [video](#) to see some of the ways that has happened.
- One way they had an impact was in art. Greek sculptors, potters and designers produced many amazing pieces of work that are now in museums or on display around the world.
- It was not just artists, but writers too, who made a name for themselves in Ancient Greece. Have a look at this [page](#) about Greek theatre and look at the **Resource 3**. What do all of these objects tell you about Ancient Greece?

Session 3

KQ: How did the Ancient Greeks influence sport?

- One big sporting celebration that we enjoy every four years even today was invented by the Ancient Greeks – sorry not the World Cup!
- Every four years messengers from Elis travelled the Greek world telling cities to stop fighting, so that athletes and spectators could safely travel to Olympia to take part in the **Olympic Games**.
- The Ancient Greek games were a bit different to our modern ones though. Have a look at this page of [facts](#), and look at **Resource 4**.
- Complete the table to explain the differences

Session 4

KQ: How have Ancient Greek beliefs influenced us?

- As you saw last week, the Ancient Greeks took their gods very seriously. The chief gods were the **Twelve Olympians**, but every part of the world had its own spirit that could be worshipped. Greeks were always trying to live the way the gods wanted. Explore some more information [here](#).
- To help understand the gods and the world, the Ancient Greeks told stories about them to each other (which you may recognise even today). You can [listen](#) to a modern version of some of them here.
- What do the stories tell you about the gods? Write a paragraph explaining what one of the stories told you about them and about the Ancient Greeks.

Session 5

KQ: Why are Ancient Greek thinkers so important?

- Of the many city-states in Ancient Greece, one is particularly important for historians: Athens.
- Athens was a city of ideas – many of the finest minds in Ancient Greece lived,

	<p>learned, and discussed the world. These people were philosophers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some of the greatest inventors and thinkers of Ancient Greece can be learned about here, and in Resource 5. Choose one philosopher and make a poster about them.
Session 6	<p>KQ: How did Athenian government change the world?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Athens had a system of making important decisions by voting. The Athenians called this system of government "demokratia" which means "rule by the people" and where we get the word "democracy".• It could be quite complicated, but they were immensely proud of it. Have a look at the diagram in Resource 6 that shows how it worked and watch this video.• Athenian democracy did not last forever, but the idea was powerful. Ever since then, countries around the world (including the UK) have tried to become more democratic.• Using everything you have explored about Ancient Greece this unit, create your own presentation answering the unit question "What did the Greeks do for us?". You can make your presentation any way you like – a large poster, a book or use technology to make a powerpoint or a video.

Resource 1

What I already know about Ancient Greece...

What I learned about Ancient Greece today...

What I still want to find out about Ancient Greece...

Resource 2

Ancient Greece

700BC
Homer writes the *Odysseys* and *Iliad* poems.

650BC
The tyrant Kypselos takes over the city-state of Corinth. When Kypselos dies, his son Periander takes over the role.

500BC
The 'Classical Period' starts. There is a lot of interest in arts, imagination and buildings.

460BC
Hippocrates, the 'father of modern medicine' is born in Kos. His ideas on the human body and medicine are still used and recognised today.

338BC
King Philip II of Macedonia takes control of Greece.

336BC
Alexander the Great takes over rule of Greece, aged 20, after the death of his father king Philip II.

776BC
The first Olympic games. The games are then held every 4 years in honour of the god Zeus (ruler of the Olympians of Mount Olympus). The games included wrestling, javelin, jumping and chariot racing.

508BC
Male citizens of Athens are given a chance to vote in order to decide how things should be run. This is called 'democracy' and is thought to be one of the Greeks greatest ideas.

472BC
Greek theatres become popular in Athens. The entertainment included magicians, jugglers and plays.

432BC
Parthenon is finished in Athens. The temple is built to house a statue of Athena, the goddess of war, wisdom and the arts.

146BC
Rome conquers the Corinthians at the Battle of Corinth and Greece falls under the rule of the Roman Empire.

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History Timeline

3500BC - 3000BC: ANCIENT SUMER

3000BC - 2500BC: ANCIENT EGYPT

2500BC - 2000BC: INDUS VALLEY

2000BC - 1500BC: MAYAN CIVILIZATION

1500BC - 1000BC: SHANG DYNASTY

1000BC - 500BC: ANCIENT GREECE

500BC - 0AD: ROMAN EMPIRE

0AD - 500AD: EARLY ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

500AD - 1000AD: KINGDOM OF BENIN

1000AD - 1500AD: ROMAN BRITAIN, ANGLO-SAXON BRITAIN, VIKING BRITAIN

1500AD - 2000AD: MEDIEVAL BRITAIN

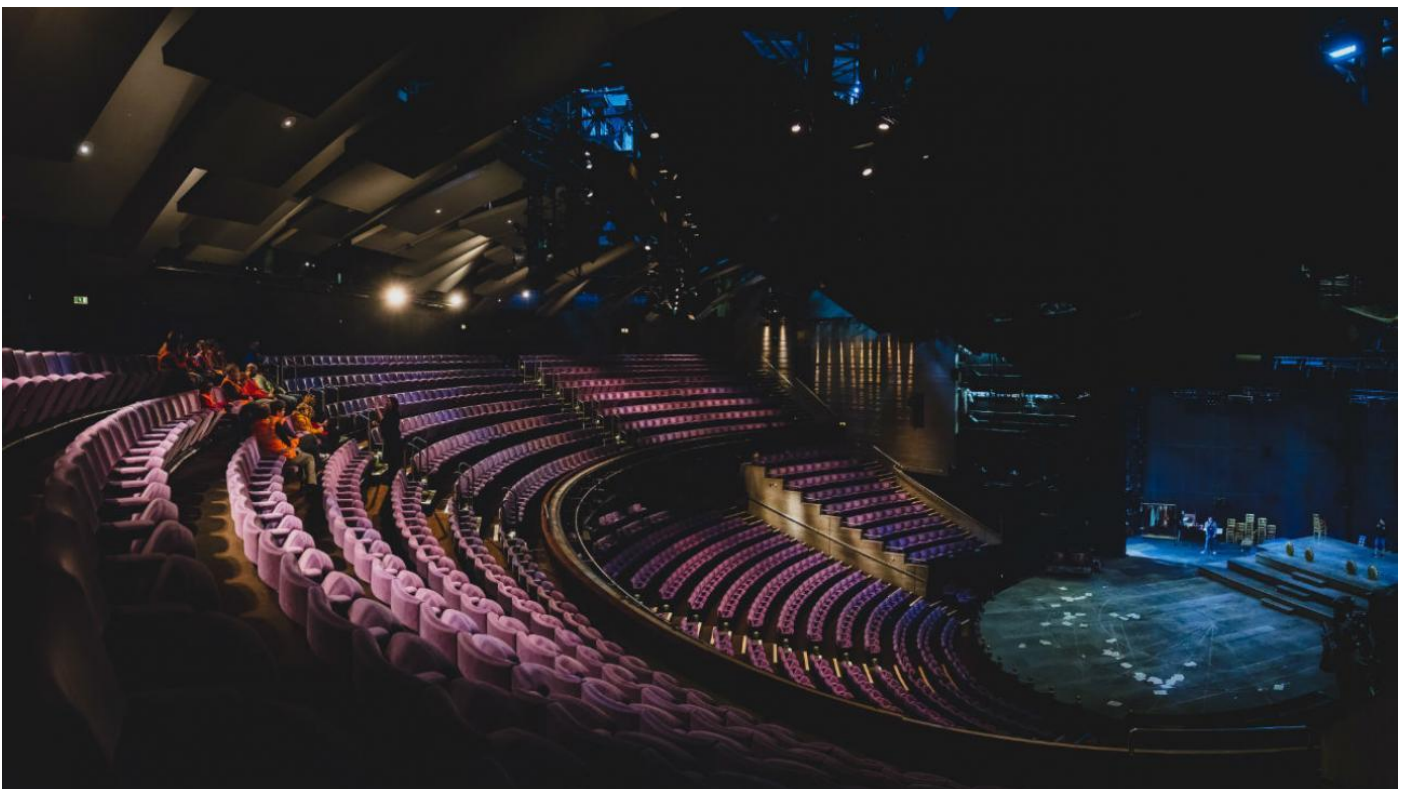
3500BC - 3000BC: STONE AGE AND BRONZE AGE BRITAIN

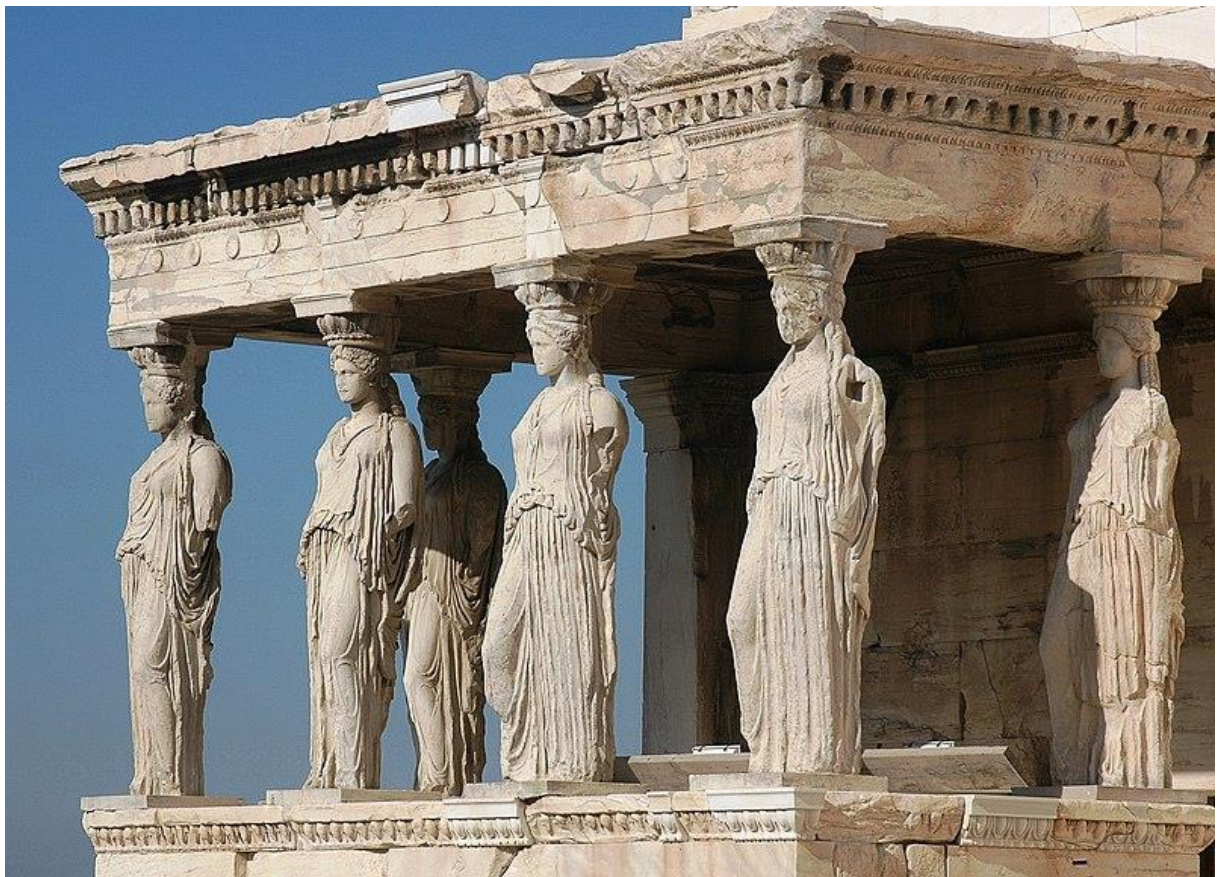
1000BC - 500BC: IRON AGE BRITAIN



Ancient Greece
c. 500 BCE

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Resource 4

In the discus event the athletes threw a disk-shaped object for distance. The discus itself was made of stone or, later, iron, lead, or bronze.



To increase their distance, the athletes held weights. They swung them above their heads on takeoff and threw them behind them before landing.



The javelin was a wooden rod with one end sharpened. The athletes held a leather strap placed around the rod that helped them to throw the javelin farther.



Two- and four-horse chariot races as well as horse riding races made up the equestrian events. The owners of the chariots or horses, not the participants, won.



ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES

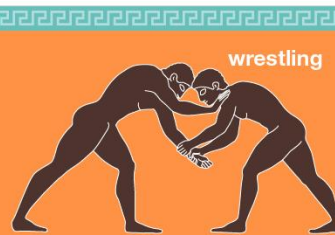
The Olympic Games began in Olympia, Greece, in 776 BC and took place every four years until AD 393. They were held in honor of Zeus. At the first Games, athletes competed in only one running event held on a single day. However, over the years other events were added, and the Games eventually were expanded to five days.



There were four running events, all of which consisted of a predetermined number of laps in the stadium. In one race the athletes wore armor and carried a shield.



The athletes wrapped their hands and wrists in leather. Later they added metal on their knuckles. An athlete won when his opponent was knocked out or gave up.



The athletes fought with bare hands while standing up. An athlete won after he forced his opponent's hip, shoulder, or back to the ground three times.



The *pankration* was a combination of wrestling and boxing. The only rules were that an athlete could not bite his opponent or gouge at his eyes or nose.

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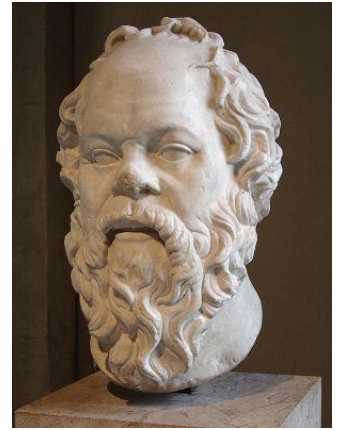
1. **Gymnasium** – much like today, a space for athletes to train and prepare but also a place for meeting friends. The Greek word, gymnasium means “athletic training school” – although it comes from the Greek word meaning naked! Only men were allowed here.
2. **Palaestra** – another training building, this time for wrestlers.
3. **Pheidias' workshop** – Pheidias was a great sculptor, painter and architect. The statue of Zeus at Olympia (and the statue of Athena in Athens) were his creations. He was one of the best artists in all of Ancient Greece and the statue of Zeus was considered a wonder of the ancient world.
4. **Heroon** – Greeks took their gods very seriously indeed. After all they had massive Olympic Games to celebrate Zeus! They also worshiped **Heroes**, important warriors or figures who achieved great things and so became like the gods. A Heroon was a place where offerings and prayers were given to the hero, although we do not know who the hero was. They must have been for someone important to **all Greeks** because Olympia was a place for all of Greece, not just one city. It may have been an athlete, or another hero linked to the Games.
5. **Greek and Roman baths** – both are present in Olympia. The Greek baths were built first (of course) and used by the athletes. Both cold and hot water was piped into these baths, where they could wash themselves after taking part in the games or training. The Roman baths were built later once Greece became part of the Roman Empire.
6. **Leonidaion** – designed by an architect called Leonidas, this building was where athletes stayed during the games. Other visitors often had to camp outside the sanctuary, although there were some hostels too.
7. **Temple of Zeus** – The Temple of Zeus was at the centre of the Olympic Games. Great ceremonies would be held here during the games, and athletes may have come to pray.
8. **Philippeion** – a memorial made later on dedicated to Alexander the Great and his family. Alexander was a king of Macedon who conquered all of Greece, Persia, and Egypt. By placing it here the artists were saying that Alexander was like a god!
9. **Prytaneion** – this is where priests and officials would meet. Important visitors from Elis, the Greek city that controlled Olympia, would also meet here.
10. **Temple of Hera** – a smaller temple to Hera, the Queen of the Gods in Ancient Greece. It was once a temple to Hera and Zeus but the new larger temple to Zeus became more important. A footrace dedicated to Hera for young women did take place at the same time as the Olympic Games – but we do not know much about it.
11. **Treasuries** – several small buildings, each for a different city-state. These were secure places where visitors from those cities could store valuable objects, probably ones they planned to give to the temple as offerings to Zeus.
12. **Echo Stoa** - a covered walkway, could be used for marketplace or for meetings.
13. **Stadium** – where events were held. A raised platform in the centre was where the judges sat to watch events.
14. **Nero's Villa** – the Roman Emperor Nero had this home built for him so he could stay during the Olympic Games. When he took part, he had the games delayed for a year, and won all the competitions he was in (regardless of what was actually happening). In fact, he fell off his chariot while taking part in a race but **won anyway** because the judges said Nero was the best! When the Emperor died, his name was removed from the list of winners.
15. **Bouleuterion** – this where the Olympic Council would meet; the name comes from the Greek word for a vote. The records of the games were kept here too, so judges could check previous decisions. If anyone was suspected of cheating a special court met here to decide as well.
16. **South Stoa** – a covered walkway, could be used for marketplace or for meetings.

Resource 5

Socrates (470 BC – 399 BC)

“Why?” – Socrates’ favourite question.

Socrates is perhaps the most famous Greek philosopher, although he did not have a specific idea. Instead, he tried to show and teach people how argument, debate, and discussion could help people to understand difficult issues. Socrates helped people to see what was wrong with their ideas. Sometimes they liked this; sometimes they were not happy or grateful. He said that people who do bad things do so because they do not know any better.

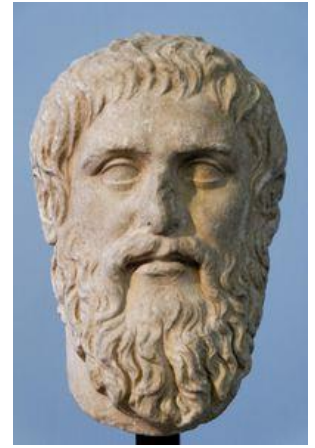


His method of teaching was to have a conversation. Someone would say their point of view, and Socrates would question them, asking what they meant. He would pretend “I don't know anything; I'm just trying to understand what you are saying” or similar. This is often called the Socratic Method.

Socrates made enemies in Athens because he kept asking people to explain their ideas! He was quite strict about doing the right thing, no matter if it upset people. Socrates was put on trial in Athens in 399 BC for “putting Athens in danger”. He was found guilty and put to death by drinking hemlock (a poison).

Learning about Socrates is difficult because he never wrote anything himself. All we know about him comes from his student, Plato, who thought Socrates was a hero! While much of what Plato wrote about Socrates is accepted by historians, some think he made Socrates a greater man than he actually was. Others think that Plato was using Socrates as a character in his books to explain ideas rather than showing what Socrates thought. This is what makes Socrates such a mysterious historical figure.

Plato (428/427 or 424/423 BC – 348/347 BC)



"Socrates said it, Plato wrote it."

Plato wrote much of his philosophy in conversations called dialogues. The dialogues feature Socrates as one of the speakers. No one knows if Socrates definitely said the things that Plato wrote, but Plato is very famous because of his ideas. Some historians say that all philosophy is actually people just agreeing or disagreeing with Plato!

Plato believed that only by knowing things could people lead good lives. People had to continue to learn so that they could understand the world around them and understand other people. He said that the universe would last forever, but only by learning about it would humans be able to live in a good way.

Plato also created an idea that we call "The World of Forms". He argued that for everything we create, make, see or say there is a perfect version. For example we can all create drawings of circles, but no one can create a perfect circle. So somewhere a perfect circle must exist – but we will never be able to create it or see it!

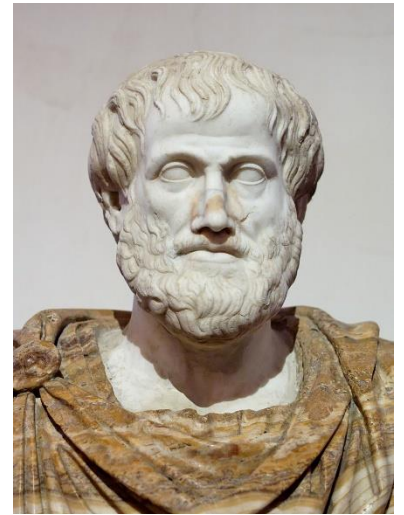
Plato's most famous work is called **The Republic**. In it he describes a perfect country, where everything works in the way he thought was best. In the writing, no one is rich or poor, and everyone does the job they are best suited for and want to do. Plato thought ordinary people being in the government was a bad idea and wanted only wise people to make decisions. People still study his work today.

Plato founded his own school in Athens called **The Academy** where he taught students, such as Aristotle. The Academy was the first place of learning for adults in Europe!

Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC)

"We are what we keep doing. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

Aristotle was a student of Plato but did not agree with all that Plato said. Aristotle liked to focus on more practical areas of philosophy including science.



Aristotle was from Macedonia, a kingdom to the north of the Ancient Greek cities. His father was doctor to the King, and he was sent at eighteen to learn at the Academy in Athens. He stayed there for twenty years, until Plato died. After travelling for a bit, Aristotle went back to Macedonia where he became the tutor of Prince Alexander – who would become known as **Alexander the Great**.

He taught Alexander everything he could, and encouraged Alexander to be a great king for the Greeks (although he also said Alexander should be a cruel king to everyone who wasn't Greek!) Near the end of Alexander's life, Aristotle and Alexander were no longer friends.

Aristotle was very interested in ideas about how to behave, but he was also interested in how the world worked – the Greeks called it "natural philosophy" although we would today say he was an early scientist. He spent a lot of time looking at plants and animals and seeing how they grew and lived. He also put them into groups based on their features. Aristotle also investigated the stars – and tried to explain why they moved around the Earth. Although he did not realise that the Earth went round the Sun, he did create a model for how the universe worked that people in Europe used for nearly two thousand years!

Diogenes (412 BC – 323 BC)

Diogenes is thought of either as very strange or very clever. Diogenes argued that rather than listening to what people said, we should look instead at what people do. Only actions can tell us if a person is good or not. In fact, Diogenes thought that most people in Athens, and the rulers of Athens, were actually liars who did not really care about being fair and kind!



Diogenes did many strange things to make people think.

He disagreed with Plato and often interrupted lessons at the Academy – in fact he sometimes went in with very sticky, smelly food and sat there eating it loudly to distract people! Diogenes went wherever he wanted to and started sleeping in a large jar in the marketplace. On many days he carried a lamp around the city all day (even though the sun was shining) loudly saying “I am looking for an honest man!”

Diogenes was extremely critical of Alexander the Great – he thought he was a cruel tyrant. There are stories (we don’t know if they are true) about Alexander actually meeting Diogenes. Alexander said, “If I were not Alexander I would like to be Diogenes” but the philosopher replied, “If I wasn’t Diogenes I would still want to be Diogenes!”

None of Diogenes work survives – it has all gone, but many people think his arguments were very important. Some historians say that Diogenes helped create an entire way of thinking – where you try to think for yourself and do not listen to powerful people just because they are rich or in charge.

Some people still think he was rather weird though. Plato said, “Diogenes is a Socrates gone completely mad!”

Zeno (495 BC – 430 BC)

Zeno was a “pre-Socratic” philosopher, which means he was around before Socrates. He definitely visited Athens, but came from another Greek city called Elea.

We do not know much about Zeno – his life was so long ago that nothing much survives. He is supposed to have been a very clever man, and he seems to have been brave too. Some Ancient Greek writers said that Zeno often tried to get rid of the Tyrants of Elea. The story goes that soldiers of the tyrant arrested Zeno and treated badly in the jails of Elea. While in prison the tyrant came to gloat at him, but Zeno lunged forward and managed to bite off the tyrant’s ear (or nose depending on the story)!

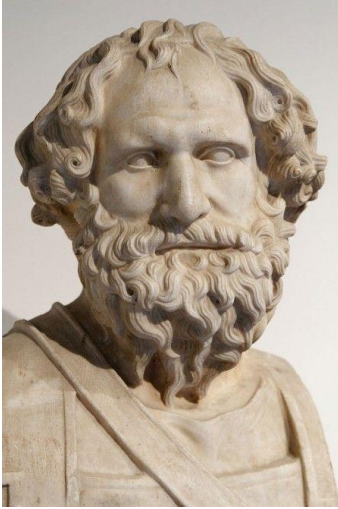
Zeno invented a way of arguing by giving silly examples to show that something is true or false. For example, he might say; “The Earth cannot be flat; otherwise, we would find people falling off the edge.” Zeno was very good at this kind of idea and taught it to people in Athens. Zeno also created “paradoxes” – puzzles for the mind that do not make sense. One of them “Achilles and the Tortoise” where Zeno argues that Achilles can never catch up with a tortoise in a race was very popular as a mind puzzle but he had many other.

In one of his paradoxes, Zeno said to imagine an arrow flying through the air. If you split the time, it takes into tiny little segments, during those bits of time the arrow is just hanging in space. It is not going forward or going back! So if in every single piece of the time the arrow is flying it is actually just still – it is not moving at all! Which means nothing ever moves!

Another of his paradoxes talked about grain seeds. If you drop a seed, it does not make a sound. If you drop a whole jar of seeds, it makes a big sound. Therefore, Zeno argued, a whole lot of nothing actually makes something!

Both of these arguments are of course very silly! The arrow is in a different place each time, so it is actually moving, and even if a single seed does not make a sound we can hear – it still makes one! Zeno just wanted people to think carefully about things and these paradoxes are very famous even today.

Archimedes (287 BC – 212 BC)



Much later than the other philosophers, Archimedes is perhaps one of the most famous inventors, mathematicians, and scientists of Ancient Greece – if not one of the greatest of all time. He was born and lived in Syracuse, on the island of Sicily. He designed many inventions to protect the town from Roman invasions but was sadly killed by a Roman soldier.

One famous story involves him being asked to calculate whether a gold crown had been made with cheaper silver mixed with gold instead. He had to work this out without damaging the crown. Eventually he discovered an experiment to work it out – by placing the crown in a bowl of water and measuring how much water it pushed out he could calculate if it were as dense as it should be! He was so excited, the story goes that he jumped out of his bath and ran through the streets not wearing anything and shouting “Eureka!” (I have it!)

Archimedes designed and helped build a huge ship, the *Syracusia* – the biggest ship in ancient times with its own hot water baths, gymnasium, and garden on board. The ship was so large that Archimedes is said to have developed a special screw system to pump water out and keep it afloat.

He did not stop there of course – some of his inventions include a huge claw to pick up and destroy Roman ships and a huge mirror array to shine the light of the sun onto Roman craft to set them on fire. We do not know if this was how Archimedes “Heat Ray” actually worked, but the stories show just how impressive his ideas were.

Archimedes also spent a lot of time exploring mathematics. He calculated the properties of many 3D shapes, and created his own equations for many complex problems.

Further Philosophers and Thinkers

These are just some of the most well-known philosophers but there were many more that we know only a little about or we just do not have time to explore! Perhaps the most famous we have not talked about was **Pythagoras** (c. 570 BC – 495 BC). A mathematician and thinker, Pythagoras influenced many of the later philosophers of Ancient Greece and founded his own school in Italy – where his students lived simple lives and were sworn to secrecy too. Pythagoras believed the universe worked in harmony according to mathematical laws, and he is credited with identifying the planet Venus and calculating that the Earth was a sphere.

Perhaps more interesting are the many women philosophers. Unfortunately the evidence for them is very difficult to find, partly because Ancient Greek history was written by men with strong opinions about how women should behave. Sometimes their work may also have been credited to the male philosophers around them instead. Nonetheless we know several names and a few facts about some of them.

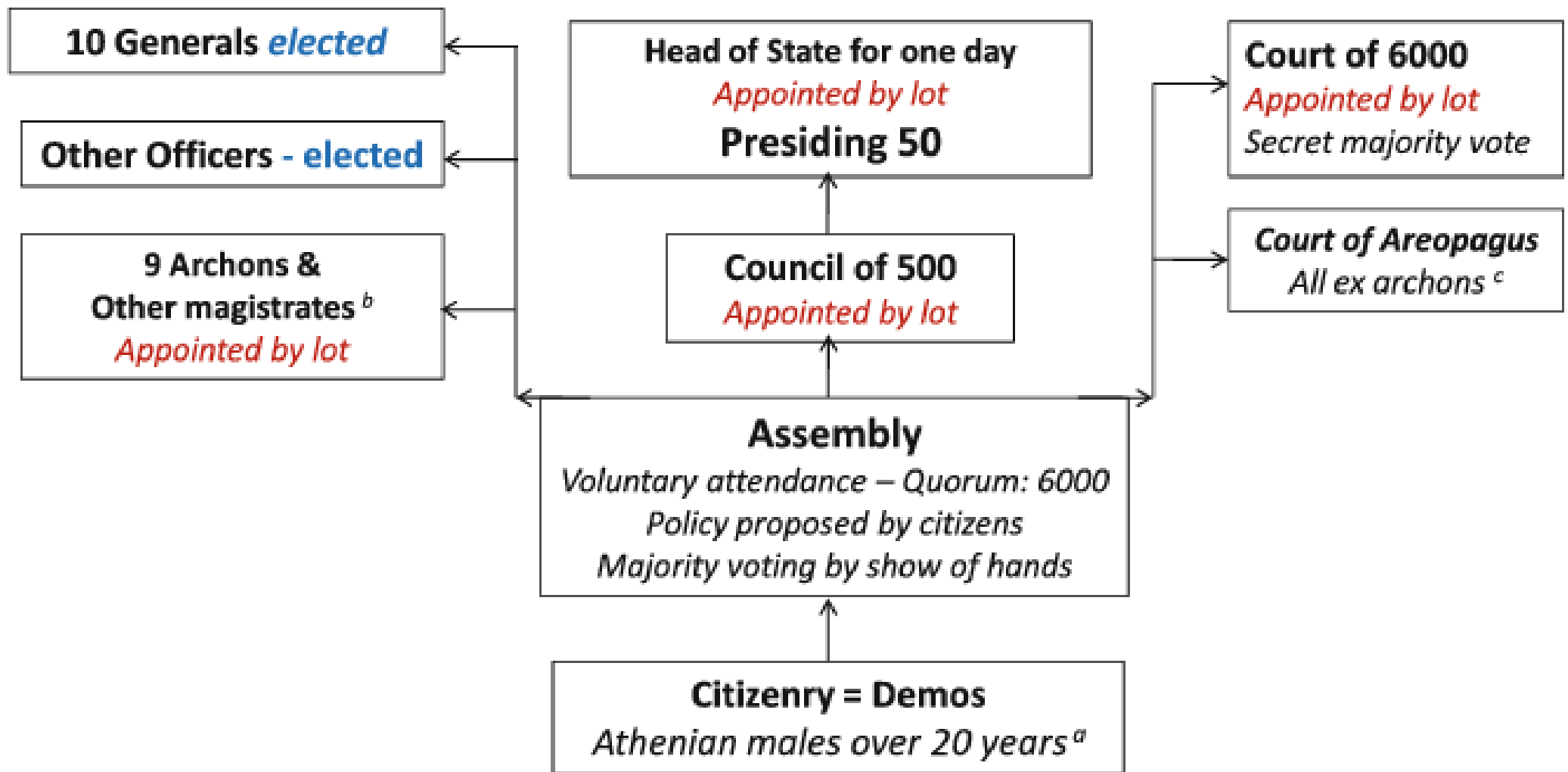
Aglaonice was a 2nd or 1st Century BC astronomer, who knew and understood the phases of the moon so well that she could predict eclipses. This gained her a reputation as a sorcerer who used powerful magic to hide the moon.

Arete of Cyrene, of the 4th Century BC was the leader of a school of philosophy in Cyrene (a Greek colony city in modern Libya). Her school encouraged people to do things that made them happy – arguing that good choices were the only things that led to genuine happiness. She is said to have written around 40 or more books on education, farming and more but none of them have survived.

Theano (6th Century BC) is thought to be the wife of Pythagoras. She wrote many mathematical books herself, and ran the school after he died. Her work includes an important maths idea used in architecture.

There are many more names of women philosophers. Sadly we have no examples of their work at all so our information is very limited.

Resource 6



Citizens - the ordinary (male) people of Athens. They could attend the Assembly and take part in discussions but did not have to. They were paid to attend the Assembly or work in the Courts or Council.

Assembly - ordinary people deciding on laws if they wanted to. They **voted** on every law and everyone could speak but not everyone did. The Assembly met 40 times a year.

The Assembly have lots of people wanting to speak. Usually they restricted speakers to experts on the law – so for a law about ships they only let people talk if they knew about ships! Speakers who did not have anything to say could be shouted down, or dragged away by the Athens police – the **Archers**.

Council of 500 - chose laws to be voted on in the Assembly. In an emergency they could decide certain things but the Assembly had to agree. You had to be 30 or older to be on the Council.

All votes were done by raising hands – even very important ones like punishing a general or **ostracisms**. Votes only happened in the daytime because of this.

The Courts - ordinary Athenians made decisions in courts for most crimes. They listened to what had happened and decided if the accused was innocent or guilty.

The Nine Archons - chosen to run the city. One was in charge of the **army**, one in charge of **temples** and one in charge of **the law**. The other six helped. Each Archon served for one year.

The Generals - ten generals were chosen for the armies of Athens by the **Assembly**. They worked with the **Archons** and the **Council** but always had to listen to the **Assembly**.

The Court of Areopagus - the most important court where serious crimes were heard. The people who decided here were all older Athenians who had already been **Archons**.

There were other "archons" too. They had different jobs in the city, and all of them were chosen by the **Assembly** – but these **Nine** were the most important.

Before Athens became a democracy, the **Areopagus** was where all decisions were made by rich older citizens. Not so important now!



This is an ostrakon – a piece of broken pottery used to vote during an Ostracism. It has the name “Perikles” on it – a popular leader in Athens who dominated politics for a long time. The person who made this vote probably felt that Perikles was becoming too powerful, and wanted him exiled for ten years. We know that Perikles’ father was exiled from Athens, as were other close supporters of him. It is likely that ostracisms became big arguments between different sides in Athenian politics – supporters of Perikles probably tried to exile his enemies, while his opponents tried to exile him!

Athenian democracy could be certainly very messy!