



Unit: Ancient Greece

Concept:



Subject:  
History

Key events and facts

- Ancient Greece was not a country. It was made up of city states.
- There were often battles between these city states but sometimes they would join together against a common enemy.
- The first recorded Games was in 776 BC, in Olympia.
- The event was part of a festival to honour the Greek god, Zeus.
- Women were not allowed to compete in the Olympics.

Some of the evidence about the Games comes from paintings discovered on pottery.

TIMELINE 800 BC – 100 BC

- 776 BC: The first Olympic games.
- about 750 BC: Early Greek culture. Homer writes the epics 'The Iliad' and the 'Odyssey'.
- 650 - 580 BC: Corinth is ruled by the tyrant Kypselos and then his son Periander.
- 508 BC: Democracy begins in Athens.
- 490 and 480 BC: Greeks defeat Persian invaders at the battles of Marathon (490 BC) and Salamis (480 BC).
- by 450 BC: Athens becomes a very powerful city, and controls an empire.
- 472 - 410 BC: Greek theatre thrives in Athens. Many of the most famous Greek plays are written during this time.
- 462 - 429 BC: Perikles is the popular leader at Athens as the general of the Athenian army.
- 432 BC: The Parthenon in Athens is finished being built.
- 431 - 404 BC: War between Athens and Sparta (the Peloponnesian war).

Key Vocabulary	
Primary sources	Information and objects that come from the time being studied.
Secondary sources	Interpretations of information and objects which are produced after the time being studied.
Ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
City states	Small areas that ancient Greece was divided into, each with their own governments, laws and army.
Olympics	A sporting event held by the Ancient Greeks every four years.
Stadion	The original Olympic event, the stadion was a running race the length of the stadium.
Athens	A powerful Greek city state and rivals to Sparta.
Sparta	A power Greek city-state and rival to Athens, Sparta's culture was based around warfare and preparing for battle.



**discus**: 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.

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

**javelin**: 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.

**equestrian events**: 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.

**running events**: 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.

**boxing**: 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.

**wrestling**: 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.

**pankration**: 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.



Session

1	What are primary and secondary sources? 
2	When did the Olympics begin? 
3	What were the Olympic games like? 
4	Where were the Olympics held? 
5	What are the Olympics like now? 
6	How has the past changed our lives? 