

Welcome one and all. I am your tour guide Aristotle. Please step this way and we will begin our tour of Ancient Greece. I hope your parents agreed to let you travel back in time.

Greece is known for many things the most famous of these is the Olympics. Greece is also the birthplace of democracy. This is the same type of government that is used here in America but in ancient Greece not all people were free. Other aspects of ancient Greece that are well known are the gods, goddesses and the stories or myths that were written about them. We will cover all of this and more. Try to stay together. I don't want to leave any one behind in the wrong era of time. Also, you will see links throughout this tour. Please feel free to click on them to find out more about the topic.

For those of you who do not know where Greece is, it is a peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea. A peninsula is a body of land surrounded by water on three of its four sides. [Click here to see a map of Greece](#). Greece is a very mountainous country with only small areas available to farm. Because of this, many Greeks became fisherman or traders.

Ancient Greece was broken up into city-states. Each city was its own little nation that governed itself. Two of the most famous are Athens and Sparta. These two city-states were very different and it might be fair to say opposite. One of there main differences was their style of [government](#). Sparta was a Monarchy and Athens was a democracy. This difference helped shape the culture of these two city-states.

The first stop on our tour is [Sparta](#). Sparta was ruled by a king and was known for its military strength. Spartan children were not taught reading and math but how to fight. At a very young age Spartan boys were sent to military schools and learned how to use swords and spear. People who were conquered were forced to farm the land of the noble or rich.

Our next stop is [Athens](#). Athens was known for its democratic form of government and many scholarly people. Athens was named after Athena, the goddess of wisdom. Athens was home to many thinkers or philosophers. These people taught or made others think or question the things they believed. Writers wrote plays about the tragic lives of fictional people who upset the gods.

Since I brought up the gods lets see them next. The ancient Greeks worshiped [gods and goddesses](#). They were said to live on Mount Olympus, the tallest mountain in Greece. Each god ruled different areas of human life. There are twelve main gods and many lesser gods. There are also stories about the beginning of time and the gods called titans. They ruled the earth before the Olympian gods. The most powerful and the king of these Olympian gods is Zeus.

The people of Greece worshipped the gods and built many statues and temples to them. The most famous of these is the Parthenon. The Parthenon is a temple to Athena. It is made of marble with two sets of columns. Inside was a huge statue of Athena. People would bring offerings to her and ask for her help. Click here to see a video of the [Parthenon](#). When that page loads, click on the button next to “The Acropolis experience”. Then you can choose to see either or both of the short films.

People, also, created stories about the gods. These are called [myths](#). The myths often tell of where the god or goddess came from, the different areas of human life they rule and their interaction with mortals or humans. The link above lists many gods and goddesses and shows the names of the Roman gods that rule the same or similar areas. Feel free to read as many as you like. I have also linked a [quiz](#) here for you to test your knowledge.

The final stop on our tour is the Olympics. The Greeks invented the Olympics as a tribute to Zeus, the King of the gods. Even though there were other sporting events held in other city-states, the games held in Olympia were the most famous. There are some similarities but many differences between the ancient Olympics and the modern [Olympics](#). Both are held every four years. Sporting events are held and winners are awarded. That is about all that is the same. There were no gold medals, cheating was wide spread and there were not as many events as there are today. In this link there are many other links. The button for “The Site” offers a quick video and pictures of where the ancient Olympics were held. There is also another button that leads to stories of ancient Olympians. They are interesting compared to today’s athletes.

I hope that you have enjoyed this tour of Ancient Greece. Please feel free to come back any time to see things you may have missed the first time. Have a safe trip back to the modern era of the 21st century.