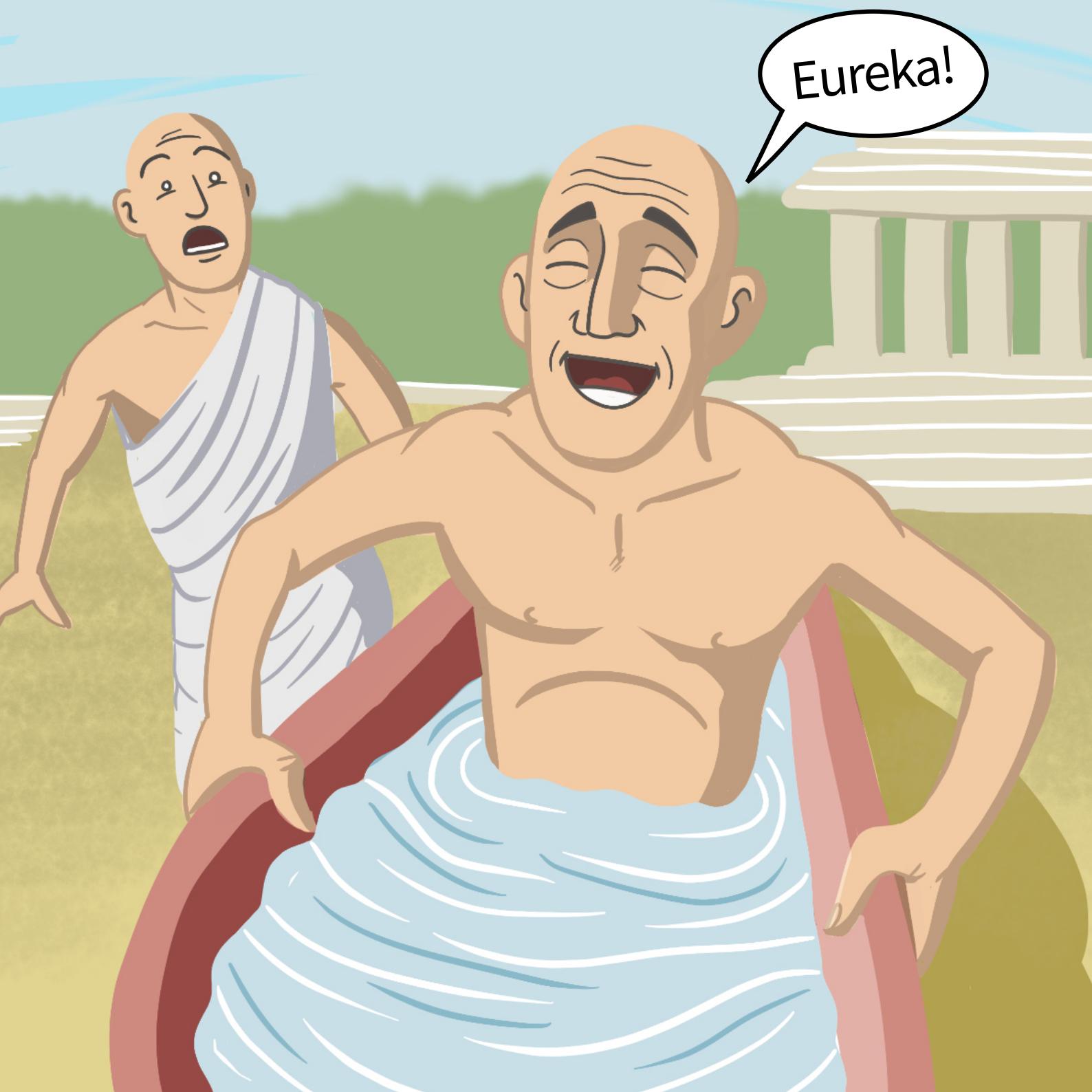


ANCIENT GREECE



WELCOME TO ANCIENT GREECE!

I'm Aimee Schofield, and I'm a PhD Student at the University of Manchester. At the moment I'm doing research on Ancient Greece, and I also teach some of our undergraduate students about Ancient Greece.



ANCIENT GREECE AT MANCHESTER

The Classics and Ancient History department teaches students all about the ancient world – including Ancient Greece. We also have a large collection of ancient artefacts in the Manchester Museum, which students and visitors can study.

SCHOOL DAYS

I changed primary schools when I was seven, and ended up studying Ancient Greece twice. I loved the subject even then, and I used to read lots of books about the Greek myths. When I finished my A-levels, I came to the University of Manchester to do an undergraduate degree, and I stayed on to do my Masters and PhD.

LEARN ABOUT ANCIENT GREECE

I hope you enjoy this website, which will teach you lots of interesting facts about Ancient Greece. When you've had a look through the site, why not visit the Manchester Museum to look at all the artefacts we have?

EXPLORE ANCIENT GREECE

Ancient Greece wasn't one big country like modern Greece is today.

Instead, areas of land belonged to 'city states' (poleis), which all acted separately from the others.



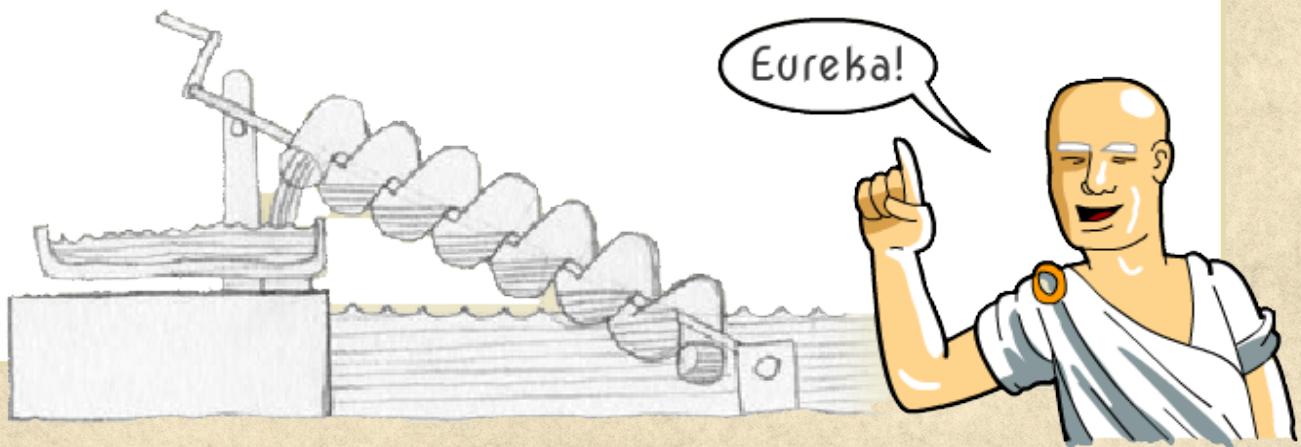
Sometimes they would make alliances with each other to fight enemies like the Persians — sometimes the Greek city states would fight each other.

SYRACUSE 



SYRACUSE

- Archimedes was a very famous person who lived in Syracuse in the third century BC.
- One day when he was in the bath, he realised that when something is placed in water, the amount of water displaced by the object represents that objects mass. He is said to have jumped out of the bath and run down the street shouting 'Eureka,' (which means, 'I've found it!').



SPARTA

- Sadly, very few buildings from Sparta survive. The Spartans prided themselves on not having fancy buildings, because they wanted to focus on being tough, invincible warriors. They even banned money in case it made them become soft!
- The Spartans were great warriors. They won two great wars — the Persian Wars and the Peloponnesian Wars.
- The city had two kings, one from each of the two royal families. Funnily enough, the two families never got on...



DELPHI

- Delphi is famous for the Temple of Apollo, god of prophecy, poetry, music, and the sun.
- Delphi was known for its oracles, prophetesses who made predictions about events in the future. Oracles made some very famous prophecies, but it wasn't always clear what they meant.



ATHENS

- Athens is famous for the Parthenon, a huge temple built on the Acropolis in honour of the city, patron Goddess Athena.
- It had a really strong navy, no-one wanted to take them on in a fight at sea.
- Athens was a city of learning - it was home to famous philosophers like Socrates and Plato.
- Athens had a democracy - but only men could vote.

SOCRATES



THE
PARTHENON





MILETUS

- Miletus was a Greek city, even though it was on the coast of Asia Minor. Not all Greek cities were part of the geographical country we now call Greece. The Greeks thought of themselves as a culture rather than a nation.
- Miletus was often ruled by the Persians. Once, when it was captured by the Persians, an Athenian called Phrynicus put on a play about its fall. The Athenians were so upset that they fined him money for reminding them of what had happened.
- At other times, Miletus was independent. After the Persian Wars, for instance, many cities in this region were freed from Persian control.

LESBOS

- Lesbos was one of the islands which was part of Greece. It is most famous for the poetess Sappho, one of the earliest female poets.
- We still have some of her poems, but they are mostly in pieces called fragments. Much of her poetry was about love.



A TIMELINE OF ANCIENT GREECE

THE FIRST OLYMPICS

The first ever Olympic Games were held.

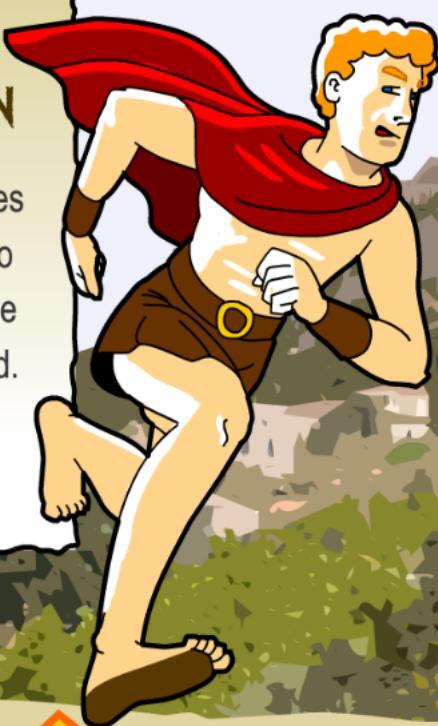


776 BC

490 BC

THE FIRST PERSIAN WAR: THE BATTLE OF MARATHON

After the battle a messenger called Pheidipides ran all the way to Athens from the battlefield to tell the Athenians that the Greeks had won. He ran so fast that he exhausted himself and died. Even today, people run 'marathons' in his honour.



776 BC

490 BC

480-479 BC

THE 2ND PERSIAN WAR

The second Persian War included the battles of Thermopylae, Artemesium, Salamis, Plataea, and Mycalae. After these battles the Persian forces under the command of Xerxes were driven out of Greece. The Greeks never forgave the Persians for invading their land, and always swore they would be avenged. It didn't happen for 150 years.

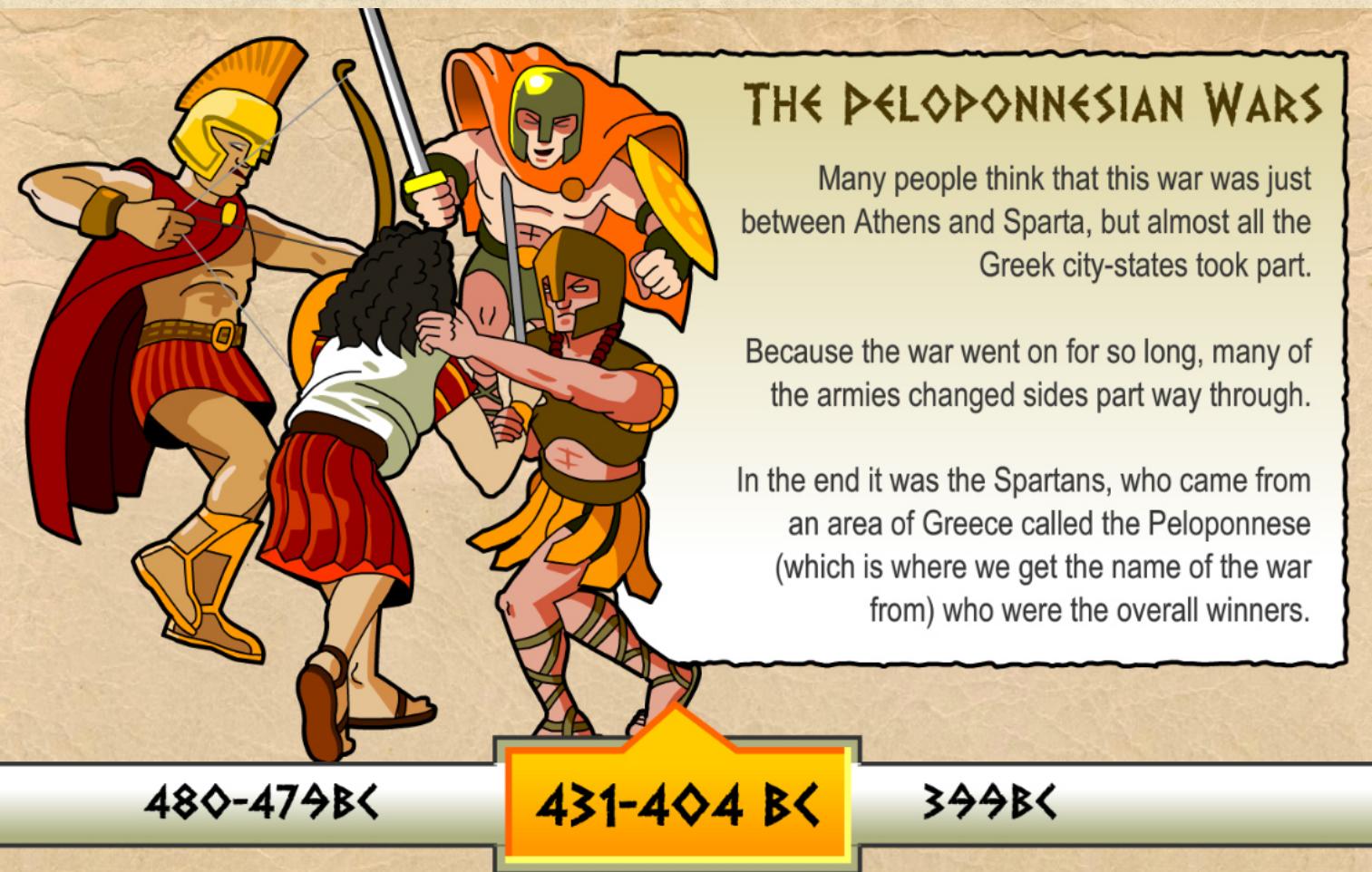


THE PELOPONNESIAN WARS

Many people think that this war was just between Athens and Sparta, but almost all the Greek city-states took part.

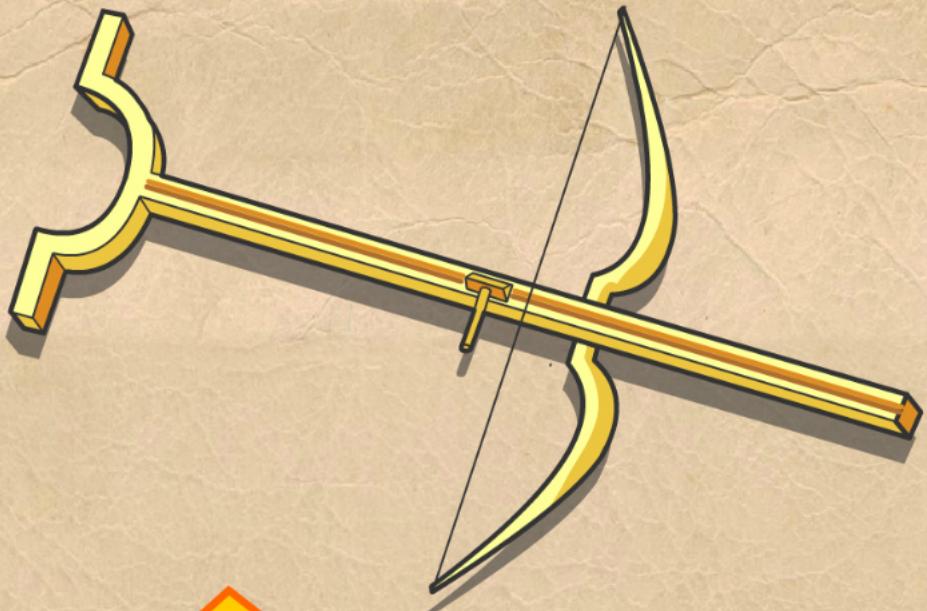
Because the war went on for so long, many of the armies changed sides part way through.

In the end it was the Spartans, who came from an area of Greece called the Peloponnese (which is where we get the name of the war from) who were the overall winners.



THE INVENTION OF THE CATAPULT

The Catapult is invented at Syracuse



431-404 BC

339 BC

359-336 BC

PHILIP II IS KING OF MACEDON

Philip used a mixture of diplomacy and military skill to make himself the most powerful man in Greece.

When he was assassinated his son Alexander, who would later be known as Alexander the Great, became king.



399 BC

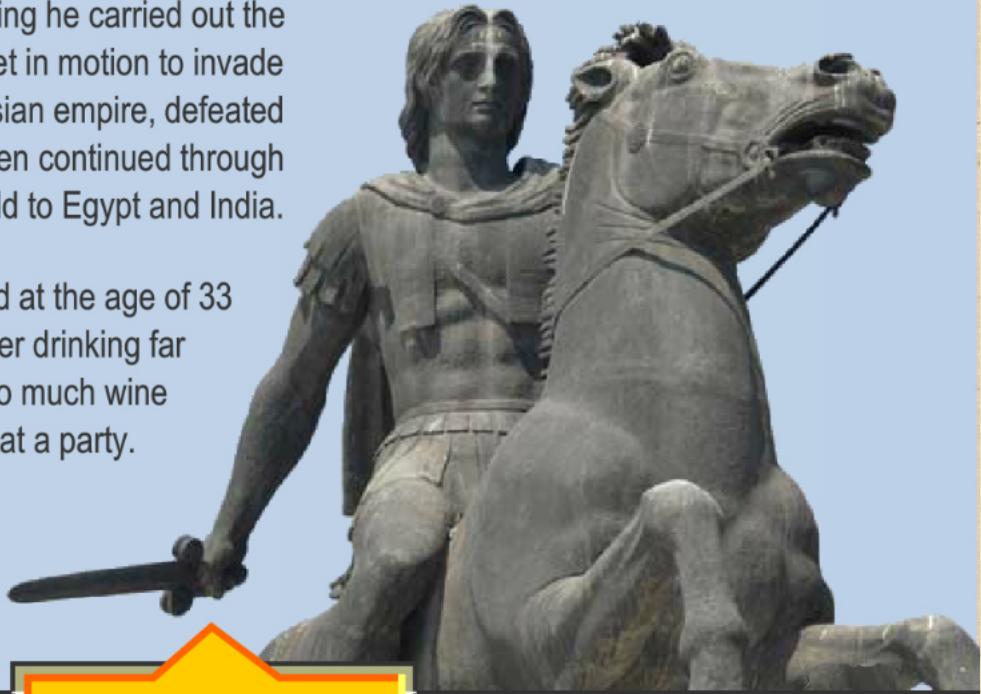
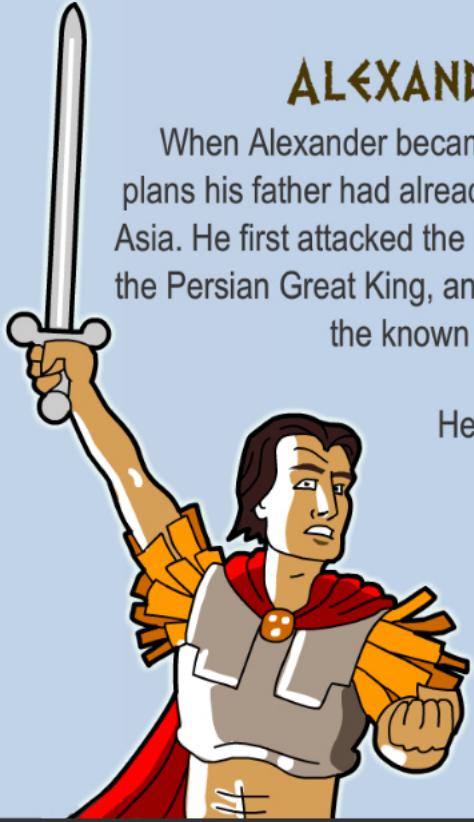
359-336 BC

334-323 BC

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

When Alexander became king he carried out the plans his father had already set in motion to invade Asia. He first attacked the Persian empire, defeated the Persian Great King, and then continued through the known world to Egypt and India.

He died at the age of 33
after drinking far
too much wine
at a party.



359-336 BC

334-323 BC

323-301 BC

ALEXANDER'S SUCCESSORS

When Alexander died there was no real heir to his empire, and so his generals split the empire up between themselves.

Unfortunately they didn't get on and all wanted more power, so they fought against each other for the next twenty years or so.



334-323 BC

323-301 BC

301-281 BC

THE LIFE OF ARCHIMEDES

Archimedes was a very famous person who lived in Syracuse in the third century BC.

One day when he was in the bath, he realised that when something is placed in water, the amount of water displaced by the object represents that object's mass. He is said to have jumped out of the bath and run down the street shouting 'Eureka!' (which means, 'I've found it!').



A Statue of Archimedes
at The University of Manchester

323-301 BC

287-211 BC

229 BC



THE ROMANS ARE COMING!

The Romans first started to interfere in Greece around this time.

287-211 BC

229 BC

146 BC

THE ROMANS ARE HERE!



Greece and Macedon are made part of the Roman empire.

229 BC

146 BC

END

GREEK RELIGION AND THE GODS

The Ancient Greeks worshipped lots of different gods and goddesses, the ones in this gallery are just a few.

Each god or goddess was responsible for different aspects of life.





Hades - God of the dead and the underworld

Hades was in love with Persephone, but knew she did not love him in return and so kidnapped her from the land above. Demeter, goddess of the harvest and mother of Persephone was so angered her daughter had been stolen that in her search for Persephone she neglected to make sure that the seasons took place as they should.

Zeus sent the god Hermes into the Underworld to make Hades return Persephone. In the Underworld Persephone had eaten no food, knowing once you eat the food of the Underworld you can never return to the land of the living. Persephone began to starve, and the day Hermes came for her was so hungry she ate six pomegranate seeds.

Zeus was torn about what to do, and then he came up with a solution. Persephone would

stay with Hades for six months each year, one month for each seed. The rest of the year she could spend with her mother.

This is why we have winter and summer. In the winter Demeter is sad that her daughter is not with her, but in summer she is glad to have her back.





Zeus - king of the gods. God of guests and hosts, thunder and lightning.

Zeus was the son of the titans Chronus and Rhea. Chronus heard a prophecy that one of his children would grow up to take his throne, and so each time his wife Rhea gave birth, he ate the baby.

When baby Zeus was born Rhea wrapped up a rock as if it were a baby and gave it to Chronus. He ate the rock thinking it was the baby, and Rhea was able to hide Zeus away.

When Zeus was older he tricked Chronus into drinking wine mixed with mustard, which made him vomit up all the baby gods he'd already eaten. They all came out fully grown!

With Zeus as their leader, they fought against the titans and won, and so Zeus overthrew his father and became king of the gods.





Hephaestus - God of metal work, the forge, fire, and volcanoes

Hephaestus was the son of Zeus and Hera, the king and queen of the gods. When Hephaestus was born, he was so ugly and weak that his mother threw him off the top of Mount Olympus.

Luckily for him, he was rescued by sea nymphs who looked after him.

Later he married Aphrodite, but she didn't like him very much.

She often had affairs with mortals and also went out with Ares.





Ares - God of war

Ares' girlfriend was Aphrodite (even though she was already married to another god, Hephaestus). Hephaestus knew exactly what was going on, and he wasn't happy about it. So he came up with a plan.

One day he told his wife that he was going out. She invited Ares over to their house, but as soon as they embraced, a golden net sprung out and trapped them! Suddenly Hephaestus reappeared and brought all the other gods with him.

They laughed at the pair caught in the net until they were really and truly embarrassed. And so that is how Hephaestus got his revenge on the pair.



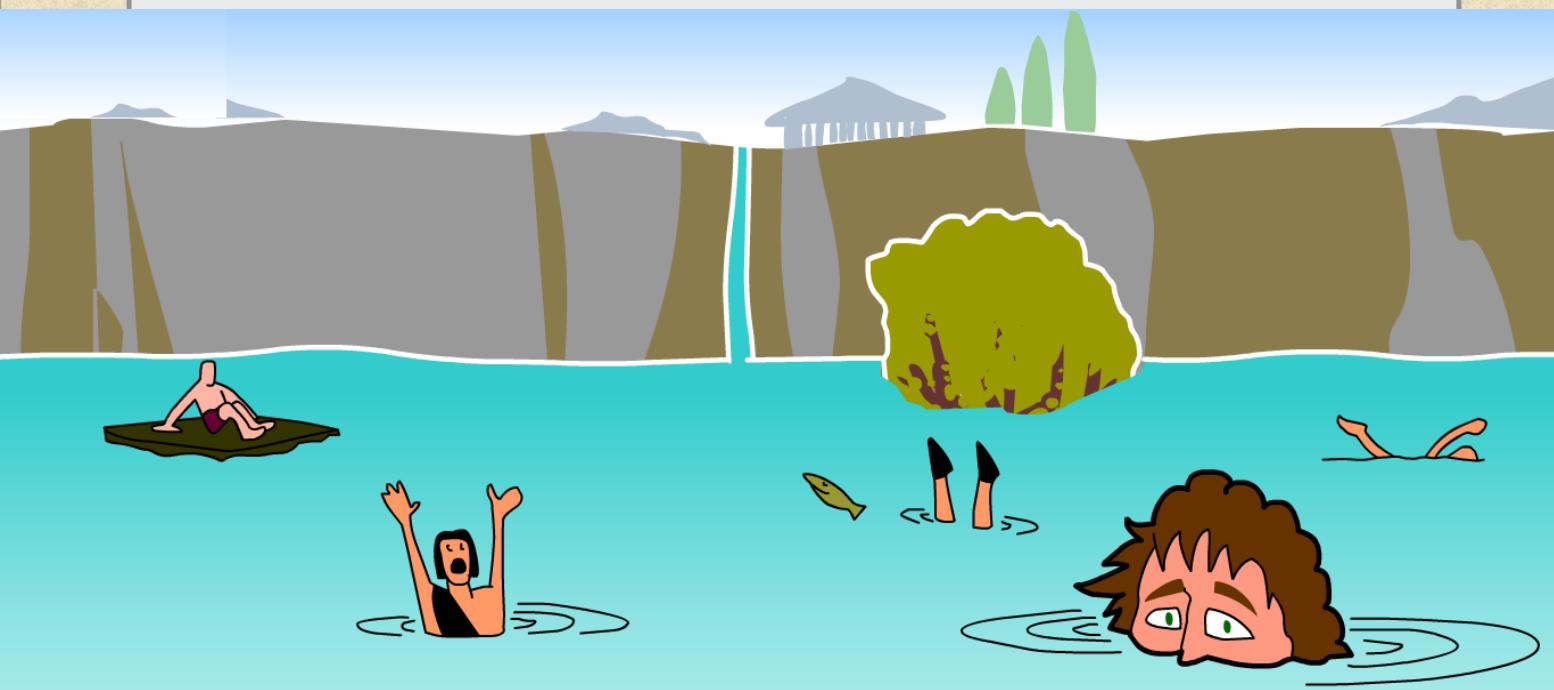


Poseidon - God of the sea, earthquakes, and horses.

Poseidon and Athena were competing to become the patron of the city of Athens. They each decided to give one gift to the citizens, and whoever made the best gift would get to be the city's patron.

Poseidon made a salt-water spring, but because the water was salty it wasn't good to drink.

Athena created the olive tree, and because her gift was so useful the city was named in her honour. Poseidon was so angry at losing the competition that he flooded the land around Athens with a tidal wave.



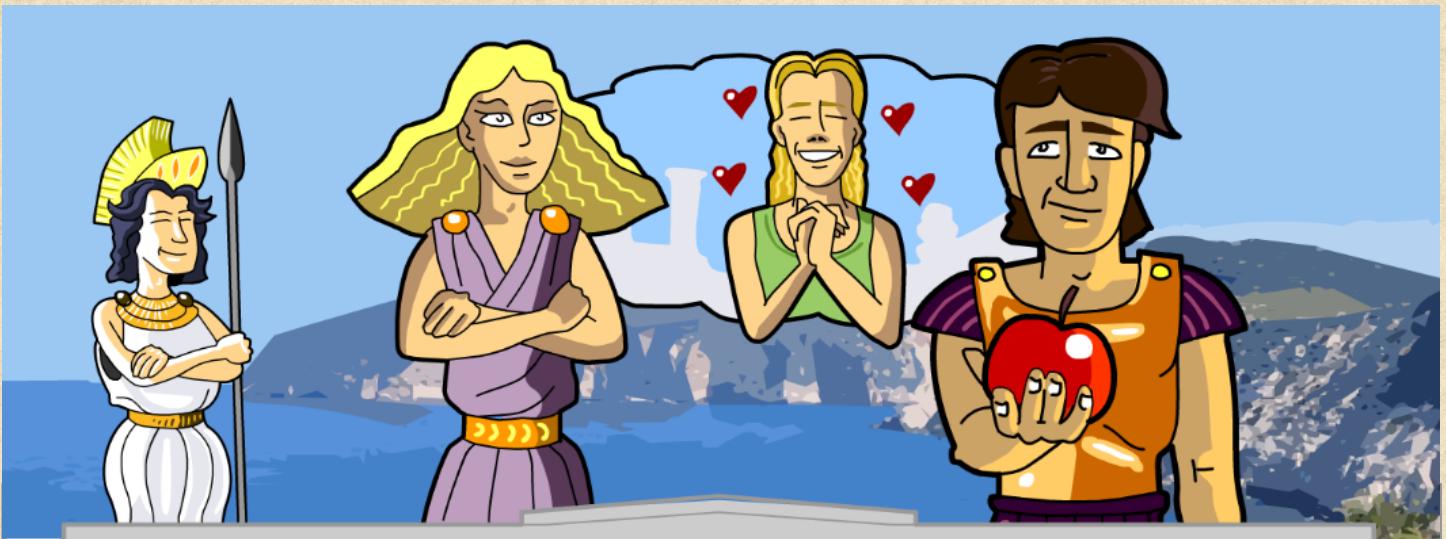


Athena - goddess of wisdom, craft, warfare, and Athens

Arachne was a young woman who was talented at weaving – perhaps a too talented. She boasted she could weave better than Athena herself, which annoyed the goddess. Athena disguised herself as an old woman and came down to Earth. She warned Arachne not to boast that she was better than the gods, but Arachne ignored her, and challenged the old woman to a weaving contest.

Athena wove a tapestry of her victory over Poseidon in the contest to be the patron god of Athens. Arachne, however, wove cloth with images of the gods having affairs with mortals and not behaving in a very godlike way. Athena was so angry at Arachne's mockery of the gods that, although her work was perfect and skilled, she destroyed it and turned Arachne into a spider.





Aphrodite - The goddess of love and beauty

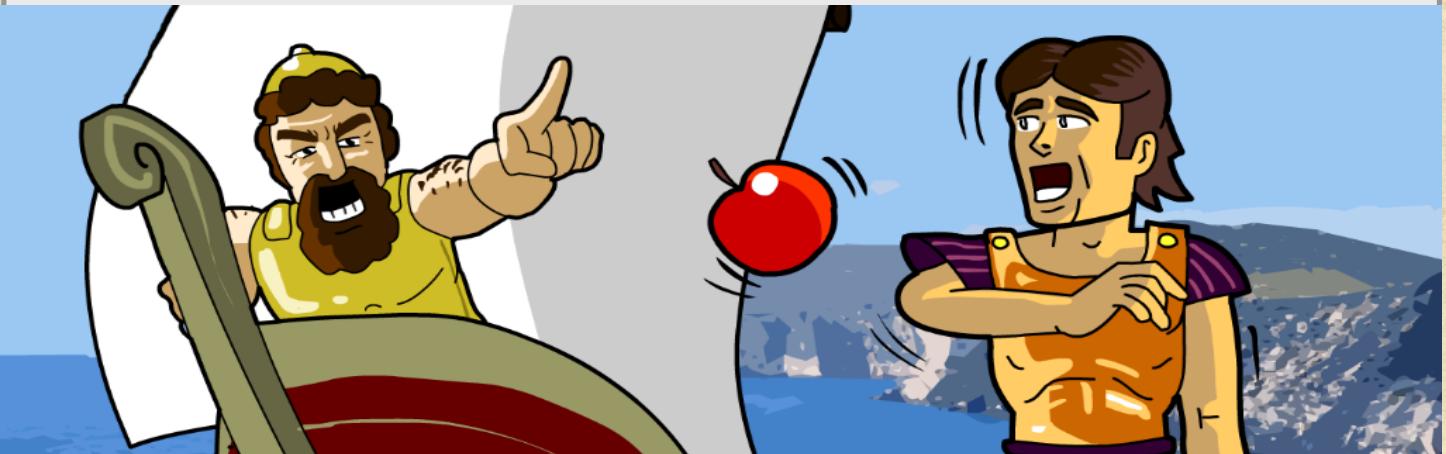
The gods were feasting on Mount Olympus and everyone was invited apart from Eris, the goddess of spite. Eris wasn't pleased about being left out and came up with a plan to ruin the feast. She took a golden apple and wrote on it 'For the Fairest', then rolled it into the banqueting hall. There was an uproar.

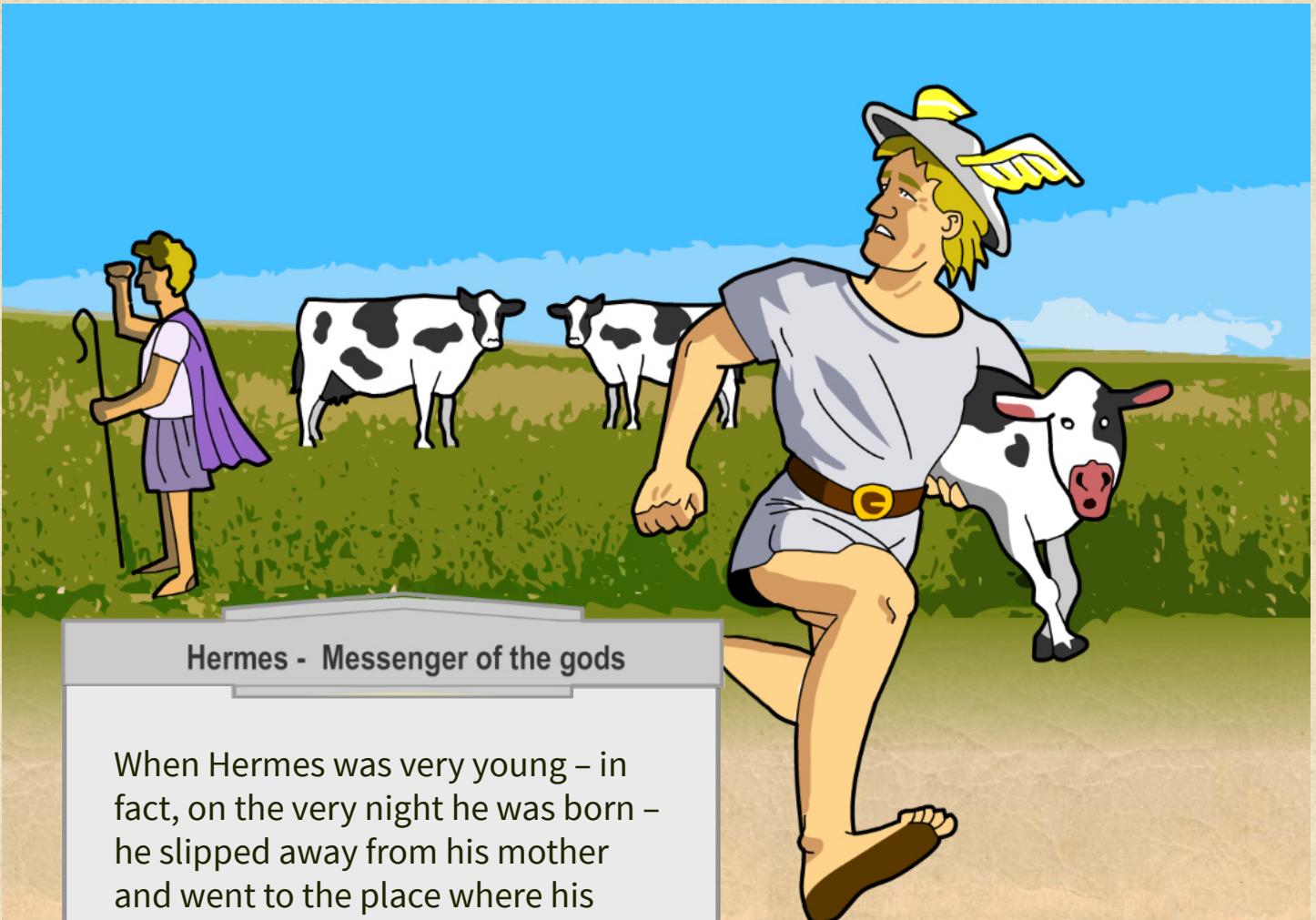
Three of the goddesses, Hera, Athena and Aphrodite all claimed that the apple was for themselves. Zeus did not wish to offend them and refused to judge. Instead he gave the task to a mortal man called Paris who was a prince of Troy.

The goddesses wanted the apple very much, and all tried to bribe Paris. Hera offered him the power to rule over Europe and Asia. Athena offered him wisdom and glory in battle. Aphrodite offered him the love of the most beautiful woman on earth. Which would you have picked?

Paris chose Aphrodite, and she helped him to make Helen, the most beautiful woman ever, fall in love with him. There was a catch though. Helen was already married to a man called Menelaus, who was King of Sparta. When Paris and Helen eloped after Paris visited Sparta, Menelaus was

very upset and angry. He decided to get his wife back by besieging Troy - and that's how the Trojan War began.





Hermes - Messenger of the gods

When Hermes was very young – in fact, on the very night he was born – he slipped away from his mother and went to the place where his older brother Apollo was keeping his sacred cattle. Being the god of thieves, he stole the cattle.

To stop Apollo from being angry, Hermes invented the lyre for him as a new way to make music.



THE ANCIENT OLYMPICS

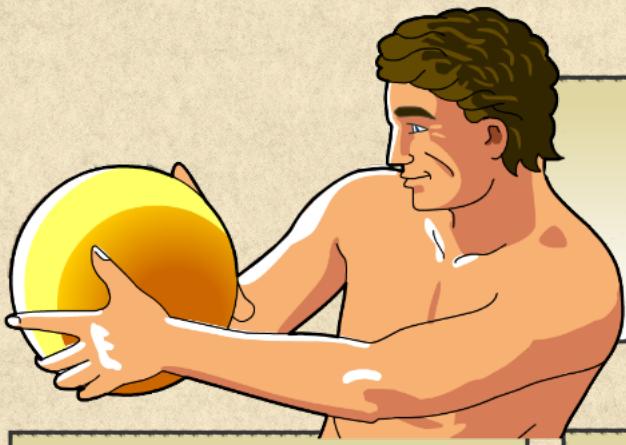
Events at the Ancient Olympics were much like the events held today at the Modern Olympics, but some are very different. The Very first Olympic Games were held in the year 776BC, nearly three thousand years ago. Can you guess where they were held?

they were held
in Olympia!



Events at the Ancient Olympics were much like the events held today at the Modern Olympics, but some are very different.





DISCUS

Just like today - who can throw it the furthest?



FOOT RACE

Just like in today's Olympics, ancient athletes might compete in foot races.

Just like now, there were different lengths of races they might run, long and short distances.

PANKRATION

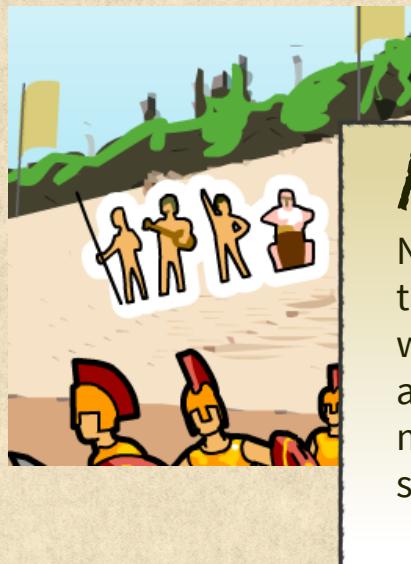
All-in wrestling, much like cage-fighting today. The only rules

were that the fighters couldn't maim or kill one another!



HOPLITE

Something you wouldn't find at today's Olympics - the athletes in this competition put their armour on for the race. Just think how hot it must have been!



MUSIC & DRAMA

Not all of the events at the Ancient Olympics were athletic – there were also competitions in music, drama, and public speaking.



CHARIOT RACING

The winner isn't the man driving the fastest team of horses - it's the man who owns the horses! This is very like horse racing today.

WINNING & LOSING

How many prizes do you think there were for each event at the Ancient Olympics. 1, 2 or 3?

The prizes for the events weren't gold medals like those awarded at the Modern Olympics today. Instead athletes would win laurel wreaths, which they would wear as a crown.

Some winners got extra prizes from their home town when they returned, like never having to pay tax again, or getting free meals at the town hall for life!



There was only one prize for the winner in each event.



MAKE YOUR OWN OLYMPIC TORCH

One of the races at the Ancient Olympics was a relay race, like you may have at your school sports day. Unlike a modern relay race, the Ancient Greeks used flaming torches! Why not have a go at making your own Olympic torch?

What you need:

1 sheet of A4 card (brown or cream)
Red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
Sticky tape
Scissors

How to make the torch:

- 1) Roll the card into a cone shape. Use sticky tape to hold it in place.
- 2) Rip and scrunch up the tissue paper. Don't be neat!
- 3) Stick the tissue paper inside the cone so that lots of it trails out to look like flames.
- 4) Keep going until you have lots of 'flames' coming out of your torch.



Now that you've made your torch, why not hold a relay race with your friends, or your very own Olympic torch parade?

FUN FACTS!

Only men could take part in the Ancient Olympics.

Some competitions for boys were held at the Olympics.

Women had their own version of the Olympics, with a festival for the goddess Hera.

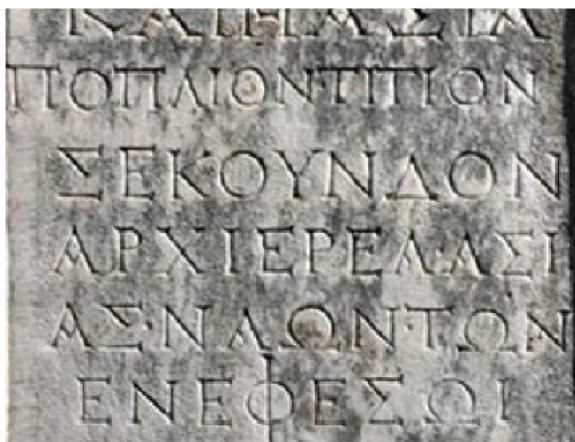
Men competed naked - so women weren't allowed to watch!

GREEK WRITING

Some of the earliest writing in Greece was very different from modern Greek writing.

There were two different types of writing. One which no one has been able to work out yet and one which we can understand. The diagrams shows two examples of the writing.

It is a syllabic form of writing, which means that each character stands for a group of sounds, like 'ti' or 'ma' instead of individual letters.



THE GREEK ALPHABET

This is the modern Greek alphabet which was also used in the Ancient world. It began to develop in around 750BC, and it was adapted from the writing forms of a group of people called the Phoenicians.

α = a

ι = i

π = p

β = b

κ = c *or* k

ρ = r

γ = g

λ = l

σ & ζ = s *use ζ at the end of a word*

δ = d

μ = m

τ = t

ε = e *short*

ν = n

φ = f *or* y

ζ = z

ξ = x

χ = ch *hard, as in loch*

η = e *long*

ο = o *short*

θ = th

ω = o *long*

MATCH THE WORDS

See if you can guess the English translation of the following Greek words.

Αθηνα

Θησευς

Οδυσσευς

Αρτεμις

Ιδεα

παθηρ

κιεμα

διπλομα

χαρακτερ

ασθμα

Panther

Diploma

Chaos

Artemis

Asthma

Character

Odysseus

Idea

Athena

Cinema

PHONETICS

Greek words and names can look really strange and hard to pronounce. Phonetics are the sounds words make when you say them out loud. Use this guide to help you figure out the Greek words in this module!

- Aphrodite *Afro-dye-tee*
- Arachne *Ar-ak-nee*
- Archimedes *Ar-ki-mee-dees*
- Artemisium *Art-eh-miz-ee-um*
- Chronus *Kron-us*
- Delphi *Dell-fee*
- Hermes *Her-meess*
- Hephaestus *Heh-fi-stus*
- Lesbos *Lez-boss*
- Lyre *Liar*
- Menelaus *Men-eh-lay-us*
- Miletus *My-lee-tus*
- Mycalae *My-ka-lie*
- Parthenon *Par-the-non*
- Peloponnesian *Pell-op-on-ees-ee-an*
- Pheidipides *Fi-dip-ee-dees*
- Phrynicus *Frin-ee-kus*
- Poseidon *Poss-eye-don*
- Rhea *Ray-ah*
- Sappho *Sa-foe*
- Syracuse *Sigh-ra-cues*
- Thermopylae *Therm-o-pee-lie*

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

See if you can correctly answer the next 10 questions on Ancient Greece.

1. Where did the Ancient Olympics take place?

- A) Mount Olympus
- B) Olympia
- C) Sparta
- D) Athens

2. Of what was Athena the Patron Goddess?

- A) Wisdom, Craft, & War
- B) The Harvest
- C) The Underworld
- D) Hunting and the moon

3. There was only one prize for each event at the Olympic Games?

- A) True
- B) False

4. Who was God of the Sea?

- A) Hades
- B) Hermes
- C) Zeus
- D) Poseidon

5. Where did Archimedes live?

- A) Delphi
- B) Corinth
- C) Syracuse
- D) Athens

6. Alexander the Great lived before the Peloponnesian War?

- A) True
- B) False

7. What type of government is Athens famous for?

- A) Monarchy
- B) Tyranny
- C) Democracy
- D) Oligarchy

8. Who thought of the Wooden Horse at Troy?

- A) Agamemnon
- B) Odysseus
- C) Perseus
- D) Medea

9. The winner in a chariot race at the Olympic Games was the driver of the chariot?

- A) True
- B) False

10. What was the prize for a winner at the Olympic games?

- A) Laurel crown
- B) Gold medal
- C) Money





ANSWERS!

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**WELL DONE!
YOU'VE COMPLETING
THIS MODULE.**