



It's All Greek to Me:

A study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world



Overview of theme:

This unit uses the history of Ancient Greece to explore how the past has influenced many aspects of modern life. This will build upon work from previous years where children learnt about the impact of the Roman Empire through history and subsequently how the Victorian Age impacted Modern Britain.

The main intent of this theme is to evaluate the legacy left by the Ancient Greeks and to make links with how society operates today.

By the end of this unit children should understand how the Greeks introduced democracy and a legal system, and how both of these inform how we run our country today. In addition, pupils will have explored how Ancient Greece was the birthplace of the theatre, medicine and the Olympics. We will discover how this period produced many original thinkers in mathematics, philosophy and science and its architecture and how they still inspire building design today. By studying this period of history, we will have the opportunity to research everyday life in Greek city states (focusing on Sparta and Athens) and develop an understanding of the importance of the democratic process, drawing parallels with our own system of government. We will conclude this unit with a Greek activity day and presentation evening.

Planned visits and school workshops:

It's all Greek to me on 14th January– visiting workshop at the beginning of the topic to hook pupils in and provide prior learning.

Useful information and reference for parents:

- A trip to the British Museum would be great for looking at original artefacts. Also, look out for buildings featuring Greek temple designs.
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ancient_greeks/
- www.ancientgreece.co.uk/

Homework linked to theme:

To put together an Ancient Greek outfit for your child to wear on Greek day on 1st April.



Curriculum over for the half-term and cross-curricular links to the main theme:

Subject focus of the theme: HISTORY**Core text:** Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan; Skellig by David Almond

English	Percy Jackson and the lightning thief: formal letter and a diary entry Skellig: Missing poster and a non-chronological report on owls
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of amounts• Algebra• Ratios• Proportion• Angles in shapes• Measuring angles• Angle rules
Science	Explore and use the scientific opportunities on site at Chase Bridge. Develop our understanding of the apiary, weather station, pond and edible garden.
Art and design	To design and make a Greek frieze, design the decoration for a Greek pot, design a Greek temple and make a Greek mask To explore Greek pottery using clay To sketch and make clay owls (link with Skellig)
Computing	Programming using Scratch
Design and technology	To make a Greek salad using ingredients from our garden To use levers and mechanisms to tell the story of the first Olympics
History	To place Ancient Greece on a timeline; to know how ancient Greece was made up of city states and what a city state comprised of; to understand Greek democracy and investigate how the Ancient Greeks were entertained.
Drama and Dance	Greek dancing – Zorba.
Music	Songs and music to be performed in our Greek presentation evening
PE	This term, the children will be focusing on dribbling, defending and attacking and shooting within the sports of basketball and dodge-ball. They will also be developing movement and balance skills through gymnastics.
Religious Education	To understand the key principles of Buddhism

Sequence and structure to curriculum theme

1. Getting started! Where does Ancient Greece fit in in our learning?	Entry point: It's all Greek to me workshop run by Freshwater theatre to build some background understanding and excite the pupils Who were the Ancient Greeks? When were they around? What is Greece like as a country?
2. How was Ancient Greece divided?	To develop an understanding of city states in Greece and the differences between them. There will be a focus on Athens and Sparta.
3. What have the Greeks ever done for us?	Greek democracy and how it has influenced our political system. Similarities and differences – including the role of women
4. What was everyday life like in Ancient Greece?	Exploring Greek theatre Examining the similarities and difference between the ancient and modern Olympics Greek architecture - designing and building temples
5. Welcome to our Greek evening!	Pupils and parents will have an opportunity to explore what we have learnt through songs, dances and sketches.

Children's learning

- To understand the different methods of historical enquiry
- To interpret different primary and secondary sources
- To establish the chronology of the period
- To understand historical concepts such as cause and consequence and use them to make connections
- To gain historical perspective by understanding the connections between local, national and international history

