

The Legacy of the Ancient Greece

The earliest Greek civilizations started nearly 4,000 years ago. Yet, their culture still impacts our lives today, in the arts, in philosophy, and in science, math, literature and politics.

Although the Greeks were conquered by the Romans, there are many influences from Greece which can still be found in our lives today:

✓ **Trial by Jury**

✓ **Greek Myths**

✓ **Democracy**

The word 'democracy' is Greek. It means 'government by the people'. We have a form of democracy in Britain, and this is a legacy of the Athenians and their assemblies and councils.

✓ **Tragedy and Comedy** **Sophocles**

✓ **Theatre**

The word 'theatre' is Greek. Most modern theatres follow the Greek plan.

✓ **The Olympics**

The first Olympic Games were held in 776 BC at the Greek city of Olympia.

✓ **Marathon**

Pheidippides ran from Athens to Sparta to ask for help against the Persians just before the Battle of the Marathon (490 BC).

✓ **Building styles (Architecture)**

Throughout the world, buildings have been constructed in the style of Ancient Greece. The British Museum is an example of this.

✓ **The first alphabet with vowels**

The Ancient Greeks played an important part in the development of the alphabet. The first two letters of the Greek alphabet - alpha and beta - have given us the word 'alphabet'.

✓ **History** **Herodotus**

✓ **Maths** **Euclid, Pythagoras**

✓ **Science** **Archimedes**

✓ **Philosophy** **Sokrates, Plato, Aristotle**

✓ **Medicine** **Hippocrates**