

SOCIAL STUDIES · GRADES 4–5

# Ancient Greece

Where modern democracy began

## Quick facts

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| <b>Where</b>                      | Southern Europe — mainland Greece, plus hundreds of islands.                                     |
| <b>When</b>                       | c.800 BCE – 146 BCE.   |
| <b>How it worked</b>              | Not one country. Hundreds of independent city-states (poleis) — Athens, Sparta, Corinth, Thebes. |
| <b>Big idea 1:<br/>Democracy</b>  | In Athens (508 BCE), citizens voted on laws — the first known democracy.                         |
| <b>Big idea 2:<br/>Philosophy</b> | Socrates, Plato and Aristotle asked questions still asked today.                                 |
| <b>Big idea 3:<br/>Olympics</b>   | First Olympic Games held in 776 BCE in Olympia. A truce paused all wars during the games.        |
| <b>Theatre</b>                    | Greek tragedies and comedies are still performed today (Sophocles, Aristophanes).                |
| <b>Architecture</b>               | Columns, temples, the Parthenon. Used as a model for buildings worldwide for 2,000+ years.       |
| <b>Gods</b>                       | Zeus, Athena, Apollo, Poseidon — 12 main gods who lived on Mount Olympus.                        |
| <b>Greatest legacy</b>            | Almost every Western idea about democracy, drama, science, sport and philosophy starts here.     |

