

Table of contents

| | | | |
|--|----|---|-----|
| Introduction | 3 | The Olympic Games | 78 |
| The land of Greece | 4 | The Games that belong to the world – | |
| Gifts from Greece – Which of these words | | The Opening and Closing Ceremonies – | |
| came from Greek? – Which ‘polis’ do you live | | List of Olympic Games – Make an Olympic | |
| in? – How the Greeks help us stay healthy – | | flag – A motto for the Games – Carrying the | |
| A body of knowledge – Map projects – | | flames of the Games – Torch relay math – | |
| Famous thinkers puzzle – A flag for Greece – | | The discus – Wreaths for the winners – The | |
| Greek flag template – Sponges – Sponges are | | olive wreath award for good sportsmanship – | |
| for more than just cleaning! – Saving the | | Classroom event score sheet – The Olympic | |
| loggerhead sea turtle on Zakynthos – Create a | | scoreboard – My event chart – Making a | |
| sea turtle or ‘jago’ picture – Making a turtle | | timeline – My personal timeline – Timeline | |
| stamp or other endangered species coins – | | activities and game – Timeline spinner – | |
| Endangered species – Santorini: An island | | timeline banner – A very long race | |
| with a secret – A summary of the Greek | | | |
| Islands | | The wonders of ancient Greece | 108 |
| People and lifestyles | 24 | Alphabet activities – The Greek alphabet – | |
| Weaving and spinning – Woven placemats – | | Alphabet search – Secret messages: A Greek | |
| Grecian oil lamps – Papyrus: Paper from | | code mystery – Ancient Greek coins – | |
| reeds – A different type of library – Greek | | Ancient Greek money maths – Greek drama | |
| shadow puppets – The evil eye and other | | – Greek masks – Greek fashion statements – | |
| superstitions – Pilactos – Extra! Extra! Read | | Greek clothing – Let’s play ‘ancient Greek | |
| all about it! – Making your own worry beads | | dress-up!’ – Pillars of the past and present – | |
| – Worry bead pattern | | Design a Greek building – Greek ornaments | |
| Food and festivals | 43 | – Trojan Horse teamwork puzzle – What | |
| Greek holidays – Pascha – Christmas in | | could these be? – The Spartans – Creating an | |
| Greece – St Basil’s cake (Vasilopitta) – Name | | historical Greek mural (class project) | |
| Days and names – Name Day list– Greek | | Greek mythology and literature | 137 |
| wedding traditions – Ochi Day – | | <i>My Book of Greek Mythology</i> – | |
| A national holiday for saying ‘No!’ – | | The thunder and lightning of Zeus – The | |
| A Greek cookout: Shish kebab – Stuffed | | wisdom of Athena – Athena and Arachne – | |
| grape leaves – Olga’s baklava – Marty Sulek’s | | Archne puppet pattern – Hunting for the | |
| plaka tsatziki (cucumber yogurt dip) – Eat | | gods – Hunting for the gods answer key – | |
| Greek and eat healthy – Greek lemon soup | | The a-mazing feats of Theseus – | |
| (avgolemono) | | The a-mazing feats of Theseus answer key – | |
| Arts and crafts | 62 | Helping you remember – | |
| <i>Count Your Way Through Greece</i> – Greek | | A mischievous god – The wings of Hermes – | |
| word book – <i>My Count to Ten in Greek</i> book | | The lyre – Greek monsters – Design your | |
| – Greek pottery – Greek pottery patterns – | | own mythical beast – Aesop’s fables – Create | |
| Pottery jumble: An archaeological challenge | | a fable – Citizen of the world award – It’s not | |
| – Extension activities for the pottery jumble – | | all Greek to me anymore! | |
| Creating a Grecian work of art – | | Bibliography | 177 |
| Greek icons – Greek treasure boxes – | | Internet resources | 178 |
| A fresh look at fresco | | | |

Introduction

Greece is a country with a rich heritage. From the wonders of the ancient Greek civilisation to the present day, Greece is full of variety and life. History, science, literature, mathematics and government all owe much to the Greek thinkers. Food, dance, music and art have a place in the daily lives of the Greek people. Greece has affected Western Civilisation in every area of the arts and sciences throughout time. It is no wonder that Greece is often referred to as the 'Cradle of Western civilisation'.

The activities in this book will help to introduce students to the widely varied culture and history of Greece. Rich literature is represented through Greek mythology and the timeless stories of Aesop, along with more modern books. The ancient Greeks were the inventors of drama, and students can practice their dramatic skills while doing group readings. Vocabulary study is enhanced through a look at the roots of English words influenced by the Greek language. Students will have an opportunity to learn to count to 10 in Greek.

Studying the Olympics will give students the chance to practice athletic competitions, get to know more about the history and traditions of the games and become involved with the upcoming Olympic Games. Students can keep score and use their maths skills to determine winners in classroom competitions. They can plan their own classroom or school-wide Olympic Games complete with an opening ceremony, lighting of the torch and crowning of the winners. We recommend that the class Olympics be used as a final activity where the students can display their flags, reports, pictures and perhaps put on a Greek play, complete with dress and masks.

A taste of Greek food will enhance the learning experience while students examine traditions of the Greek islands and the people who live there. Students can explore the history of worry beads, icons and other traditions. Activities will lead students to a greater appreciation of the way that people live in this very different country.

Ancient Greece is included in the activities. Students will have a chance to design and wear Greek clothing. They can also design pottery and go on an archaeological dig to search for ancient treasure. Maths skills are applied as they make and spend ancient coins.

The ancient Greeks shopped in marketplaces called *agoras*. In the agora Greeks shopped for food and daily items, as well as more luxurious and expensive items. The agora provided a place for trade, but also for socialising and interaction. Creating an agora is another good culminating activity for your class. There the students can display the items they have made, wear ancient Greek clothing, trade with old coins and share their reports and pictures. Students can make items to sell for euros at the market. You could have the agora as part of the class Olympics so that all children will have a role in the activity.

This book represents a doorway to the world of Greece. During your study of this amazing country, you will find that there are many new things to learn about this ancient land.



Gifts from Greece

Greece is often called the 'Cradle of Western Civilisation', and for a good reason. Many of the ideas and things that people take for granted today were born in Greece thousands of years ago.

The Greeks were very fond of science, maths and learning. They were the first to organise schools and libraries. They also developed mathematical ideas such as fractions and geometry. They organised much of their knowledge in the first encyclopedias. They were among the first to study the human body and how it works. This science is called *anatomy*.

The Greeks created a system of government in which people could vote for their rulers. They called this government a *democracy*. It is the same way the government of Australia operates today. Many other countries of the world use the same system.

Sports were important to the Greeks. They started the Olympics, boxing and marathons. They were the first to build stadiums for people to watch athletic events.

Greek people also enjoyed getting together to see plays, and they were the first to put on plays in theaters. Their plays were called *comedies* and *tragedies*. The actors would wear costumes and masks, and they would use special effects to amuse the audiences.

There are many ways people benefit from the knowledge of the Greeks. Can you find out more?

Gifts from Greece riddles

Here are four riddles about things that came from the Greeks. Can you figure them out?

Riddle 1

Above I name a part.
Below I name the whole.
I'm smaller on the top
Than I am on the bottom.
Because if I were not
Then I'd be improper!

Riddle 2

I am at the heart of the matter.
Some people would give an arm and a leg
To know more about me.
I can save lives and help you be strong.

Riddle 3

People from all over the world
Gather to be part of me.
There are many of me every year
In many cities and countries.
Sometimes I am large and famous.
Sometimes I am small and little known,
But I always have my 42.195 kilometres.

Riddle 4

My first part means 'people'.
My second part means 'government'.
You can vote for or against me,
Because the choice is yours.

Hint: Fold this section under before photocopying.

Answers: 1. fraction 2. science anatomy 3. marathon 4. democracy



Which of these words came from Greek?

Many of the words we use today came from the Greek language. Put an X next to the words that you think came from Greek culture. Then check the next page to see if you were correct.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ 1. cleaver | _____ 6. alphabet |
| _____ 2. gymnasium | _____ 7. bicycle |
| _____ 3. planet | _____ 8. elephant |
| _____ 4. dachshund | _____ 9. hippopotamus |
| _____ 5. rhinoceros | _____ 10. turkey |

Hint: Fold this section under before photocopying.

1. cleaver – No. This is a word from Old English. It means a heavy knife or hatchet.
2. gymnasium – Yes. This was the name of the schools where students also learned about sports in ancient Greece.
3. planet – Yes. This word came from *planasthai*, which meant to wander. Planets look like wandering stars.
4. dachshund – No. This word comes from the German language. *Dach* means badger and *hund* means hunt.
5. rhinoceros – Yes. *Rhin* or *rhino* means nose or nasal. *Keros* means horn. A rhinoceros has a large horn on its nose.
6. alphabet – Yes. *Alpha* is the name of the first letter of the Greek alphabet. *Beta* is the name of the second letter.
7. bicycle – Yes. *Bi* means two. *Kylos* means wheel. What do we call a three-wheeled bicycle?
8. elephant – Yes. The Greek word for elephant was *elephas*.
9. hippopotamus – Yes. *Hippos* means horse, and *potamos* means river. Hippopotami are large animals that live mostly in or near rivers. The plural can be either hippopotami or hippopotamuses. Can you spell these words?
10. turkey – No. Turkeys are birds that come from North America. The Greeks would never have seen a turkey.

Which 'polis' do you live in?

Greece is a country of many small islands and a rocky, mountainous mainland. In ancient times, it was difficult for people to travel from place to place. About 1200 BC, the Greeks began to form city-states. These city-states were small areas of the country that surrounded cities. They would be named for the city that they were built around. For example, the city-state around Athens was named 'Athens'. The one around the city of Sparta was called 'Sparta' and so forth. At one point in time, there were more than 700 city-states in Greece.

The city-states would have their own laws, their own rulers and their own ways of doing things. This is where the idea of democracy was born. Many of the city-states in Greece allowed the people to vote and have a voice in the government. Eventually, Greece became known as the 'Cradle of Democracy'.

The Greek name for these city-states was 'polis'. Now when people speak about cities, they use the ancient Greek term. Any large city is called a *metropolis* (from the Greek *meter*, which means mother, and *polis*, which means city). What do people call a very large urban area that includes many towns and cities close together? A megalopolis! (*Mega* means big.)

