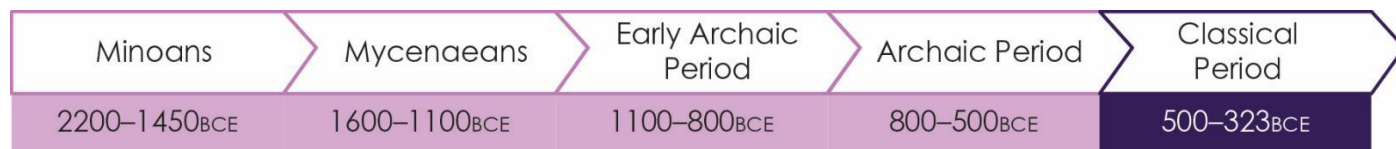


How was Ancient Greece ruled?

What was the Archaic Period?

The Archaic Period began in 800BCE, after the Early Archaic Period. During this period, Greece significantly increased its trade and city-states were created. The population also began to increase dramatically. Both the increase in population and trade led to changes in Greek language, art, architecture, and politics.



What is Greece's land like?

Today, Greece is surrounded by three seas: the Aegean Sea, the Ionian Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea. There are approximately 1000 islands around mainland Greece. Around 80 per cent of Greece is covered in mountains, so many people live near the sea. This means the ports are very important. Sailing is the main way to travel, and fishing is a key source of food and trade.

Because of Greece's physical geography, Ancient Greeks found the land hard to farm, and the rocky mountainous land made it difficult for them to travel and communicate. The mountains and islands made it difficult for Ancient Greeks to unite under one government. The Greeks called their land 'Hellas', and their people were called 'Hellenes'. It was the Romans who later named the area 'Greece'.

What were the city-states and how were they run?

The mountainous land meant that Ancient Greece was not one unified empire. Instead, the Greeks lived in cities called a city-state or polis. Each city-state had a powerful main city that often was surrounded by walls surrounding for protection, with temples and government buildings in the centre. These buildings were often built on top of a hill or acropolis. Most of the people lived in the city as it was the centre of trade.

Ancient Greece was split into smaller cities, called city-states or polis. Each Ancient Greek city-state was run independently so they each followed a different type of government. The city-states were each governed by a monarchy, an oligarchy, tyranny, or democracy.

Monarchy - A monarchy is a form of government with a monarch at the head. A monarch is a king or queen. People in Ancient Greece did not have a say about who the monarch was as the monarch's powers were passed down to their heirs. These heirs were usually sons.

Tyranny - Tyranny is a form of government where there is one ruler. That ruler is called a tyrant. A tyrant would be the only one in control of making decisions for the city-state.

Oligarchy - An oligarchy is where small groups of powerful individuals ruled over the people. Only these rich and powerful people could make decisions about their city-state.

Democracy - Democracy began in Athens. A democracy allowed citizens to vote for their ruler and on the decisions made for the city-state. However, only wealthy men could vote in Athenian democracy, so the poor, women, and enslaved people were not allowed to vote.