

# Ancient Greece | Geography | Years 5 & 6 | Spring Term 2021-22

## Physical Geography

- 1 Modern day Greece is surrounded by three seas – the Aegean Sea, the Ionian Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.
- 2 The mainland is 80% mountains. This terrain made it very difficult to farm, to travel and to communicate so led to the seas and ports, and fishing, and sailing became really important part of their lives.
- 3 The mainland of Greece is surrounded by more than 1000 smaller islands – the Greek islands.



Political border of modern-day Greece within Europe today.

## Human geography

- 1 People at the time did not refer to themselves as being Greeks; instead they called themselves Hellenes and they called the area that they lived in as Hellas. It was the Romans much later on, who gave the name Greece to the region.
- 2 Ancient Greeks lived in smaller communities called 'polis' or 'city-states'. The four main city-states were: Athens, Sparta, Knossos and Olympia.
- 3 The Ancient Greek empire was at its largest during the rule of Alexander the Great from 336 BC to 323 BC.

## Vocabulary

Terrain	The physical features of a stretch of land.
Physical geography	The branch of geography dealing with natural features such as mountains, deserts and climate.
Empire	An extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch, an oligarchy or sovereign state.
Expansion	The growth of an empire; the action of becoming larger or more extensive.
Dissolution	The ending or destruction of an empire by breaking down, disrupting or dispersing.
City-state	An urban centre surrounded by countryside which ruled itself; its has its own government, own laws and own army.



Location of the main city-states in Ancient Greece.

## Key Concepts

Expansion and dissolution of the empire	Colonies and trading posts were established along the Mediterranean, Asian and African coastlines due to lack of sufficient arable land to feed their inhabitants. They were also keen to control maritime trade routes. Division of the empire between Alexander the Great's heirs into separate regions facilitated invasion and expansion by the Roman empire.
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## Lesson Progression

1

How was Ancient Greece organised? How did their location influence their societal structure?

Locate modern day Greece and understand its physical geography: surrounded by three seas; mainland and over a thousand of islands; 80% of mainland covered in mountains. Apply knowledge to explain how trade, jobs and settlements were affected in the past.

[6]

Why was Alexander so Great?

Explain how the Ancient Greek empire expanded under the rule of Alexander the Great and reflect on how his untimely death led to the ultimate dissolution of the empire.

## Whole School Big Ideas

Investigate places

Investigate patterns

Appreciate natural  
resources

Communicate  
geographically

## Develop an understanding over time of Key Themes

Location, physical features, human features, human processes