



Year 3 Topic snapshot- Mermaids and Monsters!

Ancient Greece: Period Overview

1. This is a long chronological period: Ancient Greek culture begins around 2700 BC and ends around 150 BC.
2. The Ancient Greeks did not think of themselves as belonging to a single country; what made you Greek was a shared culture and language. Your citizenship was of your town or city; you were Athenian first and Greek second.
3. The geography of Greece, dominated by the sea and by mountain ranges, created and supported this local identity.
4. The Ancient Greeks have given a huge legacy to modern Europe: civilisation, democracy, scientific and mathematical knowledge, written history....

Mythological Figures

1. Mermaids - a mythical sea creature with the head and trunk of a woman and the tail of a fish. NB: Mermaids as we know them today did not appear in Ancient Greek mythology!
2. Sirens – creatures (half bird and half women) who lured sailors to shipwreck with their beautiful singing
3. Poseidon – God of the Sea
4. Nereids/Sea nymphs – female spirits of sea waters who help sailors
5. Medusa – a monster with snakes for hair
6. The Hydra – a water monster who could regrow her head when it was chopped off
7. The Minotaur – a creature with the head and tail of a bull and the body of a man
8. Pegasus – a winged horse

Key Vocabulary

1. **Marathon** – a town. The legend about a messenger racing from Athens to Marathon inspires our marathons today!
 2. **Democracy** – a system of government based on a belief in equality between all people
 3. **Olympus** – home of the Gods
 4. **The Underworld** – a world underground where souls go after death. Ruled by the god Hades.
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