THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT GREECE
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rW3RdNC0qfc
Why is it so important?

• Ancient Greece is called 'the birthplace of Western civilisation'.

• **Why?** => Because they created a way of life that has been admired and copied. (Ex: Romans copied Greek art and Greek gods).

• The Ancient Greeks also tried out democracy, started the Olympic Games and developed
  • Science
  • Literature
  • Art
  • Philosophy
How did the natural environment influence the development of Greek civilization?

- Proximity to the sea → commercial activities

- Mountainous territory and so many islands: → independent states.
"Ancient Greece" is not a country, but a group of several small **city-states (Poleis)**. Each one had its own government, so they were **independent**.
City-states have...

**In common**
- Language
  (poems like *The Iliad* and the *Odyssey*)
- Religion
  Polytheistic.
  Gods lived on Mount Olympus

**Different**
- own government
- laws
- currency
- army
Periods: create your own timeline in your notebook following this information

- **Prehellenistic Cultures** (Cretan and Achaean: 2000 BCE – IX BCE)
- **Archaic Period** (8th-6th BC)
  - Poleis
  - Colonisation
- **Classical Period** (490-338 BC)
  - The Greco-Persian Wars
  - The Peloponnesian War
- **Hellenistic Period** (338-1st Century BC)
  - Alexander The Great
  - Helenistics Kingdoms
1. Archaic Period (8th-6th BC)

- The **poleis** became organised.
- There were more than 200 **poleis**.
- They started **Colonisation**
Looking at this map: what do you think that was the main goal of Greek colonization?

TRADE
2. The Classical period (490-338 BC)

- This was the greatest period for the Greek poleis.
- The most important ones were **Athens** and **Sparta**.
- But there were also a number of conflicts:
  - Greco-Persian Wars
  - Peloponnesian Wars
The 5th century BC is known as the Age of **Pericles** because he ruled over Athens for 31 years.

During this time, Athens developed art, philosophy, theatre...
Sparta: a military state

- Sparta did not develop trade and crafts
- Sparta remained a powerful military state
- The most important thing was the army.
- No literature, no arts, no philosophy

**Political structure**

**Sparta II**

- 2 KINGS (chiefs of the army)
- 5 EPHORS (magistrates)
- COUNSEL or GEROUSIA (28 elders)

**ASSAMBY**

**SPARTIATES:** citizens and true soldiers

**PERIOIKOI:** free men, not citizens, workers

**HELOTS:** slaves owned by the state
SPARTA

2 KINGS
• 2 families
• Military leaders

"THE EQUALS"
• Military training
• Only ones with political rights
• Sustained by Sparta

WOMEN
• Free, but no political rights
• Tradesmen or artisans

PERIOECI
• Had no rights
• Owned by Sparta
• Worked the lands

HELLOTS

ATHENS

CITIZENS
• Free male athenians
• Political rights

WOMEN
• No political rights

METICS
• Foreigners
• No political rights
• Artisans, merchants

PART OF “THE EQUALS”
• Part of “the equals”
• No political rights

PERIOECI
• Free, but no political rights

SLAVES
• Had no rights
• Owned by Sparta
• Worked the lands

METICS
• No rights
• By debts or by wars
• Heavy, domestic work

SLAVES
• No rights
• Heavy, domestic work
Democracy versus Oligarchy

- Democracy: “rule by the people”
- Oligarchy: “rule by the few”

- What are the differences you see between Athens and Sparta (book pg 119) that tell you one is a democracy and one is an oligarchy?
Democracy versus Oligarchy

- **Athens:**
  - Assembly (Ecclesia) made of all citizens (+18) has greater decision-making power.
  - Boule = 500 men
  - Magistrates = 19 men

- **Sparta**
  - Assembly (Apella) (+30) has limited decision-making power.
  - Gerousia = 28 old men
  - Ephors = 5 men
Democracy?

• Which members of Athenian society did NOT have political rights?
  Women, Metics, Slaves

• Only 20% of people participated in the democracy!
Greco-Persian Wars (also called “Median Wars”)
  -Battle of Marathon, 490 BCE
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdmaJPqwitA
  -Battle of Salamina (Salami), 480 BCE

Delian League (478 BCE): alliance of Greek poleis to protect against the Persians

Peloponnesian Wars (431 – 404 BCE)
  -Conflicts between Greek poleis
  -Sparta eventually defeats Athens
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- Spartan rule was oppressive, and some poleis revolt against it.
3. Hellenistic Period (338-30 BC)

- **Alexander the Great** (356-323) was the son of Philip II and continued his expansion.

- He unified the Greek city-states to confront the Persian Empire. He created a great empire that ranged from the Mediterranean to the Indian border.

- Alexander was a charismatic leader. He was educated by Aristotle.

- He spread Greek culture through the East. This process is called **Hellenism**
Do you know what the **Gordian Knot** is?

Do you know what Alexander did with it?
The Conquests of Alexander The Great
MAP OF THE EMPIRE OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT
B.C. 331-323
By A. C. Clere.
SCALE OF MILES
Alexander's Marches — Directions indicated