

Knowledge Organiser: Year 3 Autumn 2

History - Gods and Mortals

Key Vocabulary

City state	An ancient city and surrounding area with an independent government - Athens and Sparta.
Conquer	To take control of another country, usually after war/battle.
Democracy	A system where the government is elected by the people.
God	A worshipped immortal being/spirit that is believed to have supreme power.
Hoplite	A heavily armoured foot soldier of ancient Greece.
Labyrinth	A set of complicated passageways that make it easy to get lost.
Minotaur	A monster that was half man and half bull who lived in the labyrinth.
Mount Olympus	A mountain peak where the ancient Greeks believed their gods lived.
Myth	An ancient story that explains the early history of a group of people.
Sparta	A warrior society in ancient Greece who defeated Athens in the Peloponnesian War.



Gods and Goddesses

The ancient Greeks believed the gods and goddesses watched over them from Mount Olympus and that each god or goddess had power over a different part of the world.

- Zeus: king of the gods and ruler of the skies.
- Poseidon: god of the sea.
- Hades: god of the underworld.
- Demeter: goddess of the Earth and harvest.
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Greek Myths

Greek myths are stories about gods/magical creatures. They taught people about values: bravery and right and wrong.

Icarus and Daedalus: Daedalus and his son, Icarus, built a labyrinth for King Minos of Crete. They were locked up but escaped by making wings from leather and wax.

Theseus and the Minotaur: Theseus from Athens killed the Minotaur and then escaped with Princess Ariadne.

Pandora's Box: Zeus gave Pandora a box and told her to never open it. She opened the box and terrible things (hate/sickness) came into the world. The last thing to come out was hope.

Trojan War

The war was between Troy and the Greek city-states. A Greek soldier, Odysseus, had a plan to get inside the walls of Troy. The Greeks built a wooden horse and hid 30 soldiers inside. The Trojans took the horse into the city and during the night, the Greeks crept out of the horse and opened the city gates. The Greeks fought the Trojans and won the war.



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