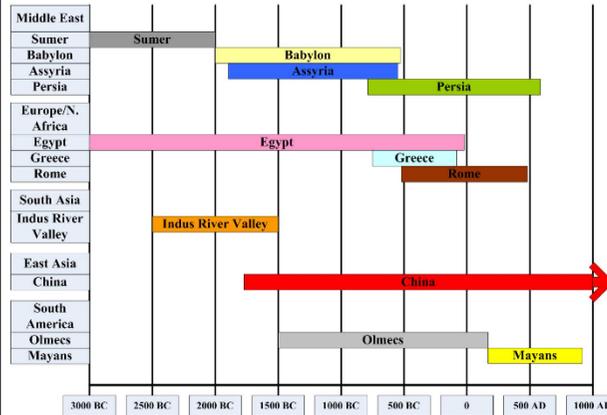


# The influence of Ancient Greece on the modern world

## How was it ruled?

In ancient Athens, citizens would gather together on a dusty hill called the Pnyx. Here they would decide the city's laws and who should sit on its ruling council. This was 'democracy' or 'rule by the people'.

All 30,000 citizens were men. Women and enslaved people didn't get a say.



## Athens and Sparta -

In ancient times, the Greeks lived in city states. Each state had its own laws, government and money but they shared the same language and religion. The two most important city states were Athens and Sparta.

## Language -

Like most other societies, the ancient Greeks communicated by speaking. The Greeks were the first Europeans to have an alphabet - one that eventually gave birth to all modern European languages spoken today.



## Architecture -

The Ancient Greeks had a unique style of architecture that is still copied today in government buildings and major monuments throughout the world. Greek architecture is known for tall columns, intricate detail and symmetry.

## Vocabulary -

**Government** - a group of people that have the power to rule in a territory,

**Democracy** - decisions about who should lead a country are made by the majority of its people.

**Culture** - the beliefs, customs, arts etc, of a society.

**Parthenon** - a former temple in Athens dedicated to Athena.



## The Olympics -

The Greeks loved sport as much as we do. They enjoyed the discus, javelin, long jump, boxing and horse racing. Every four years the Greeks held a special sporting festival at Olympia - the Olympic Games. These inspired the modern Olympics which began in 1896.

## Schooling -

Greek schools were not free and so only the rich could really afford to send their children to school. Education was different for boys and girls. Boys were educated to become good citizens and take part in the public life of the city state. Girls were educated in housekeeping and how to look after the family. Most Greek children, especially girls, didn't go to school.