



Ancient Greek Inventions We Use Every Day

KS2 HISTORY

ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 3 min read

The Ancient Greeks Changed the World

Over **2,500 years ago**, the ancient **Greeks** lived in what is now **Greece**. They were incredibly clever and invented so many things that we still use today. Without them, life would be very different!

Clever Ideas About Thinking and Learning

The ancient Greeks loved asking questions and finding answers through thinking. They invented **democracy** — a way of government where people vote and have a say in decisions. Today, many countries around the world use **democratic systems** just like the Greeks did. They also started **philosophy**, which means "love of wisdom." Philosophers asked big questions like "What is right?" and "How should we live?" We still study these ideas in schools.

The Greeks also invented the **Olympic Games** around **776 BCE**. They held these sporting competitions to honour their gods. Modern **Olympic Games** still happen every four years, and athletes compete in many of the same sports the Greeks enjoyed!

Think of it like: The ancient Greeks were like the first people to write down the rules of a game that everyone still plays today.

Inventions and Technology

The Greeks created amazing tools and machines. They invented **pulleys** and **levers**, which helped them lift heavy things. Construction workers still use these today! They also created early forms of **mechanical clocks** and even a machine called the **Antikythera mechanism** — sometimes called the world's first computer.

The Greeks made progress in **medicine** and science. A famous doctor called **Hippocrates** developed a code of behaviour for doctors called the **Hippocratic Oath**. Doctors still take a similar oath today when they qualify.

Think of it like: A Greek invention is like a recipe that has been passed down through families for thousands of years — everyone still uses it because it works so well.

Art, Writing and Stories

The Greeks invented the **alphabet** we use today (well, almost!). They also created incredible sculptures, pottery, and architecture. The **columns** on Greek temples inspired builders for centuries. Many important buildings today still use Greek-style columns.

Greek writers created amazing stories and plays that we still read and perform.

Homer wrote the **Iliad** and the **Odyssey**, which are still studied in schools worldwide.

Why Greek Ideas Last

The ancient Greeks were thinkers and innovators. They didn't just accept things as they were — they questioned, experimented, and created. That spirit of discovery is what made their inventions so powerful and lasting. Even though thousands of years have passed, we still benefit from their brilliant minds today!