

Ancient Greece Timeline for Kids

776 BC to 336 BC

Long ago, the people of Greece lived in small cities beside the sea. They gave the world the Olympic Games, plays, and the idea that people can vote. This timeline shows some of the great moments of ancient Greece.

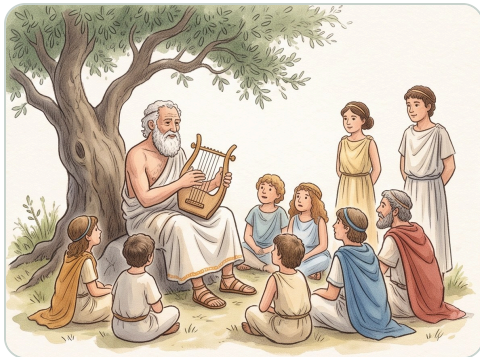


776 BC

The First Olympic Games

The first Olympic Games are held at a place called Olympia. At first there is only one event, a running race. The games are held every four years.

Why it matters: The Olympic Games are still held today, with athletes from all over the world.

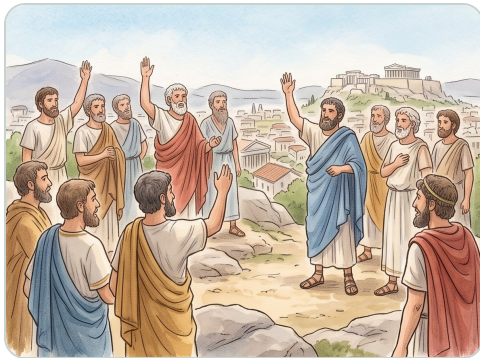


About 750 BC

Stories of Heroes

A poet named Homer tells long poems about heroes, gods and a great war. The Greeks also begin to write with an alphabet.

Why it matters: People still read Homer's stories. Our own alphabet grew from the Greek one.



508 BC

People Get a Vote

In the city of Athens, free men begin to vote on laws and leaders. This is called democracy. Women and enslaved people are not allowed to vote.

Why it matters: Democracy means rule by the people. Many countries use it today.



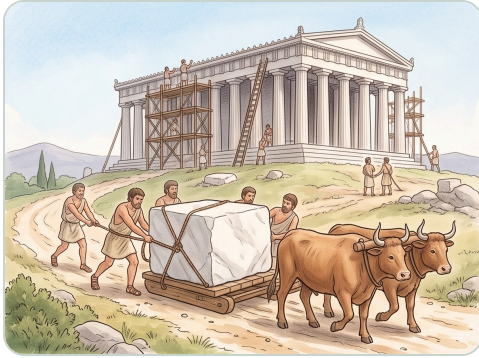
490 BC

The Battle of Marathon

A huge army from Persia attacks Greece. The Greeks win a battle at a place called Marathon. A story says a runner ran all the way to Athens with the news.

Why it matters: The long race called a marathon is named for that run.

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432 BC

The Parthenon

The people of Athens finish a great marble temple on a hill. It is called the Parthenon. It took 15 years to build.

Why it matters: The Parthenon still stands in Athens. It is one of the most famous buildings in the world.



About 387 BC

A Famous School

A thinker named Plato opens a school in Athens. Students come to talk about big questions, like what is fair and what is true.

Why it matters: Greek thinkers changed the way people study math, science and ideas.



336 BC

Alexander the Great

Alexander becomes king at age 20. He leads his army east and builds a huge empire. It reaches all the way to India.

Why it matters: Greek language and ideas spread to many lands.

Words to know

Olympic Games: sports contests first held in ancient Greece

democracy: a kind of government where people vote

temple: a building made for worship

empire: many lands ruled by one leader