

Reading extract and questions:

Year 3-4

Ancient Greece

Set A/B

The earliest Greek civilisations date back nearly 4,000 years, to around 1,600 BC. The Ancient Greek Empire spread from Greece through Europe and started when the Mycenaeans from Crete fought and won the Trojan War, thanks to a clever ploy involving a wooden horse. A famous legend tells how the determined Greeks conquered the city of Troy – by hiding inside a giant wooden horse! The horse was left outside the city’s walls and, thinking it a gift, the people of Troy wheeled it inside... only for the devious Greek soldiers to creep out after dark and seize the city.



In 800 BC, the Greeks started to divide their land – which included the Greek mainland, islands and the countries we now call Bulgaria and Turkey – into city-states, each with its own laws, customs and rulers. Athens, Sparta and Corinth were the most powerful.

There are many myths and legends written about Greek Gods. The Greeks believed that a family of gods lived in a cloud palace above Mount Olympus (the highest mountain in Greece). These gods were thought to have special powers, and each had control over a different aspect of life. Find out about some of them in the table below...

<p>POSEIDON Zeus’ brother, Poseidon, was in charge of the sea and horses. He showed his anger by striking the bottom of the sea to cause earthquakes!</p>	<p>ZEUS Zeus was the king of all gods. He was also god of the sky, and when he was in a bad mood, he’d create huge storms and thunderbolts!</p>	<p>APOLLO AND ARTEMIS These were Zeus’ children. Apollo was the Sun god and in charge of music. His twin, Artemis, had the power to send deathly plagues, but she could heal people too.</p>
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The Greeks put statues of their gods inside temples, the most famous of which is the Parthenon. This temple in Athens was built for the goddess Athena, the protector of the city. When people needed help from the gods, they went to the temple to pray. They might go if they were feeling sick, going on a journey or worried about the harvest on the farm. To please the gods, people brought gifts of money, flowers, food and drink. They offered these gifts as sacrifices. Animals, like cattle, were sometimes killed as sacrifices. Then people feasted on the roasted meat.

The Ancient Greeks held many festivals in honour of their gods. To celebrate the god Zeus, for example, the first Greek Olympics were held in the city of Olympia in 776 BC and are thought to have inspired our own Olympic Games! The winners of each event were given a wreath of leaves, and when they returned home, they would be given free meals and the best seats in the theatre!

Events at the Greek’s Olympics included wrestling, boxing, long jump, javelin, discus and chariot racing. But those taking part in the wrestling event had to be the toughest, as there were hardly any rules – and they had to compete without any clothes on!

Questions for *Ancient Greece*

Set A

Vocabulary:

1. In the first paragraph, look at the sentence beginning: ‘Thanks to a clever ploy involving a wooden horse...’.

Which word is closest in meaning to the word *ploy*?

Tick **one**.

leader

plan

army

person

2. **Find** and **copy one** word which suggests that the Greek soldiers were *crafty*.

3. Look at the section of text beginning: ‘The Greeks put statues...’

Find and **copy one** word which means *look after*.

Retrieval

4. When does the ancient Greek civilisation date back to?

5. What did the Mycenaeans conquer?

6. Write **two** Greek city-states.

1. _____

2. _____

Inference

7. Why did the Greek soldiers wait until dark to seize the city of Troy?

8. Complete the table below with **one** piece of evidence to support each statement.

	Evidence
How the gods punished the Greeks.	
How the gods helped the Greeks.	

9. How do you know the Gods were special to the Greeks? Write **two** ways.

1. _____

2. _____

Summarise

10. Here are some summaries of different paragraphs in the text. Number them from **1** to **4** to show the order in which they appear.

- Reasons for praying to the gods.
- Taking part in the Olympic games.
- The City of Troy was conquered.
- Parts of Greece were divided up.

Meaning as a whole

11.

one
each
to

	True	False
The Greek soldiers pushed the horse into the city of Troy.		
The Greeks turned to the gods in times of trouble.		
The earliest Greek civilisations date back to 4,000 BC		
Zeus created earthquakes when he was in a bad mood.		

Tick
box in
row
show

whether the statements are **true** or **false**.

Questions for *Ancient Greece* Set B

Vocabulary:

1. Look at the paragraph beginning: *The earliest Greek Civilisations...* Find and copy one word meaning capture.

2. Look at the paragraph beginning: *In 800 BC...* Which word is closest in meaning to the word *split*?

3. In the paragraph beginning: *The ancient Greeks held...*
Which word is closest in meaning to the word *honour*?

Tick one.

apologise

feed

inspire

respect

Retrieval

4. Complete the table below to show what each god controlled.

God	In charge of...
Poseidon	
Zeus	
Apollo	

5. Write **two** reasons why the Greeks may have gone to the temple to pray.

1. _____

2. _____

6. How did the Greeks celebrate the God Zeus?

Inference

7. Why would people have worked hard to win an event at the Olympics?

8. Which event at the Olympics was the most challenging? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

9. Why might the Greeks have been scared of upsetting the Gods? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Meaning as a whole

10. Draw lines to match each section to its main content.

Introduction

Events included long jump, javelin, discus and chariot racing.

Dividing their land.

A statue of Athena was put in the Parthenon.

Gods

Sparta was one of the most powerful city-states.

Olympics

The Ancient Greek Empire spread from Greece through Europe.

Compare

11. Which of the gods do you think the Greeks would have been most in fear of? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

Answers for Ancient Greece

Set A:

Vocabulary:

1. plan
2. devious
3. protector

Retrieval:

4. 1,600 BC
5. The city of Troy
6. Accept any two from: Athens/Sparta/Corinth

Inference:

7. So they would not be seen/so the people of Troy wouldn't see them
- 8.

	Evidence
How the gods punished the Greeks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Striking the bottom of the sea to cause earthquakes• Creating huge storms and thunderbolts• Sending the deathly plague
How the gods helped the Greeks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By healing people• They controlled the sea, sun, sky• They prayed to them if they were feeling sick, going on a journey or worried about the harvest on the farm

9. Accept any two from: They prayed to them/they brought them gifts such as money, flowers, food and drink/they offered gifts as sacrifices. Animals, like cattle, were sometimes killed as sacrifices.

Summarise:

10.
 - 3 Reasons for praying to the gods.
 - 4 Taking part in the Olympic games.
 - 1 The City of Troy was conquered.
 - 2 Parts of Greece were divided up.

Meaning as a whole:

11.

	True	False
The Greek soldiers pushed the horse into the city of Troy.		✓
The Greeks turned to the gods in times of trouble.	✓	
The earliest Greek civilisations date back to 4,000 BC		✓
Zeus created earthquakes when he was in a bad mood.		✓

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Answers for *Ancient Greece*

Set B:

Vocabulary:

1. seize
2. divide
3. respect

Retrieval:

4.

God	In charge of...
Poseidon	The sea and horses
Zeus	The sky
Apollo	Music

5. Accept any two from: feeling sick/going on a journey/worried about the harvest (on the farm)

6. They held the first Olympics/the first Olympics

Inference:

7. Accept any of the following: they were given a wreath/they would be given free meals/they would be given the best seats in the theatre

8. Wrestling because there were hardly any rules/they had to compete with no clothes on

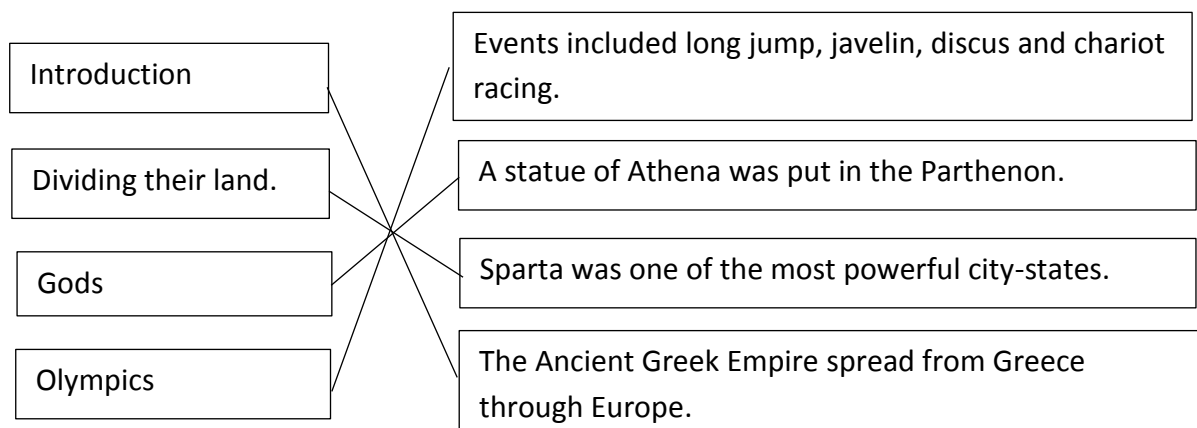
9. It says they had special powers and each had control over a different aspect of life

They controlled the sea/horses/sky/health

They could make bad things happen like thunderbolts/storms/earthquakes/deathly plagues

Meaning as a whole:

10.



Compare:

11. Accept any plausible answer, as long as supporting evidence is used.

E.g. Zeus is the most scary as he can cause earthquakes and he can hurt people/Artemis is the most scary as she can cause deathly plagues

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