

Knowledge Organiser: Ancient Greece

Homer c.700 BC



Homer is the most famous Greek author, having retold two stories which would have been passed down orally for hundreds of years. The Iliad is the story of the end of the Trojan War, ended when Troy was captured by the Greeks, hidden in a wooden horse. The Odyssey is the story of Odysseus, a soldier travelling home from the Trojan War.

Peloponnesian Wars

431 BC – 404 BC



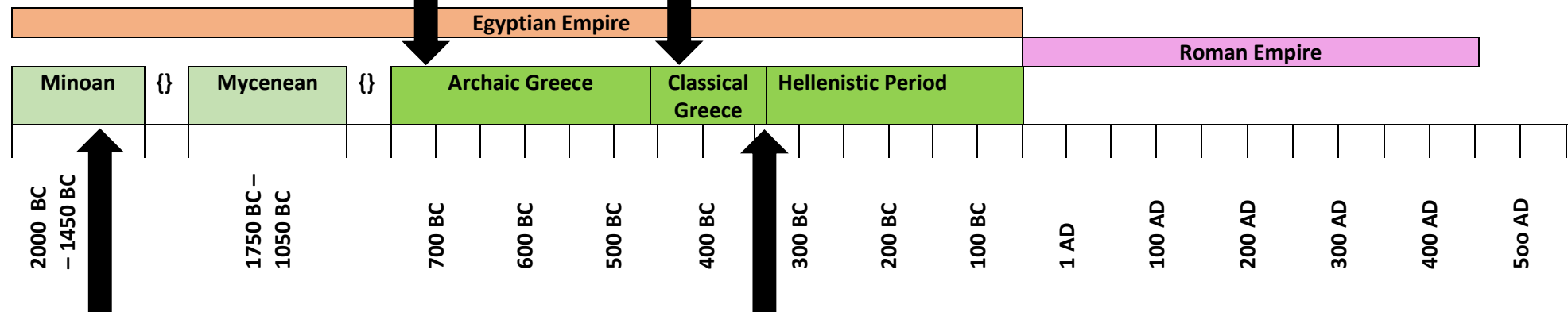
The two super powers of the Greek Age, Athens and Sparta, fought each other for supremacy. The war ended when Athens was defeated in a sea battle. Two partners of Sparta, Corinth and Thebes, demanded that Athens be destroyed, but the Spartans refused.

Ancient Athens

One of the two leading cities of the Classical Greek world. At the centre of Ancient Athens was the Acropolis (Greek for High Point), a hill that contained many of the key city sites, including The Parthenon. The Athenians are known for scientific discovery, for inventing democracy, and for the many theatres and cultural activities.

Ancient Sparta

Sparta is famous for its incredibly tough way of life. Children lived away from their families and were brought up to be fighters. Those which were not considered strong enough were left to die. As a consequence, they were formidable fighters, winning the Peloponnesian Wars.



Theseus and the Minotaur

2000 BC – 1580 BC



This ancient story describes a half human, half bull, who was kept in a labyrinth (a maze) by the King of Knossos. In the story, Theseus defeats the Minotaur and is helped to escape by Ariadne, the daughter of the King.

Alexander the Great

356 BC – 323 BC



Born in Macedonia, Alexander became leader of the Greeks and started a military campaign. He defeated the Persian Empire and then fought his way east, reaching as far as India.

Rise of Rome After 31 BC



Rome had been an important city for centuries before Julius Caesar became its dictator and started a grand campaign of empire building. In 146 BC the Greek states were defeated at the Battle of Corinth, then in 31 BC, at the Battle of Actium, Rome defeated the Egyptian army of Cleopatra, ending the Ancient Egyptian Empire.