



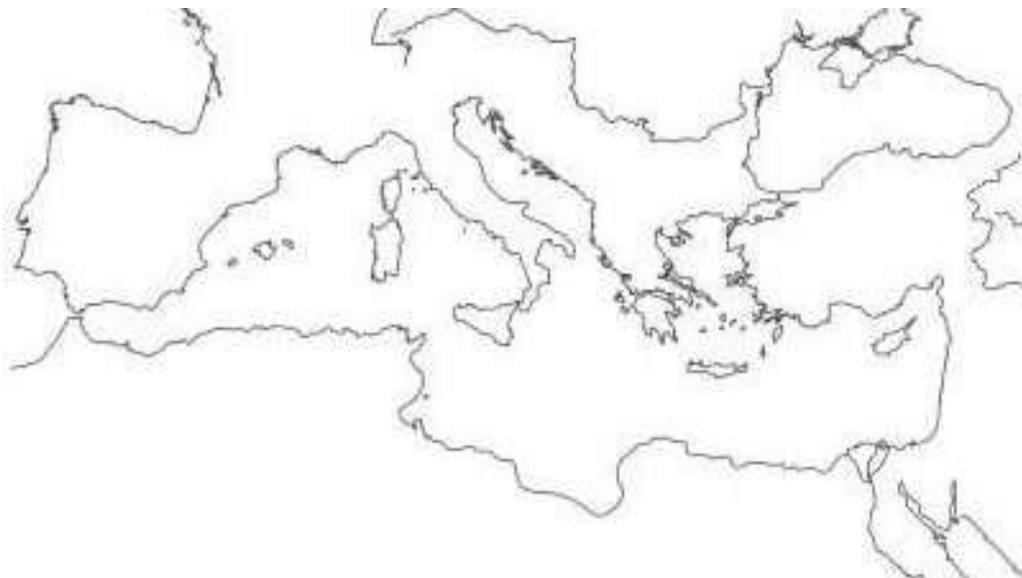
## ANCIENT GREECE

Greek civilization is in the south of the Balkan Peninsula, in many islands of the Mediterranean Sea and in the coast of the Asia Minor (now Turkey).

Ancient Greece isn't an unified country because the mountains divide the peninsula into small valleys. Each valley and each island is an independent state. A **city-state or polis** is a city with its own government, laws, money and army. Athens, Sparta, Corinth, Olympia... are poleis. A common culture, religion and language united all the Greeks.

### Activities:

1. What is the name of the Greek peninsula?
2. What is a peninsula?
3. Do you know the name of other Mediterranean peninsulas?
4. What is the name of the seas that surrounds Greece?
5. In which continent is Greece?
6. What is a polis?
7. What characteristics do all the Greek city-states have in common? And what different characteristics does each polis have?
8. Locate and fill the following map with these places: Balkan Peninsula, Mediterranean Sea, Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea, Iberian Peninsula, Italian Peninsula, Macedonia, Asia Minor, Egypt, Crete, Athens, Sparta, Mycenae, Troy, Delos, Olympia and Corinth.



## THE ANCIENT GREEK OLYMPIC GAMES

Once every four years, men from all over Greece came to compete in a great athletic festival. Only men, boys and unmarried girls were allowed to attend the Olympic Games. Married women were not allowed into the Olympic Games. This was called the Olympic Games because the place was called Olympia, a valley near a city called Elis. The first Olympic Games were held in about 776BC. It was a religious festival to honor the Greek gods Zeus and Hera. The spectators came from all over Greece to watch the events.

At the first one-day Olympic Games, the only event was a short sprint from one end of the stadium to the other. Gradually more events were added to make four days of competitions. They included wrestling, boxing, long jump, throwing the javelin and the discus, and chariot racing. In the pentathlon, there were five events: running, wrestling, javelin, discus and long jump. One of the strongest events was the race for hoplites, men wearing armour and carrying shields.

Winners were given a wreath of leaves. Winners might marry rich women, enjoy free meals, invitations to parties, and the best seats in the theatre.

1.- When were the first Olympic Games?

2.- Who took part in the Ancient Olympic Games? Were women allowed at the Olympic Games?

3.- What events took place in the Ancient Olympic Games?

4.- What is the pentathlon?

5.- What prize is given to the winners?



## GREEK GODS AND GODDESS

Write the number of the god in the box of the matching description.

**Athene** is the goddess of wisdom and war. Her symbol is an owl.



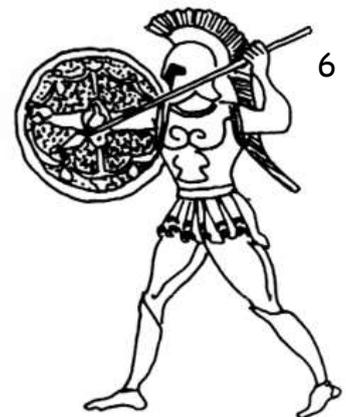
**Hermes** is a son of Zeus. He is the gods' messenger.

**Hera** is wife of Zeus and is queen of the gods. She is the most beautiful.



**Poseidon** is brother of Zeus and ruler of the oceans.

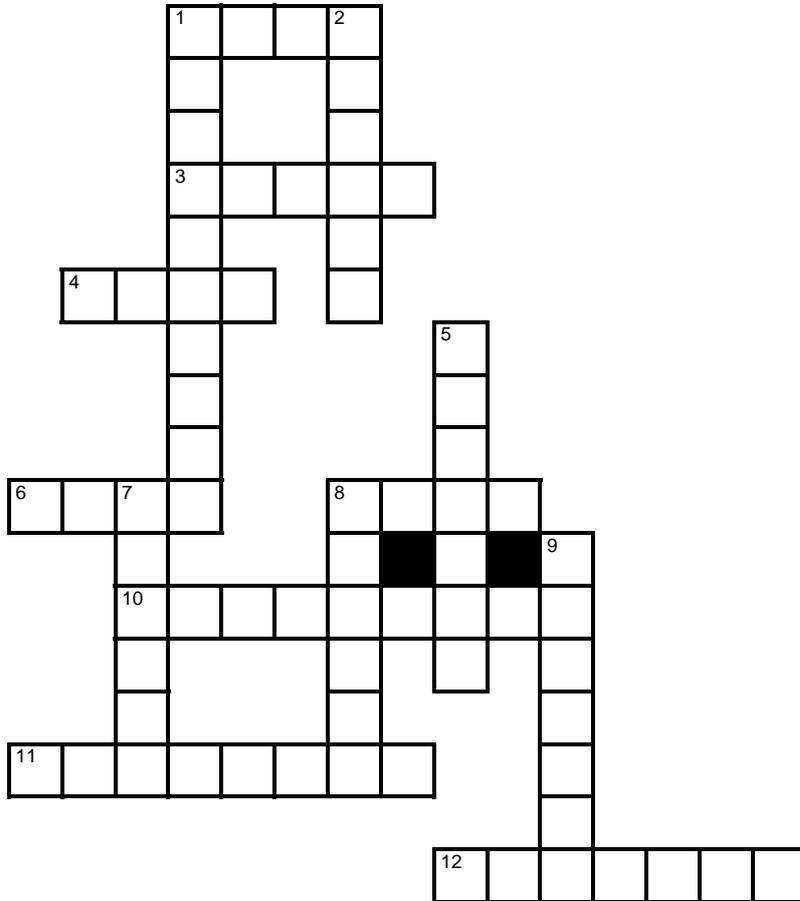
**Ares** is a son of Zeus and god of war. He is young and handsome.



**Zeus** is the king of the gods and he controls the heavens.



# The Greek Gods



Zeus- Hera- Poseidon  
 Athena- Demeter  
 Hades- Apollo  
 Aphrodite- Artemis  
 Hephaestus- Ares  
 Gaia- Chronos- Uranus

### Across

1. Goddess of marriage. Wife of Zeus.
3. King of the underworld. God of the dead.
4. Goddess of the Earth.
6. God of thunder. King of the gods.
8. God of war and violence.
10. Goddess of beauty and love.
11. God of the sea.
12. God of time.

### Down

1. God of fire and the forge.
2. Goddess of wisdom.
5. Goddess of the hunt and the moon.
7. God of the heavens.
8. God of light, music, and poetry.
9. Goddess of agriculture.



# The Greek Gods



There were many Greek gods but the twelve below were special because they lived on Mt. Olympus. They were known as the Olympians. Fill in the table and then find the names of the gods.

Name	God/Goddess	Of What	Name	God/Goddess	Of What
Aphrodite	<i>Goddess</i>	<i>Love</i>	Hephaestus		
Apollo			Hera		
Ares			Hermes		
Artemis			Hestia		
Athena			Poseidon		
Hades			Zeus		

## WHO WAS ALEXANDER THE GREAT?

Alexander was a prince, the son of the king of Macedonia (Philip II). He was born in Macedonia in July 356 BC. Macedonia was not a Greek city-state. It was a country in the north of Greece. One of Alexander's teachers was the Greek philosopher Aristotle, so Alexander spoke Greek, he knew Greek history and he believed in the Greek gods. But Alexander was also trained to be a ruler, a warrior and a leader of men. He was taught that his job was to expand the Macedonian Empire and to rule at all times with a firm hand.

Alexander's father had conquered most of the Greek city-states before Alexander came to power. The Greeks hated Alexander's father and he was assassinated. When Alexander became king, he conquered other cultures in the Mediterranean rather easily, including the Persian Empire, Egypt and reached the Indus River. Alexander never lost a battle. Before his death, he had built over 70 cities, many of them called Alexandria. But Alexander died young he was only 33 years old. His generals divided up the territory in different kingdoms: the Hellenistic monarchies.

### Activities:

#### 1. Read the sentences. What do they refer to?

1. A very large kingdom in the north of Greece:
2. The most famous person in Greek history in the 4th century:
3. The kingdoms into which the empire was divided:
4. A polis with its own government, laws, army and money:
5. The name of some cities founded by Alexander the Great:
6. The name of the teacher of Alexander the Great:

#### 2. Why was Alexander the Great famous?

#### 3. What was Alexander the Great trained for?

#### 4. Why was Alexander's father assassinated?



## ANCIENT ROME

Roman civilization started with the city of **Rome**. Rome was on the Tiber River on the Italian Peninsula. This peninsula is in the centre of the Mediterranean.

In 2.000 BC, **the Latins**, a people of farmers, settled on seven hills in the central region of the Italic Peninsula. Here Rome was founded.

According to legend, Rome was founded by the twins **Romulus and Remus**. They were abandoned when they were babies, and a she-wolf took care of them. Romulus became the first king of Rome. Rome had a **monarchy**.

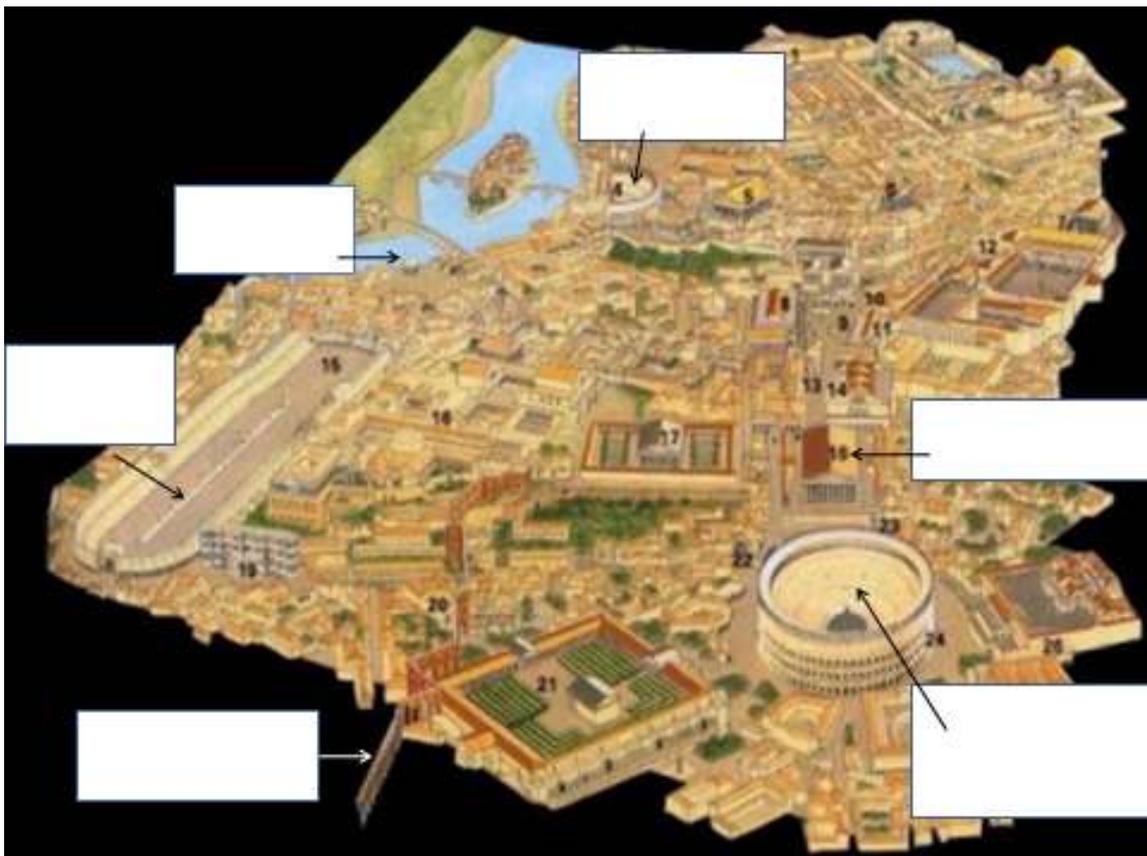
Then, Rome was conquered by **the Etruscans**, who transformed it into a large city thanks to the development of trade and craftsmanship.



## WHAT DO WE OWE TO THE ROMANS?

The Romans have passed on to us:

- The Latin language
- The Roman law
- The Christian religion
- The Christian calendar
- The urbanization of Roman towns with many buildings: aqueducts, bridges, temples, baths, theatres, amphitheatres, circuses, triumphal arches, columns...





## THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

### THE SOCIAL GROUPS

During the sixth and fifth centuries BC, there were two large opposing social groups:

- **Patricians:** a small group of rich and ancient Roman families. They considered themselves to be descendants of the founders of Rome. They were owners of large expanses of land and controlled political power.
- **Plebeians:** a large group, they came to Rome after its foundation. They were peasants, craftsmen and traders. They participated in the army but did not have any political rights. The plebeians struggled to obtain the same rights as the patricians. In 208 BC, the plebeians finally obtained equal rights.

### THE REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS

The main republican institutions were:

- **The popular assemblies:** they voted for the laws and elected the magistrates.
- **The magistrates:** they proposed the laws and governed the republic. They consisted of:
  - The consuls: they held political power and ran the army.
  - The censors: they maintained the census of the citizens.
  - The praetors: they dealt with justice.
  - The aediles: they dealt with public order and supplies.
  - The quaestors: they dealt with finance.
  - The plebeian councils: they defended the interests of the plebeians.
- **The Senate:** this was the most prestigious institution in Ancient Rome. Consisting of 300 life members, elected by older magistrates. The Senate ran foreign politics and advised the magistrates.

### Activities

1.- What were the two main social groups that existed in Rome?

2.- Why was there conflict between the two groups?

3.- When and how did the conflict end?

#### 4.- Match:

Assemblies

Propose the laws

Vote the laws

Magistrates

Run foreign politics

Elect the magistrates

Senate

Advise the magistrates

Govern the republic

## ROMAN ARCHITECTURE

The Romans were great architects and engineers and they built many big buildings that we can still see today.

Roman buildings mixed Greek architecture (columns) with other elements, such as the arch, the vault and the dome. Most buildings were made of bricks, stone and a substance similar to cement (Mortar or concrete: mixture of sand, cement and water). The more luxurious public buildings were covered in marble.

### PUBLIC BUILDINGS:

The most important public works in a Roman city included:

**Religious buildings, such as the temple**  
Temples were rectangular or round houses for the gods. Religious ceremonies took place in front of the temple.



**Administrative buildings, such as the forum** (public large square where there were the most important public buildings) and **the basilica** (a large building that it was used for business).



**Buildings for entertainment, such as theatres, amphitheatres, circuses and thermal baths.**

**Roman theatres** were semicircular and very similar to Greek theatres.



**Amphitheatres** were round. They were used for fights between gladiators and wild animals.



**Circuses** were used for chariot races and horse races.



**Thermal baths** were places for bathing and socializing. There were three principal rooms: the *caldarium* (hot bath), the *tepidarium* (warm bath) and the *frigidarium* (cold bath).



**Commemorative buildings** were built to signal an important historical event. The most important are the commemorative **columns and the triumphal arches**.



**Roman engineering**, such as roads, bridges, sewer systems and aqueducts.

**Roads** were vital to the maintenance and development of the Roman state. They helped the movement of armies and citizens, the communications and trade goods.



**Bridges**

The Romans used arches in their stone bridges to cross the rivers.



**Aqueducts** carried water to the Roman cities. They had one or more rows of arches.



1. - What were Roman temples like?

2. - What was the amphitheater used for?

3. - Why were the roads very important in the Roman Empire?

4. - What were the thermal baths used for?

5. - What is the function of an aqueduct?



## VOCABULARY

### GREECE

Greece, The Greeks, Olympic Games, race, wrestling, throwing the discus, throwing the javelin, long jump, boxing, pentathlon, winners, Olympia, wreath of leaves, Athens, city-states, Alexander the Great, Alexandria, battle, king, prince, kingdoms, The Hellenistic Monarchies, conquered, warrior, leader, The Mediterranean Sea, The Balkan peninsula, Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea, Asia Minor.

### ROME

Patricians, Plebeians, Rome, social groups, descendants, equal rights, political power, The senate, Assemblies, the magistrates, laws, foreign politics, peasants, craftsmen, traders, the army, temples, circuses, theatres, amphitheatres, roads, bridges, aqueducts, the forum, the basilica, thermal baths, gladiators, buildings, The Latins, the Etruscans, Romulus, Remus, Monarchy, the Christian calendar.