

Zeus



Recommended year group: Year 3

Theme focus: History

Suggested term: Summer

Theme introduction:

Zeus is a theme that is focussed on learning about Ancient Greece. Learning in this theme is focussed on History but also includes Geography, Art, PSHE and Design and Technology. In Zeus, we look at key figures such as Alexander the Great and some of the important Greek battles such as the Battle of Marathon and the Battle of Thermopylae. Pupils will learn about what life was like in Ancient Greece and hear many of the famous Greek myths that were told, such as Theseus and the Minotaur and the Twelve Labours of Heracles. The theme finishes by researching the origins of the Olympic Games and looking at exactly what the Greeks did and how it influenced our lives today.

Driving question

What can ancient history still teach us about the world today?

Suggested Switched on Science unit

Light and shadows: Perform a light and shadow dramatization of an Ancient Greek myth

Suggested Switched on Computing unit

We are opinion pollsters: Pupils create a survey asking how life was in Ancient Greece, and hot seat the teacher to answer the questions

Linked reading texts:

Greek Myths for Young Children by Usborne
Greek Myths by Marcia Williams

Writing outcomes:

Descriptive poem to describe the Greek Gods – Based on 'If I was' by Brian Moses
Character Descriptions – Greek God/Heracles
The Labours of Heracles – Rewrite one of the twelve labours and invent your own labour for Hercules

Curriculum coverage

Geography – Human geography, location and maps

PSHE – Living in the wider world

History – Historical vocabulary, chronology, historical enquiry and sources, significant individuals, events and achievements, similarities, differences and connections

Computing – Digital researching: finding information

Design and Technology – Representing design ideas; make materials

English – Reading: poems and playscripts



Excite:

Meet Zeus, king of all the gods, ruler of the skies, cloud gatherer and master of rain. Listen to his torrid tale of how he fought and conquered his father, Cronus, then drew lots with his brothers, Poseidon and Hades, to become supreme ruler of the gods. Find out about his deadly powers and his lightning thunderbolt, which he hurls at those who displease him. Hear why he carries his sceptre and his regal eagle. What can you discover about the mighty Zeus?

Explore:

Explore 1 – Where in the world is Greece?
Explore 2 – Chronology of ancient Greece
Explore 3 – Life in ancient Greece
Explore 4 – Gods and goddesses
Explore 5 – Greek myths
Explore 6 – Theseus and the minotaur
Explore 7 – The labrinyth

Explore 8 – The twelve labours of Heracles
Explore 9 – The twelve labours of Heracles - mask making
Explore 10 – Life of a Spartan soldier boy
Explore 11 – Greek invasions
Explore 12 – Alexander the Great
Explore 13 – The origins of the Olympic games
Explore 14 – Hold an Olympic games event

Theme essential vocabulary:

Alexander the Great, Ancient Greece, archaeology, army, Athens, battle, civilisation, Crete, Heracles, justify, Knossus, labyrinth, Marathon, maze, myth, Olympics, Persia, slave, Sparta, strength

Theme essential knowledge

1. Where in the world Greece is and to know that it is in the continent of Europe.
2. To know that Greece is bordered by Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Turkey.
3. To know that Alexander the Great was a successful leader who never lost in battle.
4. Alexander the Great lived from 356–323 BC.
5. There were Athenians and Spartans.
6. Know that boys as young as seven were trained to be soldiers.
7. Know the differences between an Athenian and a Spartan.
8. The key battles that took place were: Battle of Marathon, Battle of Thermopylae.
9. To understand the significance of Greek myths and how they show human characteristics of survival.
10. The first Olympics took place in 776 BC.
11. The first modern Olympics started in 1894.
12. The Greeks worshiped twelve key gods and Goddesses.



Excel:

- Ancient Greece timeline of key events
- Fact file of life achievements of Alexander the Great
- Labyrinth maze created
- Gods and goddesses presentations
- Olympic Games held

Exhibit:

Myths and Legends of Ancient Greece walk-through exhibit:

- Turn the corridor into a walk-through exhibit of pupils' work from the theme
- Exhibits could include their timelines, non-chronological reports on Ancient Greek life, visual display of the story of Theseus and the Minotaur, Greek god/goddess heads, retold versions of Heracles' labours

Possible wider experiences:

1. Research all about Ancient Greece:
 - the philosophers
 - the gods and goddesses.
 - the battles.
2. Visit the British Museum in London or the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and see the Ancient Greek artefacts.

Flipped learning opportunities:

1. Who were the Greek gods and goddesses? Pupils to read some of the myths before they start.
2. Pupils to look at what Greece is like as a place – do their own research to explain its features.

Family learning opportunity:

1. Design a mythical creature.
2. Make a Greek jug or bowl.
3. Choose a scene from Greek mythology to represent in artwork, using colours typical of Greek art.

Cultural awareness

Key piece of music

Go The Distance – Hercules
God Only Knows – Beach Boys

Key piece of art

The Venus de Milo (sculpture) – Alexandros of Antioch

Key poem

How The Tortoise Got Its Shell – Judith Nicholls