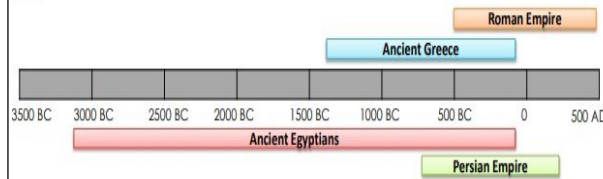# Ancient Greece Knowledge Organiser

KEY VOCABULARY AND SPELLINGS

Acropolis – an ancient citadel (fortress) usually on a hill.

Assembly – a group of citizens who turned up to vote.

Citizens – an inhabitant of a town or city.

Democracy – a form of government where citizens have a say in how they are ruled.

Dictatorship – ruled by one person (a dictator) who has total power over a country.

Olympics – an athletic event held every 4 years.

Titans – the first Greek gods.

Myth – a traditional story explaining the history of people or a natural phenomenon.

Architecture – the art or practise of designing and constructing buildings.

Doric, Ionic and Corinthian – types of architecture.

Philosophy – the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality and existence.

Spartans – tough warriors living in the Greek city of Sparta.

CHRONOLOGY

Timeline	
2900 - 2000 BC	The Bronze Age when Early Aegean cultures start to emerge
2500 BC	The great Minoan civilisation
1200 BC	The Trojan War and the destruction of Troy
1050 - 750 BC	The Dark Ages of Greece
850 - 700 BC	Development of the first Greek Alphabet
776 BC	The First Olympic Games are staged
650 BC	The Rise of the Greek tyrants
600 BC	Greek Coin currency introduced
500 – 323 BC	The Greek Classical Period
490 BC	Greek/ Persian Wars led by Xerxes
333 BC	Alexander the Great defeats the Persians at Issus and is given Egypt by the Persian Satrap
86 BC	The Roman General Sulla captures Athens

LOCATION

SOCIETY

The Greeks were great thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artists, architects and politicians.

FAMILY LIFE – most people lived in villages in the country-side. Many Greeks were poor and life was hard. Ancient Greek homes were built around a courtyard or garden.

RELIGION – The Greeks believed that gods and goddesses watched over them. They were like humans but lived forever and were more powerful. The most famous temple in Greece is the Parthenon in Athens, dedicated to the goddess Athena.

WARFARE – Greece was made up of lots of smaller states and they often went to war with one another or with foreign enemies. Soldiers would lock their shields together with their spears pointing out of the top, this was called a phalanx.

LEGACY

Over 3000 years later we are still using Ancient Greek ideas in maths, science and art. Our alphabet is based on the Greek one, and in the dictionary you will find hundreds of words that come from the Greek language.

The Greeks development of democracy is still our main form of government today. They also invented the theatre and the Olympic Games which we still enjoy today.