

Ancient Greeks

The objects and information in this display come from the Ancient Greeks loans box, which is available from Bromley Historic Collections for use in lesson plans and school sessions.

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The Parthenon, Athens

- People have been living in Greece for more than 40,000 years. Early Greeks lived similarly to people in Britain at the time, as farmers or hunter-gatherers.
- The first great Greek civilisation were the Minoans who lived on Crete, an island off the coast of mainland Greece. They were named after their legendary King, Midas. Stories would have been told about him and painted on pottery, like in some of the examples of plates and vases you can see below.
- In 1100BC, the Mycenaean age ended. After this Greece entered a dark age, where written language and art mostly disappeared. This lasted until about 800BC.



The Minoan Palace, Crete



The Temple of Athena Lindia, Rhodes

- Around 2500 years ago, Greece was a very important place. Its citizens were prominent philosophers, physicians, actors, athletes and more.
- For example, Hippocrates, an ancient Greek doctor, is known as the 'father of medicine' and some of his theories and ideas are still taught today. You can see a bust of Hippocrates in the case below.
- You can also see replicas of long-jump weights which would have been used by athletes competing in the first Olympic Games. They were named after the Olympia Province in ancient Greece, where the games originated.

- Ancient Greece was not one place, but instead many city states and settlements. The Greek Empire at the time extended to Italy, Turkey, Sicily and North Africa.
- These different parts of Ancient Greece did not always get along, but sometimes they would band together to defeat bigger threats, like the Persian Empire.
- To rule all of Greece a ruler would need to be very powerful. Alexander the Great was one such ruler, and in the 300s BC he led an army to conquer an empire that stretched to India and Afghanistan.