Teaching notes on 6.02a Ancient Greek numbers

Slide 1

Learning objective: To learn about Ancient Greek number words. Greek number words find their way into geometry, sport and various other parts of our language, and so understanding them can help with English word decoding and recall.

Because we're investigating Greek words, mouse-click on this slide will make Iucundus say 'χαιρετε!' ('khai-ray-tay') to the class. This means 'hello!' The pupils can reply by saying 'χαιρε!' ('khai-ray'). The singular/plural endings work exactly the same way as in Latin.

Slide 2

🤓💬 A slightly different game of Word Roots Challenge to introduce Greek numbers. Displayed in the middle of the screen are the Ancient Greek words for one to ten, but all jumbled up. In pairs or individually, pupils can deduce from the clues (which appear on mouse-click) what the number words mean. NB There are clues given for all numbers except for 'heis' (one) as there are no derivatives for this. However, they should be able to guess this by a process of elimination! On further mouse-clicks the answers will be revealed. The penultimate mouse-click then shows that we may not have any common English derivatives from 'heis' (one) but the Greek word 'monos' (alone, unique) gives us the prefix 'mon(o)-' which can be seen in many English words where the meaning has to do with a single something (e.g. monopoly, monocle, monarch, monotonous). Pupils are then cued to move onto the worksheet.

Slide 3

The plenary slide:

Question 1 How colours would you see in a monochrome picture? [1, from 'monos']

Question 2 If you heard of something called a 'tetrapod', how many legs do you think it would have? [four, from 'tettares/tessares', 4]. In fact, a tetrapod can be a four-legged animal or one of these coastal defence thingamabobs:

Question 3 Can you think of a number that sounds the same in Latin and in Ancient Greek? [duo, treis, octo, deka and arguably hepta (like septem). After all, Latin was heavily influenced by Ancient Greek]