

MEGA GREEK

1. Introduction



= discussion point



= written exercise



= game



= hands-on activity

Running time

Language segment: 30-45 minutes

Cultural segment: 30-45 minutes

This introductory lesson aims to contextualise Ancient Greece on the history timeline for students, and to demonstrate how some of the Ancient Greek language has managed to sneak into modern English. In the cultural segment, we look at the favourite topic, the Greek gods, with a quiz and a 'Gods and Their Powers' memory game to make.

Slide 1

Introduction. Each lesson is introduced by a different character (real or mythical, human or mortal) from Ancient Greek culture or history.

[mouse click] Your guide for today...

[mouse click] (picture of Zeus)



He's wearing a crown, he's holding a thunderbolt - any guesses as to who this may be?

[mouseclick] Zeus

Zeus is king of the gods in Ancient Greek mythology. We'll be looking at some more gods and goddesses in the cultural segment.

[mouse click] Zeus is saying "Chairete!" (*khy-ray-tay*) which means "Hello!" Students can say hello back, but have to say, "Chaire!" (*khy-ray*) because they are greeting one person (singular), whereas Zeus was greeting all of us (plural).

Slide 2

We're going to be spending the next few weeks looking at Ancient Greece, its history, culture and language. So first of all, let's make sure we know where Ancient Greece lies on the history timeline.



Zeus is going to use his immortal powers to zap us back in time with his magical thunderbolt.

But he can only do this in stages. After each zap, we'll see a picture from that particular era. You have to say if you think we're in Ancient Greece, and if not, where in time you think we are. We'll use a timeline that starts in modern times and stretches all the way back to the dinosaurs.

[mouse click] zap!

[mouse click] Queen Victoria

[mouse click] Victorian times, 1837-1901

[mouse click] zap!

[mouse click] Elizabeth I

[mouse click] Elizabethan times, 1559-1603

[mouse click] zap!

[mouseclick] Henry VIII

[mouse click] Tudor times, 1485-1603

[mouse click] zap!

[mouse click] Bayeux Tapestry depicting the Norman Conquest

[mouse click] Late Middle Ages, roughly 1066-1500

[mouse click] zap!
[mouse click] Edward the Confessor
[mouse click] Early Middle Ages/Anglo Saxon times, roughly 410-1066
[mouse click] zap!
[mouse click] Roman soldiers and amphitheatre
[mouse click] Roman Empire, 27 BCE-395 CE
[mouse click] zap!
[mouse click] Ancient Greek soldier (hoplite) and vase (here we are!)
[mouse click] Ancient Greece, 8th Century BCE - 2nd Century BCE



How long did the period of history known as Ancient Greece last? [10 centuries/1000 years]

Slide 3

(n.b. We don't officially encounter the Greek alphabet until the next lesson, but this segment represents a preview of what Ancient Greek words look like)

Although the Ancient Greeks were around a very, very long time ago, you'd be surprised to know that they've left a lot of influences in the modern world. One of those influences is language. They've managed to sneak little bits of Ancient Greek into English.



Try and guess what these Ancient Greek words mean. The top word is in Ancient Greek letters (we'll learn more about that next lesson), and the second word is what it looks like in modern English letters (the Roman alphabet). You'll also get a picture clue.

[mouse click] πυραμις, pyramis
[mouse click] picture clue - [pyramid]
[mouse click] μουσειον, mouseion
[mouse click] picture clue - [museum]
[mouse click] ἀθληται, athletai
[mouse click] picture clue - [athletes]
[mouse click] θερμο - μετρον, thermo - metron
[mouse click] picture clue - [thermometer]



Now it's time to do a bit more of the same on this lesson's worksheet (mg1 word match.pdf). The students are not expected to write the Greek version of the words, but they can do if they're feeling ambitious!

Slide 4

The answers to the written exercise (revealed one-by-one on mouse click) for self-marking in class. Also available in the answer key (mg1 word match answerkey.pdf).

Slides 5-13



Zeus is back again with a quiz, to see how much the class knows about his fellow Greek gods and goddesses. Pupils can work individually, in pairs or in teams. In each instance, the students are given:

[mouse click] A picture of the god(dess)
[mouse click] the special power or domain of the god(dess)
[mouse click] the symbol of the god(dess)

After their guesses are made (on whiteboards or verbally)...

[mouse click] ...the answer is revealed!

Slide 14



A visual walk-through of this lesson's cultural activity (mg1 gods matchup.pdf). Working individually or in pairs, pupils are given a set of cards to illustrate. Half the cards need to be illustrated with pictures of gods and goddesses, and the other half need pictures of their symbols. Once these are illustrated, backed with card and cut out, they can be placed face down to play a memory game, where the aim is to choose a corresponding god/symbol pair.

Slide 15

The plenary, with Zeus asking two questions related to this lesson's learning, one language-related and the other cultural.



[mouse click] The Ancient Greek word 'hippos' gives us the name of a water-loving animal.

What is that animal? [hippopotamus]

[mouse click] My fellow god Athena is in charge of wisdom, but what is her animal symbol? [the owl]