

# Who Were the Ancient Greeks?

Greece was one of the most important places in the ancient world – there is evidence of settlers from around 40,000BC, but the influential period was around 2,500BC onwards. These ancient Greeks were fantastic thinkers, writers, actors, artists, athletes, warriors, architects and politicians.

The Greeks called themselves 'Hellenes' and their land was 'Hellas'. The name 'Greeks' was given to the people of Greece later by the Romans. They lived in mainland Greece (which was split into city-states including: Athens, Sparta, Corinth and Olympia) and the Greek islands, but also in colonies scattered around the Mediterranean Sea, including: Italy, Sicily, Turkey, North Africa, and even France.

They sailed the sea to trade and find new lands, spreading their knowledge and ideas around the world.

