



# Welcome to your Discovery Box

Here you will find an array of exciting activities and fun facts to prepare you for your next unit of study.

*Within this box you will find:*

- fun facts and information
- craft activities
- puzzles and games

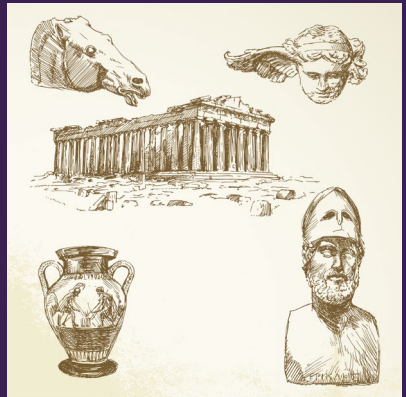
We hope you find these activities engaging and entertaining, but most of all that they make you **curious** to learn more.

# DiscoveryBox

## Interesting facts about Ancient Greece

The Ancient Greeks wore tunics and sandals because the climate in the Mediterranean was hot. They ate a varied diet of fish, grains, and vegetables such as chickpeas, olives, onions, and cabbage.

The Greeks were skilful at creating paintings, frescoes, and sculptures. This art was later copied by the Romans.



Mount Olympus is the tallest mountain in Greece. The Ancient Greeks believed that their gods lived at the top. Zeus was the king of the gods and Hera was the queen. The Ancient Greeks honoured their gods with temples and sacrifices of food and animals.

Some of the other gods and goddesses of Ancient Greece were: Athena, goddess of war and wisdom; Hades, god of the underworld and death and Poseidon, god of the sea.

Athens was a powerful city-state with a large fleet of ships. It was also a place of learning and culture.

Sparta was a city-state with a military culture. Fighting was very important to Spartans.

Philosophy was invented in Ancient Greece. It is a logical way of exploring topics like the human mind, justice, and happiness.



## Make Greek honey cake!

A traditional Greek dessert—a light fluffy honey-soaked cake.

### Greek honey cake

Preparation time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 40 minutes

Serves: 8

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### Ingredients:

125g plain flour

1½ tsp baking powder

Pinch of salt

1/2 tsp cinnamon

170g butter

150g caster sugar

3 medium eggs

60ml milk



### For the syrup:

200g caster sugar

350g honey

175ml water

1 tsp lemon juice (optional)

### Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C and grease the tin (25 x 25 cm).
2. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, one at a time.
3. Fold in the flour a spoonful at a time, alternately with the milk, mixing until combined.
4. Pour the batter into the tin and bake for 40 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean. Allow to cool for 15 minutes.

### To make the syrup:

5. In a saucepan, combine the honey, sugar and water. Simmer (bubble just below boiling) for 5 minutes. Stir in the lemon juice, then bring the syrup to the boil and cook for a further 2 minutes.

### Soaking the cake:

6. Spike holes into the cooled cake with a skewer and slowly drizzle the honey syrup over the top—let it absorb into the sponge.



## Can you solve this word search?



ACROPOLIS

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

ANCIENT GREECE

ARCHITECTURE

ATHENS

CITY-STATE

DEMOCRACY

LABYRINTH

MINOAN

MYCENAEAN

PARTHENON

PHALANX

PHILOSOPHY

SPARTA

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## Have a philosophical discussion!

Here are some questions you could discuss with friends or family.

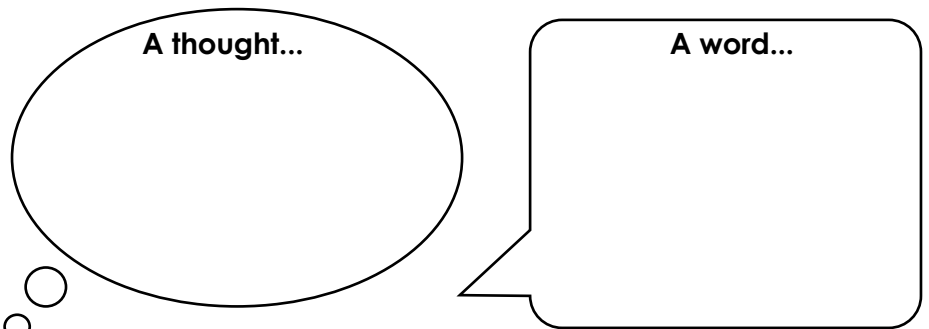
- **What is more important, being right or being nice?**
- **Is everything beautiful?**

If you can, sit in a circle and share a first thought about one of the questions, then you can continue the discussion with the people you are sitting with using sentence starters such as:

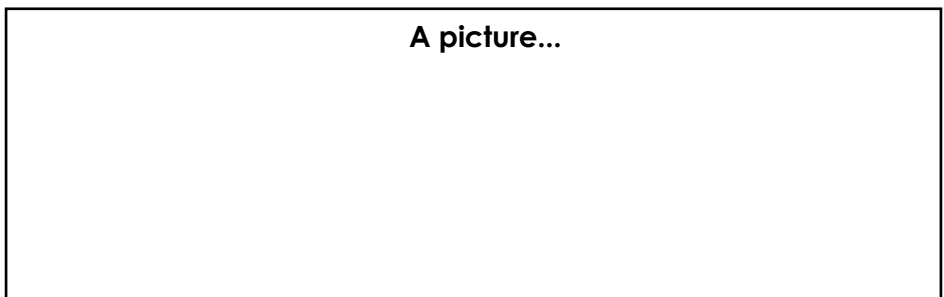
**I think...**

**I'd like to build on what \_\_\_\_\_ said...**

Finally, reflect on your discussion. You can reflect below, and the people you sat with could also do the same on another piece of paper.



A thought bubble on the left contains the text "A thought...". To its right is a speech bubble containing the text "A word...". Below these two bubbles is the word "Reflect".

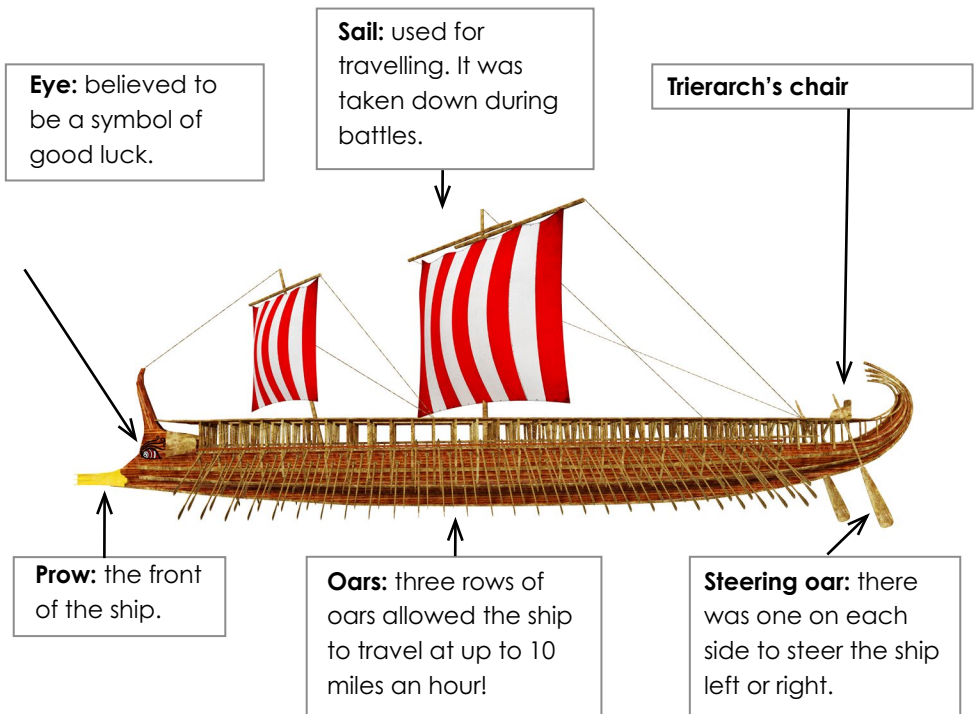


A large rectangular box containing the text "A picture..." centered at the top.

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## Create your own trireme!

A trireme was an Ancient Greek warship. Greek triremes were fast ships that could be turned quickly. This made them fantastic in sea battles. They are called triremes because they had three tiers of oars. Soldiers stood on the deck while 170 oarsmen sat below. Battles could last all day and the ships would ram each other with massive bronze-plated prows. Athens had a force of 300 triremes when it was at its most powerful.



To make your own trireme, use any junk modelling materials you can find at home.

- Cardboard
- Colouring crayons, felt tips, or paint
- Cellotape
- Lollipop sticks
- Old clothes
- String

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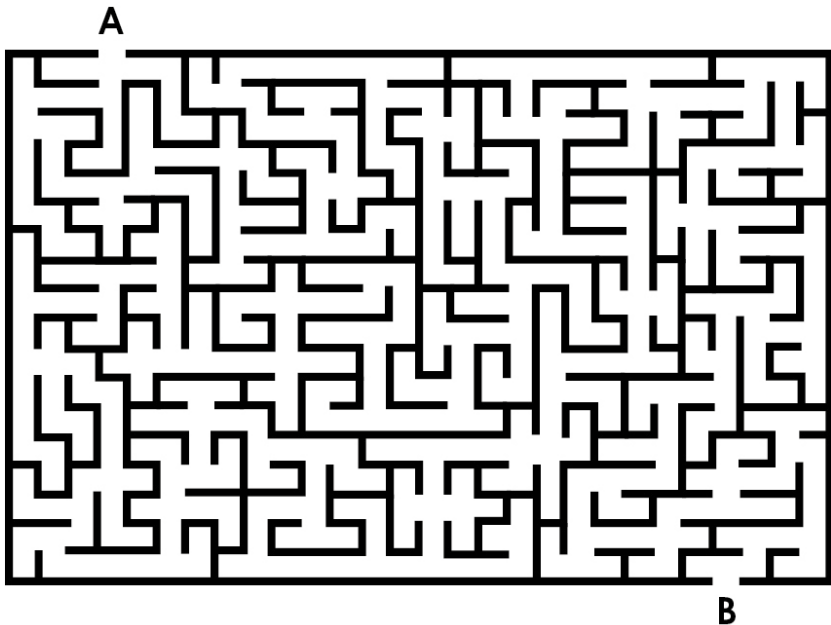
## Can you make your way through the labyrinth?

The word 'labyrinth' comes from the Greek *labyrinthos*. A labyrinth is a maze-like structure, but it has a single path through it. A labyrinth is different from a maze because a maze has multiple paths which are intricately linked.



The most famous labyrinth is found in Greek mythology in the story of Theseus, prince of Athens. This labyrinth was designed by Daedalus for King Minos of Knossos on Crete to contain the ferocious half-man, half-bull known as the Minotaur.

Make your way from point **A** to point **B**.



Why not have a go at creating your own labyrinth? A labyrinth doesn't have to be a rectangle, it can be a square, circle, hexagon, or any shape.

## The Olympic Games

The ancient Olympic Games started as a one-day event until 684<sub>BCE</sub>, when they were extended to three days. From around 500<sub>BCE</sub>, the Games were extended again to cover five days.

The ancient Games included running, long jump, discus, javelin, boxing, pankration, and equestrian events.



Pankration was a combination of boxing and wrestling. The only rules were that you could not bite or gouge!



Equestrian events involved chariot racing. Four horses would drive forward a wooden-wheeled, open-backed chariot.

Spectators would travel from across the empire to come and watch the Games. It is suggested that over 40,000 people attended and that they were mainly men. There was a truce to stop all fighting between city-states so everyone could compete.

Sometimes, famous writers read their works aloud to audiences in the temple during the Games. It is also believed that because the Games were a sacrifice to Zeus, 100 or so cows would be sacrificed. The Greeks rarely ate meat because it was expensive, so they saved it for religious occasions like the Games.



# DiscoveryBox

## Greek Theatre

One of the greatest inventions of Ancient Greece was drama. It evolved out of religious ritual and it quickly became popular. There were two main types of plays: tragedies and comedies.



Ancient Greek masks were made of hair, wood, linen, and cork, so no masks have survived. We only know about them because theatre was so popular that models of actors and masks were made in other materials, such as terracotta, stone, and bronze which did survive.

Ancient Greek masks were used to show emotion and the features were usually exaggerated. They had large mouths to help the actors project their voices all around the theatre.

**Draw your own Greek theatre mask. Remember to exaggerate the features and show emotion.**

