**The Legacy of Ancient Greece**

**POWERPOINT NOTES**

Lots of ancient Greek ideas are still important today.

2. The study of history was invented in ancient Greece, by the historian Herodotus. Ancient historians sometimes made speeches up as well as reporting facts about real events.

3. In Herodotus’ history of the Persian Wars, he tells us about the Athenian runner Pheidippides and explains the origin of the modern marathon race. After reaching Sparta, Pheidippides ran back to fight in the battle of Marathon. He then ran back to Athens to give news of the victory. This is why a long run is called a marathon even today.

4. As well as history, philosophy was also invented in ancient Greece. Philosophers do a lot of thinking; philosophy is thinking about what things mean. Socrates and Plato were famous Greek philosophers.

5. Although the Greeks had a god of healing called Asclepius, there were lots of medical discoveries in ancient Greece. Hippocrates, who was born in 460 BC, wrote books on medicine. Doctors today still have to take the Hippocratic Oath to promise that they will put the interests of their patients first at all times when they are trying to make them better.

6. Aristotle was a Greek philosopher and he wrote about lots of subjects, including physics and biology. He developed the first system for classifying plants and animals into different groups based on their size and the types of places they lived in.

7. The Greeks also developed maths as a subject, focusing particularly on geometry. Pythagoras was a famous Greek mathematician. He invented the Pythagorean Theorem that is still used today to work out the sizes of triangles.

8. The idea of democracy was developed in ancient Athens. In a democracy the people have a say in how the government is run. Today we have MPs who represent the people. In ancient Greece, people would represent themselves. Our democracy today lets anyone over the age of 18 have their say. In ancient Greece women, slaves and people from outside the city-state could not vote.

9. In ancient Greece, sports and athletics were very important. We celebrate the Olympic Games every 4 years today. The Olympic Games began in ancient Greece in the eighth century BC. The ancient Games had far fewer events than the modern Olympics. The first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896.

10. Nike, the Greek goddess of victory appears at Haymarket on the war memorial and is the inspiration for the sports brand Nike.

11. The oldest plays we know about were written in ancient Greece. Some of these great comedies and tragedies are still performed today. In ancient Greece theatres were open-air, but Greek architecture has had a big influence on a lot of theatre buildings we use today.

12. Many buildings in the north east of England use elements of Greek architecture. Columns, decorative friezes and sculptures that we see on many 18th and 19th century buildings are influenced by styles from ancient Greece. Do you recognise these buildings? Belsay Hall in Northumberland was built by Sir Charles Monck in the early 19th century. He travelled to Greece on his honeymoon and spent a great deal of time in Athens studying the ancient Greek buildings there. On his return he built a Doric style hall which his family moved into in 1817. The Penshaw monument, near Sunderland, was built in 1844 to celebrate the career of the prominent Liberal politician John George Lambton, the first Earl of Durham. It is closely based on a Greek temple, although the proportions have been altered so that is has a more dramatic impact against the skyline.

13. Ancient Greece was one of the first places to make and use coins. Coins are still important today. Here we can see a modern Greek coin, which is directly influenced by an ancient Athenian coin.

14. There are lots of other things that we use that the ancient Greeks used a long time before us. Some toys are very similar, although they are made from different material because the ancient Greeks did not have plastic!

15. Even modern superheroes can be compared to ancient Greek heroes like Perseus and Herakles, who had special costumes and equipment and went on difficult adventures.