

# Ancient Greece

**Lesson 2 Learning objective: To understand daily life in Ancient Greece.**

**Warm your brain up!**



Watch this jam packed fact video - How many facts can you remember? How many Greek Gods can you name?

Search: Ancient Greece Educational Videos for Kids on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUZKg3KdtYo>)

**The facts you need!**

Life in ancient Greece was quite different for men and women. Whilst men were expected to take an active part in the public life of their city, women were expected to lead a private life as wives and mothers. Their lives were centred on the home.



Slavery was a central feature of life in Greece. Wealthy families would have slaves to carry out the household chores, to go shopping at the market and even to help bring up children.



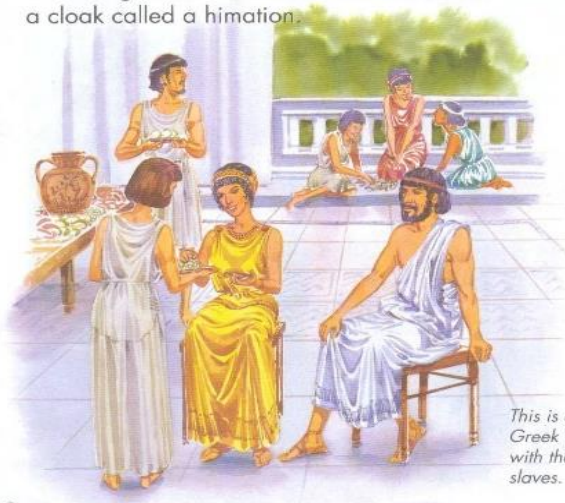
However, daily life in Sparta was rather different from most other city-states. Here women led more active lives, as this would improve their physical strength and their ability to have healthy babies. Sparta also had slaves but these belonged to the city as a whole, rather than to individual families.

A lot of our information on daily life comes from pottery, and in particular from the scenes painted on pots to decorate them.



## Clothes

Greek people wore loose clothes because Greece is a warm country. We can tell what they wore from their vase paintings and statues. Most people wore a tunic called a chiton. It was made from two rectangular pieces of cloth with holes for head and arms. Girls and boys dressed alike in short chitons. Men and women wore long ones. The Greeks also wore a cloak called a himation.



*This is a Greek family with their slaves.*

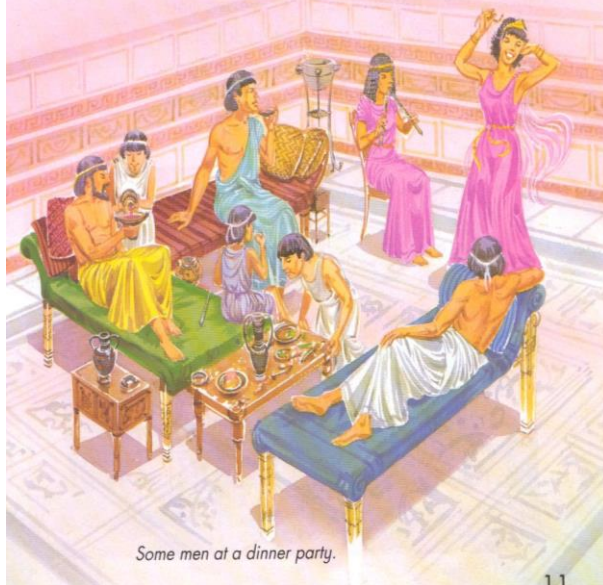
## Food

The Greeks ate a lot of fish. They only had big pieces of meat at festivals. They ate small birds like thrushes and swallows more often. They made sausages. They had lentils, radishes, celery and beans. They ate cheese, cakes and fruit, and used honey instead of sugar. The women, or their slaves, ground corn to make flour and bread. They made wine from grapes.



*Many Greeks lived by the sea and caught fish to eat. We can see from this vase painting that they used a rod and line. They also used pots to catch lobsters.*

Ancient  
Greece



Some men at a dinner party.

In most parts of Ancient Greece, boys were seen as more important than girls. Boys whose families could pay started school when they were six. They learned to read, do sums and write, and to enjoy poetry and music. They did not have desks, and they wrote on wax boards with a sharp pen. The girls helped their mothers in the house. They would cook, weave and do housework. Some girls were taught to read and write by their mothers. In Sparta, girls went to school and learned to be fit and strong.

*This boy is  
being taught  
to write.*



## Parallel lives

Select two characters and then move them along the 'arrow of time' to see how their lives compared



Drag

character in  
to the box

The typical Greek house was generally quite simple, but it was built with important social rules in mind.

Play the House Challenge to see if you can 'set the scene' correctly in a Greek home.

### The Greek House



In ancient Greece, homes were designed to keep people cool in the long hot summers and to hold the heat in winter.

As well as having separate roles in life, men and women generally kept to separate parts of the home too. Women generally stayed in the deepest parts of the house, away from prying eyes and visiting male friends.

### What Clothes did the Ancient Greeks wear?

The Greeks wore light, loose clothes as the weather was hot for most of the year. Long pieces of colourful fabric were used to make the Greek clothes.

The main item of clothing for men was a tunic, called a *chiton*. These were big squares of cloth, held in place by pins at the shoulders and a belt round the waist. They were made from wool in the winter or linen in the summer.

Women also wore clothing which was made from big square piece of linen or wool. They used this in various shapes to hold themselves together like a corset. Men dressed in long coat given to the soldier.

The ancient Greeks could buy cloth and clothes in the agora, the marketplace, but that was expensive. Many of the poor people in the city had to make their own clothes.

Many of the clothes were made by the women and female slaves.

Wealthy people had tunics made of coloured cloth. The tunics of the poor were plain. In cold weather, cloaks were worn.

Most Greeks went barefoot. If they needed shoes, they put on leather sandals or boots.



Hair was curled, arranged in interesting and carefully designed styles, and held in place with scented oases and lotions. Women kept their hair long, in braids, arranged on top of their head, or wore their hair in cornucopias. Headbands, made of ribbon or metal, were very popular.

Page 1 of 1

[illegible][illegible]

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Go to this website to explore the life of different Ancient Greek characters.

[http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/dailylife/story/sto\\_set.html](http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/dailylife/story/sto_set.html)

Go to this website to learn more about Ancient Greek houses.

[http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/dailylife/challenge/cha\\_set.html](http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/dailylife/challenge/cha_set.html)

Go to this website to explore Ancient Greek clothes. There is lots of other information if you wish to explore more too (side tabs) like information on Athens, sports, schools etc.

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/greece/clothes.htm>

## Your Creative Task!

That was a lot of information for you to take in! Choose from the task below or complete as many as you can! Remember to tweet or e-mail in photographs.

1. Make Greek Butter Cookies (Recipe below from [cookingforkeeps.com](http://cookingforkeeps.com))
2. Design and decorate a Greek Vase  
([http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/dailylife/explore/exp\\_set.html](http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/dailylife/explore/exp_set.html))

There are templates below you may want to use.

3. Make a Greek Vase - go to the link in number 2 first for ideas and then be as creative as you can using any materials that you want!



### Kourabiedes (Greek Butter Cookies)

★★★★★

These Kourabiedes (Greek Butter Cookies) are a Greek classic. They're buttery, crumbly, sweet, but not too sweet, and the perfect holiday treat!

Course	Dessert
Cuisine	Mediterranean
Keyword	greek cookies, greek wedding cookie
Prep Time	35 minutes
Cook Time	15 minutes
Total Time	50 minutes

Servings	48 cookies
Calories	122 kcal
Author	Nicole

#### Ingredients

- 1 lb unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 large egg
- 1 Tbsp Almond extract
- 1/2 Cup powdered sugar, plus another cup for coating
- 1/8 tsp baking soda
- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp salt

#### Instructions

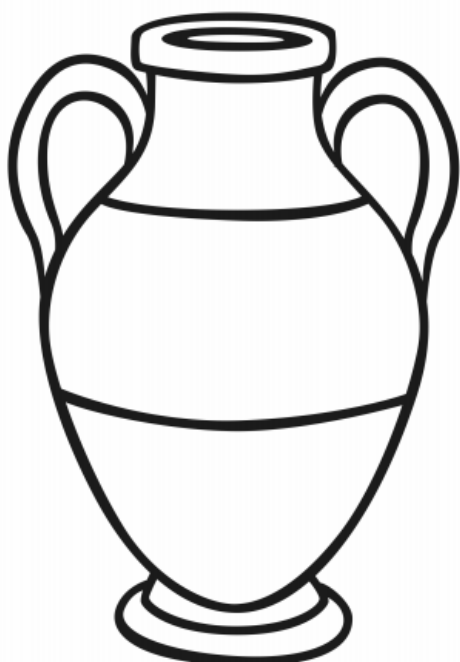
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat butter in the bottom of a stand mixer on a medium-high speed for 20 minutes. Add egg and almond extract, mix until combined.
2. Sift ½ cup powdered sugar, baking soda, flour and salt together in a large bowl. With the speed on low, add mixture a little bit at a time until completely incorporated. If the dough is too sticky, add a little bit more of flour.
3. To Form: Roll about 2 tablespoons of dough into crescents and place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper or silt pad. There is no need to place cookies very far apart, as they do not spread much. Bake for 15-20 minutes until very pale brown and cooked through.
4. If serving cookies right away. Let them cool slightly and toss in powdered sugar. Serve within 24 hours. If you want to bake them and then serve later, store in an airtight container in the fridge (or we store them outside when it's cold). When ready to serve, pop in a warm oven until warm, then roll in powdered sugar.

\*These can be frozen for up to 3 months in an airtight container.



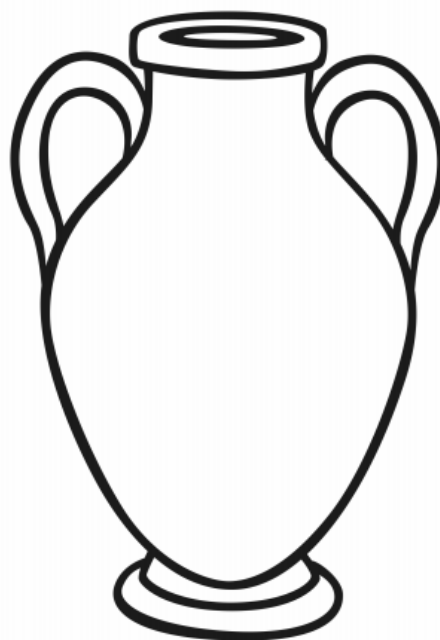
### Greek Vase

Decorate your own Greek vase.



### Greek Vase

Decorate your own Greek vase.



### Greek Vase

Decorate your own Greek vase.

