

Explore some Greek resources and have a go at our taster booklet:

Greek language:

Introduction to the Greek alphabet from JACT (Joint Association of Classics Teachers)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hr5eXakQw4o>

CREWS Project video on how to write your name in Greek

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZFibkssu-g&feature=emb_title

Have a go at writing the Greek alphabet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peaWbZZHDdA>

Greek history, literature and background

KS2/3 BBC bitesize 2 very, but good animations about Ancient Greece

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39/resources/1>

National Geographic short You Tube introduction to Ancient Greece

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bDrYTXQLu8&feature=youtu.be>

Ancient Greece in 18 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFRxmi4uCGo>

Professor Michael Scott, Warwick University, a video of a lecture given to school students at an event in 2019 entitled – “Heracles – He does get around”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agEMjmwFVbU>

Natalie Haynes series Stand up for Classics is great fun – choose from many different Classical authors, but one of my favourites is Homer’s Iliad – on the BBC sounds app <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000d7p2>

Francesca Grilli, a Classics teacher from Runshaw College in Lancashire in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool discussing the casts of the Parthenon frieze

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOKKekXVW9w&feature=youtu.be>

If you have enjoyed these and want to explore further, please visit this page hosted by Warwick University - there are many fabulous resources to explore about the Classical world

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/research/outreach/warwickclassicsnetwork/stoal/>

If you would like to read more about the Liverpool Greek Academy, see here:

<https://classicsforall.org.uk/case-studies/teenage-kicks-what-do-teenagers-do-in-liverpool-on-a-saturday-morning/>

Ancient Greek Taster Booklet

Now have a go at the activities below:

With thanks to Ana Troisi, Nower Hill, Benjamin Baulf, KCS Wimbledon and James Thorne for resources.

When you have completed the sheets, if you would like feedback or an answer sheet, please contact Joanne at northwest@classicsforall.org.uk

Questions to think about:

- Who spoke ancient Greek?
- Where is Greece?
- Is ancient Greek still spoken today?



Glossary

Translate: express the meaning of words or sentences into another language.

Eg. From Greek to English, or from English to Greek.

Transliterate: write words in a different script (alphabet).

Eg. From the Greek alphabet to the English alphabet; or from the English alphabet to the Greek alphabet.

Breathing: any word that starts with a vowel will have a one of two signs over it, known as a breathing. The sign above the vowel will either be a **rough breathing** (ʹ) to show an **h** sound before the vowel, or a **smooth breathing** (̃) to show **no h** sound.

smooth	rough
ἐν	ἔν
en	hen

There is a mark over the vowel in "hen"; it is a **rough breathing**.

Diphthong: vowels can be combined into diphthongs, which are pronounced as **one** sound.

The Greek alphabet

Letter	Capital Letter	Name	English Equivalent
α	Α	alpha	a
β	Β	beta	b
γ	Γ	gamma	g
δ	Δ	delta	d
ε	Ε	epsilon	e (short)
ζ	Ζ	zeta	z, sd
η	Η	eta	e (long)
θ	Θ	theta	th
ι	Ι	iota	i
κ	Κ	kappa	c, k
λ	Λ	lambda	l
μ	Μ	mu	m
ν	Ν	nu	n
ξ	Ξ	xi	x
ο	Ο	omicron	o (short)
π	Π	pi	p
ρ	Ρ	rho	r
σ ς	Σ	sigma	s
τ	Τ	tau	t
υ	Υ	upsilon	u, y
φ	Φ	phi	ph f
χ	Χ	chi	ch
ψ	Ψ	psi	ps
ω	Ω	omega	o (long)

Key things to note:

- σ is used unless at the end of a word, in which case ς is used.
- any Greek word starting with a vowel or a rho has a breathing: this will be either rough^ˊ, indicating an “h” sound before the vowel, or smooth^ˋ, indicating that there is no sound before the vowel.
- combinations of vowels (“diphthongs”) are pronounced as one sound: αι, αυ, ει, ευ, ηυ, οι, ου, υι
- words beginning with two vowels have their breathing on the second vowel: εἶρηνη
- iota after a long alpha, eta or omega, is written in miniature form underneath: αῖ ηῖ ωῖ
- capital letters are used only for proper nouns and not at the start of sentences.

Diphthongs

αι	Like “ai” in “aisle”
ει	Like “ei” in “freight”
οι	Like “oi” in “oil”
αυ	Like “ow” in “cow”
ευ	Like “e-w” in “Edward”
ου	Like “oo” in “food”



Transliterating Greek Words

Transliteration means not translating but simply writing the same word in a different script (alphabet). Because a lot of Greek words have come into English, there are lots of examples to practise with.

Remember:

kappa (κ) can be written as either **c** or **k**

Both **epsilon** (ε) and **eta** (η) are written as **e**

Both **omicron** (ο) and **omega** (ω) are written as **o**

Transliterate:

- ἰδέα
- κίνημα
- χαρακτήρ
- ἥλεκτρον
- κομμα
- διαγνώσις
- κρατήρ
- πανθήρ

You can also transliterate from English to Greek. Just remember, where a word begins with a vowel, it needs a smooth breathing (to show NO “h” sound) or a rough breathing (to show an “h” sound)

eg α = a

ᾱ = ha

Transliterate:

- drama
- basis
- asthma
- dogma (short o)
- crisis
- plasma
- asbestos (short e and short o)
- climax
- nectar (short e)

- parenthesis (short e both times)

School Subjects: transliterate the following Greek words and then give the subject(s) derived from their name:

e.g. ἱστορία (inquiry) = historia - History

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. μαθηματα (things learnt) | 6. βίος (life) |
| 2. φυσικά (natural things) | 7. τέχνη (skill) |
| 3. μουσικά (artistic things) | 8. ἀθλητικά (things to do with prizes) |
| 4. δράμα (something performed) | 9. ἀριθμός (number) |
| 5. γη (earth) | 10. οἶκος (house) + νομός (system) |













What does this tell us about the interests of the Greeks and their legacy?

Derivations below are some Greek words which have been transliterated and translated. Can you think of some English words that come from these Greek words. The first 3 have been done for you.

- **φοβία / phobia = fear**
agoraphobia, arachnophobia, claustrophobia, xenophobia
- **ἄγων / agon = contest, battle**
antagonist, agony, protagonist
- **λόγος / logos = word/ thought**
biology, cardiology, geology, logic, trilogy
- **γράφειν / graphein = to write**
- **γυνή / gyne = female**
- **δῆμος / demos = people/ community**
- **αὐτός / auto = self**
- **μικρός / micros = small**
- **μακρός / macros = long**
- **νέος / neo = new**

-
- πολις / polis = city
-
- περί / peri = around
-
- πᾶν / pan = all
-
- πολύ / poly = many
- μόνος / mono = alone
-
- σοφία / sofia = wisdom
-
- γίγας / giga = huge
- μέγας / megas = big

Gods Worksheet: Can you identify the Gods from their description and write the answer in Greek and English ?

1. The craftsman, with his hammer and tongs	2. That's a thunderbolt he's holding!	3. The majestic queen of the gods	4. The god of the sea, with his trident
			
ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ			
5. The goddess of wisdom and strategy	6. The huntress	7. The winged messenger	8. The god of prophecy, with his lyre
			
9. The goddess of the harvest, and of plenty	10. Ready for war in his helmet, this could only be...	11. In charge of love and beauty – she could be vain!	12. The god of wine and revelry
			

ΖΕΥΣ ΑΡΤΕΜΙΣ ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ ΗΡΑ
 ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ ΑΡΗΣ ΑΘΗΝΑ ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΗ
 ΔΙΟΝΥΣΟΣ ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ ΕΡΜΗΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΗΡ