

National Geographic Kids

10 Facts about Ancient Greece

UK

TAGS: [Zeus](#) [Medusa](#) [Cerberus](#) [Cyclops](#) [Trojan War](#) [Olympic Games](#) [Crete](#) [Mycenaean Culture](#)



General information	
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Additional information

Contents & Purpose This webpage offers 10 facts on the ancient Greek culture. The facts refer to everyday life (food, clothing), mythology, events, festivals. At the bottom of the page, there are various facts on modern Greece.

Further comments The facts on this website can accompany in-class lessons on ancient Greece. The facts are meant to arouse curiosity regarding the ancient Greek culture but also on modern Greek, hence connecting the past of this country with its present.

The facts include anecdotes that the creators thought may intrigue the young readers. For example, "The Greeks had some strange superstitions about food – some wouldn't eat beans as they thought they contained the souls of the dead!"

Or on Greek athletics, "Events at the Greek's Olympics included wrestling, boxing, long jump, javelin, discus and chariot racing. But those taking part in the wrestling event had to be the toughest, as there were hardly any rules – and they had to compete naked. Eek!"

From the above examples, it appears that the creators wished to include funny facts, not just everyday life details on the Greeks. While the fact about the wrestling is partly correct (since almost all athletes were naked), it still gives the readers a sense of what Greek sport was like.

The fact about the Mycenaean culture is also partly correct, since the ancient culture of Crete was the Minoan, which was probably later conquered by the Mycenaean from mainland Greece. The facts show how ancient was the origin of the Greek culture even though it should have been corrected

The facts are meant to show that the ancient Greek culture was vibrant, full of life and interesting and also an innovative society. Scientific or medical discoveries are not mentioned here, only sports and theatre. Perhaps the creators thought that geometry and mathematics were not a good selling point for some young readers.

The fact on Greek mythology explains that these were stories that helped the Greeks learn about their world. The Trojan War is referred as legend (although for the Greeks it was an historical event). Hence

the facts separate these legends from “truth” or “history” like the Mycenaean culture, the Olympic or the invention of the theatre.

