

Students: fill in next to the word answer and return the document for assessment.

History

Ancient Greeks

Book: The Ancient Greeks

Pages 12-15

Everything here is based on our Curriculum Visions book The Ancient Greeks.

You can open this book online now by clicking on the book cover. It will open in a new window or tab.

Sanctuaries and temples

In this segment we are going to think about what the areas around the temples called sanctuaries were like, and what went on in the temples. This will include some of the world's most famous buildings and places such as the Acropolis and Parthenon in Athens and the temple at Olympia, home of the Olympic Games.

You will need to go to page 12 of the book. This segment will stretch from page 12 to page 15.

Part 1

The Ancient Greeks kept their religious areas quite separate from where they lived. The large area called the sanctuary had not only temples, but in some cases even theatres and stadia, because the games and plays were often religious events.

Play the video on page 12. Explain what the landscape was like, and say why it was still chosen as the most important sanctuary in Greece.

Answer...

The location was thought to be the centre of the Universe and had a sacred spring.

Read the section called The sanctuary at Delphi and then explain why the oracles might have seemed as though they were in a trance and so had special powers.

What were the treasuries for, and where did the money in them come from?

Answer...

The money was a tribute to the gods

Part 2

On page 13 you see an artist's impression of what a temple might have looked like. This one is actually what the temple of Zeus at Olympia have been like.

What held up the roof of a temple?

Now play the video on page 13.

What monument was inside?

Who was allowed inside the temple?

What was the purpose of the burning fire outside?

What was the pediment for, and what did it contain?

Answers...

The roof was held up by columns because arches had not been invented. The monument was a god. Only priests could enter. The fire was for tributes. The pediment was a picture story.

Part 3

Turn to pages 14-15

This is an artist's impression of what the sanctuary at Athens looked like. It was built on a natural tableland and the city grew up around it.

Write down the names of each of the features labelled, and say whether it is a temple or not.

Answer...

Parthenon: temple; Erechtheion: temple; Nike: temple;

What was the name of this huge area?

Answer...

Acropolis

Now play the video.

From the video and the explanation on page 15, explain why the Parthenon was built, who it was dedicated to, and why it was the largest temple on the site.

Answer...

It was built to honour Athene, the patron goddess of the city.

Part 4

Using the video on page 14, write a story as though you were visiting it and what you saw and felt as you walked up to the Acropolis and then around the buildings.

Answer... (students' own answers)

Part 5

Write down what you imagine would be difference between your experience today and what a Greek visiting the Acropolis in 430BC might be.

Answer...

Today it is a tourist attraction. In Ancient Greek times it was a holy site.

