Facts About Greece

Where in the world is Greece?

Greece is a country in the south-east of Europe. It has borders with four other countries: North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Turkey and Albania.

Greece has 8,479 miles of coastline with as many as 2000 rocky outcrops and islands. Around 170 islands are populated with the largest island being Crete, a popular holiday destination for tourists.

What is the weather like in Greece?

Greece has a typically Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. Most people consider Greece to be a summer holiday destination, although there are also popular ski resorts in the mountainous regions to the north of Athens.

Average summer temperature:	**33°c**	**Average winter temperature:**	**10°c**

Because of the sunny climate, more than 25 million tourists visit Greece each year!

What is the capital city of Greece?

The capital city of Greece is Athens. Athens is one of the oldest cities in Europe, having been established more than 7000 years ago. It is said to be the birthplace of democracy. Around 40% of the entire population of Greece live here - that's almost half of all the people in Greece!

How has Greece influenced the world today?

Theatre

Ancient Greeks valued the power of the spoken word and writers such as Homer wrote long poems to be performed.

Olympic Games

The Greek Olympics first took place in 776BC and were held in honour of Zeus, king of the Greek gods.

Maths

Ancient Greeks such as Pythagoras studied maths and number, helping to develop the number system we know and use today.

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- Greece enjoys more than 250 days of sunshine a year!
- Mount Olympus is the highest peak in Greece, measuring 9754 feet high.
- In 2015, 26.5 million tourists visited Greece - that's more than the entire population of Greece!
- Greek houses are often painted white to reflect the heat from the summer sun.

Questions

1. Where is Greece?

2. Name the four countries that border Greece.

3. How many of the Greek islands are inhabited?

4. Explain what is meant by a Mediterranean climate.

5. Why do so many tourists visit Greece?

6. State three facts about Athens.

7. Use a dictionary to define the term 'democracy'.

8. What was Homer famous for?

9. Why did the Ancient Greeks celebrate the Olympic Games?

10. Use one of the facts to persuade someone to visit Greece.

Answers

1. Where is Greece?
   Greece is in south-east Europe.

2. Name the four countries that border Greece.
   There 4 countries that border Greece: Albania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Turkey.

3. How many of the Greek islands are inhabited?
   There are 170 inhabited islands in Greece.

4. Explain what is meant by a 'Mediterranean climate'.
   A 'Mediterranean climate' has hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters.

5. Why do so many tourists visit Greece?
   Answers may vary but should refer to the sunny climate.

6. State three facts about Athens.
   Answers could include three of the following:

   - **capital city**
   - **oldest city in Europe**
   - **established 7000 years ago**
   - **40% of the entire population live here**

7. Use a dictionary to define the term 'democracy'.
   Answers should refer to the following key phrase: 'the system of the people electing a government'.

8. What was Homer famous for?
   Homer is famous for writing long poems to be performed in a theatre.

9. Why did Ancient Greeks celebrate the Olympic Games?
   The Olympic Games were held in honour of Zeus, the king of the gods.

10. Use one of the facts to persuade someone to visit Greece.
    Children can choose any fact and write it in a short persuasive sentence. For example, 'If you like walking or climbing, then Greece is the perfect place to visit because its highest mountain, Mount Olympus, is 9754 feet high!'