

Year 6 Greek Assembly - Wed 6th February 2019

Welcome to our assembly where we will be sharing our learning about ancient Greece

We found out about a famous battle which happened during Ancient Greek times- The Battle of Thermopylae

After the Persian envoy gave the Spartan king Leonidas an ultimatum to either surrender or face annihilation, Leonidas was furious. Being the warrior king he was, he was not going to be intimidated. He sent the envoy back with the message that surrender was not an option for Spartans.



King Leonidas sought permission to take his army, the most feared in all of Greece to go and attack the Persians and vanquish their leader Xerxes. Because of a religious festival taking place he was denied as the Spartans believed blood should not be spilled at times of religious importance. Instead he gathered 300 brave soldiers to defend Greece at the pass of Thermopylae until the festival was over.

Once they reached Thermopylae, the Spartans set about defending the pass

The Persians threw all of their might at Leonidas but the brave 300 defended the pass for days.

This was until a Spartan traitor, Ephialtes, told Xerxes a secret way around the pass. The Persians sent soldiers along the secret route and they surrounded the Spartans.

Finally, after bravely defending the pass, the Spartans, along with their King, Leonidas, were defeated.

Although the Spartans lost the battle, it bought the rest of Greece time to prepare For the Persian invasion. Eventually the Persian army were defeated by the full might of Sparta and the armies of other Greek states.

The Battle of Thermopylae was one of the most famous defeats in history!

We have been writing newspaper reports detailing the events of the battle. We would like to share some sections of our reports with you (share reports).



We are currently writing our own flashback stories linked to the Percy Jackson series of books.



Percy Jackson is a boy who finds out that he is actually a demi-god (half man/half god) and travels to the ancient Greek period to complete quests. We based our writing on Percy Jackson and researched the kind of characters which he might encounter such as the minotaur, hydra and Medusa.

Medusa was a woman with the snakes for hair, if you looked at her in the eye, you would turn to stone. The hydra was a sea beast with multiple head- every time a head is cut off, two grow back. The minotaur has the body of a man with the head of a bull and lives in a labyrinth in Crete. In Greek mythology, innovative ways were found to defeat them.

We have spent a lot of this topic focussing on art in ancient Greece.

The first type of art we looked at was pottery. Using clay we explored different Greek patterns and carved our own patterns into the clay. We then used these clay tiles to print onto a piece of material.

SHARE TILES

After tiles, we next looked at meander patterns. Meander patterns are decorative borders constructed from a continuous line, shaped into a repeated motif. Meanders are common decorative elements in Greek and Roman art. In ancient Greece they appear in many architectural friezes, and in bands on the pottery of ancient Greece from the Geometric Period onwards.

SHARE MEANDERS

After investigating different types of meander pattern and practising drawing these on paper, we decided that we wanted to try and make some 3d meander patterns.



We investigated different ways to do this but decided that the most effective way was to use a mixture of water, pva glue and tissue paper.

We built up the meander pattern using this mix and then allowed it to dry solid.

Once it was dry, we painted over it with paint to try and make the pattern stand out. Our final step was to coat it in pva glue to give it a sheen.

Pots were very popular in ancient Greece and had a number of uses such as storing food or wine. Pots in ancient Greece were decorated with a variety of pictures and designs. The designs reflected life in ancient Greece, Greek mythology or historical events.

Archaeologists have found out a lot about life in ancient Greece by studying the pictures on the pots.

We are currently in the process of making our own pots. First we used paper mache around a balloon. We needed to build the layers of paper up so that the pots were stable enough once dry. After we had done sufficient layers, we then used card to design our own handles for the pots, these were glued onto the pot with a glue gun and then covered in paper mache.

Once the pots were dry we spent some time exploring what kind of designs we could have on the pots. Using a Greek pot for inspiration we explored pattern, colour, drawings and have started to create our own designs to adorn the pots.

By taking a Greek pot for inspiration, we plan to use our creativity to come up with our own interpretation of a Greek pot.

Thank you for coming to our assembly. We hope you have enjoyed finding out about our learning this half term.

