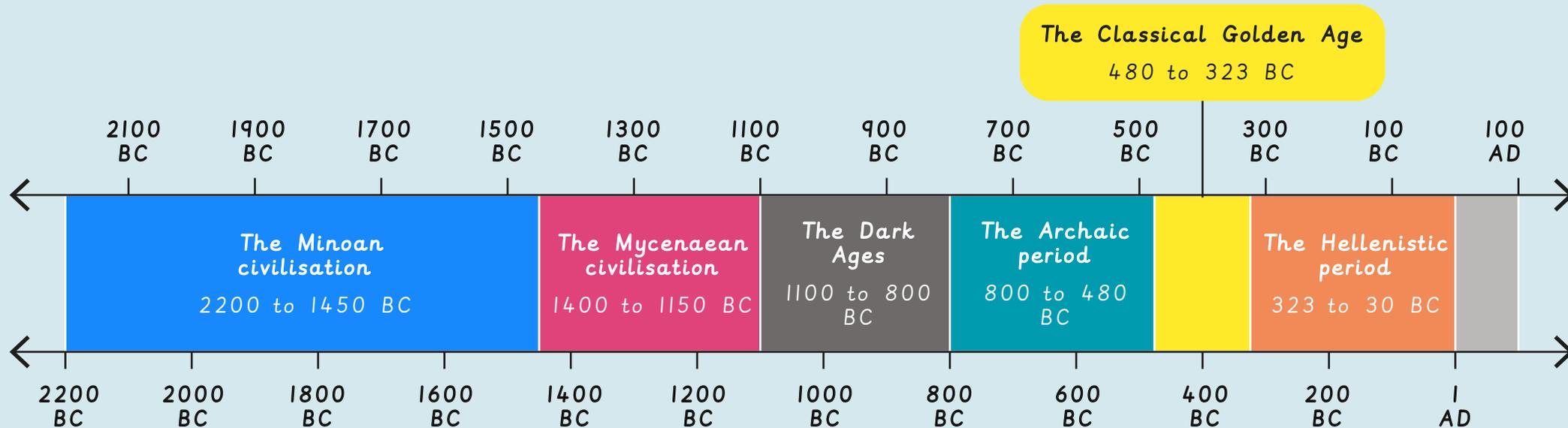| Term	Definition	Term	Definition
achievement	Something reached through hard work or effort.	direct democracy	A system of government in ancient Greece which gave all men the right to vote.
assembly	A democratic organisation in ancient Athens where all men could vote on laws.	oligarchy	A system of government in ancient Greece in which only a few people held power.
Athens	The largest and one of the most influential city-states in ancient Greece.	philosophy	The 'love of wisdom' in which people think and ask basic questions about human life.
city-state	A city or town that, with the surrounding countryside, is an independent state.	Sparta	One of the most powerful city-states in ancient Greece, known for its fierce army.
Classical Golden Period	The period from 480 BC to 323 BC in which the Greeks built temples, created democracy and made scientific discoveries.	Zeus	In Greek mythology, the god of the sky and the supreme ruler of the Olympian gods.

Gods and goddesses

The ancient Greeks believed 12 gods and goddesses lived on Mount Olympus. The Greeks prayed to them at home and in temples and ran sporting events and festivals in their honour. They believed that if something went wrong, the gods were unhappy with them. The characters, images and abilities of the Greek gods and goddesses have influenced modern-day movies, animations, books, comics and video games.

Democracy

Athenian democracy was one of the first in the world. It was a direct democracy in which the citizens themselves voted for laws in the assembly. Modern Britain has a representative democracy where people elect a representative (Member of Parliament) to make decisions on their behalf. Citizens over 18 can vote in Britain; however, in ancient Athens, only adult males born in Athens could vote.

Timeline of ancient Greece

The Classical Golden Age
480 to 323 BC

2100 BC · 1900 BC · 1700 BC · 1500 BC · 1300 BC · 1100 BC · 900 BC · 700 BC · 500 BC · 300 BC · 100 BC · 100 AD

The Minoan civilisation
2200 to 1450 BC

The Mycenaean civilisation
1400 to 1150 BC

The Dark Ages
1100 to 800 BC

The Archaic period
800 to 480 BC

The Hellenistic period
323 to 30 BC

2200 BC · 2000 BC · 1800 BC · 1600 BC · 1400 BC · 1200 BC · 1000 BC · 800 BC · 600 BC · 400 BC · 200 BC · 1 AD

Philosophy

SOCRATES   PLATO   ARISTOTLE

Philosophy (meaning 'love of wisdom') was developed by the ancient Greeks. Famous philosophers such as Pythagoras, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle still influence our thinking today: Pythagoras created the first maths formula, Socrates developed the Socratic method used to discuss ideas, Plato's ideas on ethics are still debated today, and Aristotle laid the foundations for modern science.

The English language

Α Β Χ Δ
Ε Η Γ Ι
Κ Λ Μ Ν
Ω Ο Φ Π
Ψ Ρ Σ Τ
Θ Υ Ξ Ζ

Many words in the English language (such as character, comedy, democracy, dinosaur, drama, planet, geography, and technology) originated from Greek. The Greek alphabet (alphabetum) contributed ten letters to the English language. Moreover, the word alphabet comes from the Greek letters alpha and beta.