

# 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: Macedonia, Bulgaria, Turkey and Albania.

Greece has a very long coastline, with over 2000 islands and rocky outcrops. The Aegean, Ionian and Mediterranean Seas flow around the islands, the largest of which is Crete. Being beside the sea makes Greece a popular holiday destination.



## What is the weather like in Greece?

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. Greece has hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. 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 and is named after the Ancient Greek goddess Athena.



## Facts about Greece

- Greece enjoys more than 250 days of sunshine a year! (The UK gets around half of that.)
- 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.
- Around 40% of the entire population of Greece live in Athens - that's almost half of all the people in Greece!

# Questions

1. Where is Greece?

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2. Name the four countries that border Greece.

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3. What is the weather like in Greece?

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4. What is the capital city of Greece?

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5. How did Athens get its name?

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6. Why do you think the writer included the fact 'there are more than 250 days sunshine a year in Greece'?

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7. What is the highest mountain in Greece?

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8. Why do you think more than 25 million tourists visit Greece each year?

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# Answers

1. Where is Greece?

**Greece is in south-east Europe.**

2. Name the four countries that border Greece.

**The four countries that border Greece are Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Turkey.**

3. What is the weather like in Greece?

**The weather in Greece has hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters.**

4. What is the capital city of Greece?

**Athens is the capital city of Greece.**

5. How did Athens get its name?

**Ancient Greeks named their city after the goddess Athena.**

6. Why do you think the writer included the fact, 'there are more than 250 days of sunshine each year'?

**Answers could include ideas about how the fact shows the Greek climate as very warm, which is appealing for holidaymakers. Also, they could suggest the comparison with the UK that is given in the text.**

7. What is the highest mountain in Greece?

**Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece.**

8. Why do you think more than 25 million tourists visit Greece every year?

**Answers will vary but may refer to the climate, sunshine hours, seaside and mountains.**

# 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: 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.



### Facts About Greece

- 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?  
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2. Name the four countries that border Greece.  
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3. How many of the Greek islands are inhabited?  
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4. Explain what is meant by a Mediterranean climate.  
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\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do so many tourists visit Greece?  
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6. State three facts about Athens.  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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7. Use a dictionary to define the term 'democracy'.  
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\_\_\_\_\_
8. What was Homer famous for?  
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9. Why did the Ancient Greeks celebrate the Olympic Games?  
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\_\_\_\_\_
10. Use one of the facts to persuade someone to visit Greece.  
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# Answers

1. Where is Greece?  
**Greece is in south-east Europe.**
2. Name the four countries that border Greece.  
**The four countries that border Greece are Albania, Bulgaria, 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!'**

# Facts About Greece

Greece is a country in the south-east of Europe. Mainland Greece shares its borders with Albania, Turkey, Macedonia and Bulgaria. It is often referred to as a crossroads between Europe, Asia and Africa.

Greece enjoys 8,479 miles of coastline with a vast number of islands dotted throughout the Aegean, Ionian and Mediterranean Seas. The largest island is Crete, which is a popular holiday destination for tourists.



**Average summer temperature:**

**33°C**

**Average winter temperature:**

**10°C**

**Average summer rainfall:**

**6mm**

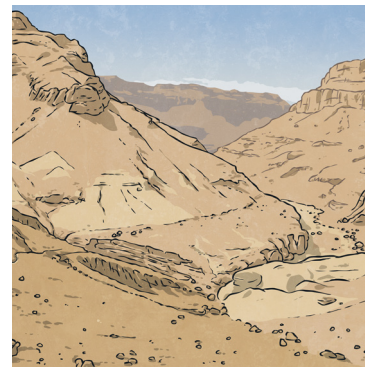
**Average winter rainfall:**

**65mm**



Greece has a warm, sunny climate and enjoys more than 250 days of sunshine a year on average. It 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.

Eighty percent of Greece consists of mountains or hills, making it one of the most mountainous areas in Europe. Mount Olympus is the highest peak in Greece, measuring 9754 feet high. According to Greek legend, when God created the world, he sifted the earth through a strainer. After giving each country good soil, he threw the stones that were left over his shoulder and created Greece.



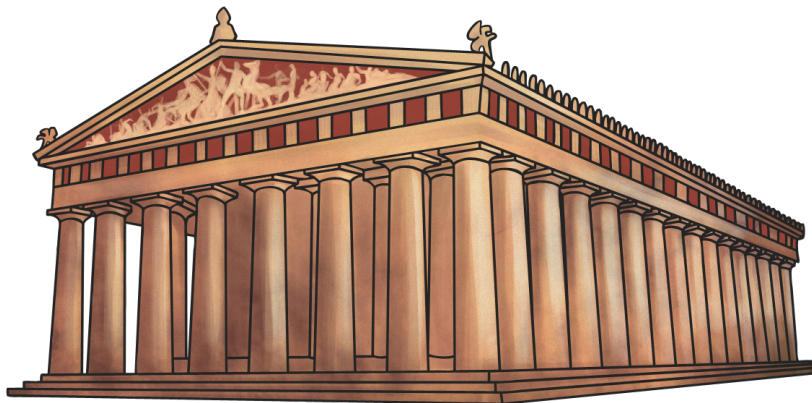




The capital city of Greece is Athens. Athens is one of the oldest cities in Europe, having been inhabited continuously for more than 7000 years. Around 40% of the entire population of Greece live here.

Greece is known as the 'cradle of Western civilisation', introducing democracy, maths, science and

language ideas that still influence us today. The Parthenon is situated on the Acropolis of Athens, an ancient citadel on a rocky outcrop above the city of Athens, and is one of the most recognised symbols of classical Greece. Athens is said to be named after the Greek Goddess Athena, who presented a gift of an olive tree to the citizens. The Parthenon is a temple dedicated to Athena.



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# Questions

1. On which continent can you find Greece?  

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2. How many countries border Greece? Write them in alphabetical order.  

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3. Which seas flow around Greece and its many islands?  

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4. Which is the largest Greek island?  

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5. Give two reasons why Greece is popular with tourists.  

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6. Explain what is meant by a 'Mediterranean climate'.  

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7. What is the capital city of Greece?  

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8. Why is Greece known as the 'cradle of Western civilisation'?  

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

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10. Why is the Parthenon dedicated to Athena?  

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# Answers

1. On which continent can you Find Greece?  
**You can find Greece in the continent of Europe.**
2. How many countries border Greece? Write then in alphabetical order.  
**There 4 countries that border Greece: Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Turkey.**
3. Which seas flow around Greece and its many islands?  
**The Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea and Mediterranean Sea flow around Greece.**
4. Which is the largest Greek island?  
**Crete is the largest Greek island.**
5. Give two reasons why Greece is popular with tourists.  
**Answers may vary. The main ideas could include ideas such as a warm, sunny climate, 250 days of sunshine a year, a mild winter, skiing or a long coastline.**
6. Explain what is meant by a Mediterranean climate.  
**A Mediterranean climate has hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters.**
7. What is the capital city of Greece?  
**Athens s the capital city of Greece.**
8. Why is Greece known as the 'cradle of Western civilisation'?  
**Greece is known as the 'cradle of Western civilisation' because it is the place where ideas about democracy, maths, science and language began and these ideas still influence us today.**
9. Use a dictionary to define the term 'democracy'.  
**Answers should refer to the following key phrase: 'the system of the people electing a government'.**
10. Why is the Parthenon dedicated to Athena?  
**The Parthenon is dedicated to Athena because she presented a gift of an olive tree to the citizens so they named the city after her and dedicated the Parthenon to her.**