



### CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

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Immerse yourself in the Greek and Roman World! The Classical Civilisation A level course covers epic stories of Greek and Roman heroes, the plays and theatre of the ancient Greeks and Roman politics at its most turbulent time. We shall discover why exactly Julius Caesar was stabbed in the back by so many of his so-called friends!

In order to prepare for this course it is necessary to get a general understanding of the Greeks and Romans themselves so these tasks will help you to learn a little bit more about their culture and society.

Classical Civilisation is great because so much of what we study is referenced continually in later art, drama, literature and politics. We shall study this as we go but there has been a vast range of highly acclaimed novels written recently which give you a really good understanding of particular aspects of Greece and Rome. I have included some below but there are many others.

#### Tasks

1. You need to be familiar with the Greek and Roman gods. Fill in the list below – you can easily find the details on the web and learn who they are!

See if you can also find pictures of how they were represented by the Greeks and Romans. The Greeks often painted them on their red clay pots as in the examples given at the bottom of the sheet. Now pick one who interests you and produce a presentation on this particular god/goddess which you can give to the rest of the set. Include their origin, their family, a few short myths and some pictures of them from Greek/Roman times.

Greek Name	Roman Name	Responsibility
Zeus		
Hera		
Hestia		
Hades		
Poseidon		
Demeter		
Ares		

Hephaistos		
Athene		
Dionysus		
Aphrodite		
Apollo		
Artemis		
Hermes		

2. We are reading 'The Odyssey' next year which concerns the adventures of Odysseus after the Trojan War. But what do you know about the Trojan War? Find out why and how it started, who it involved, memorable events and how it ended. You may have done a little of this already but now is the time to expand your knowledge. Find out more about: Peleus, Agamemnon, Menelaus, Helen, Achilles, Hector, Paris, Briseis, Ajax, Odysseus.
3. Here's a really interesting [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkLIwQubG8) on the beginning of Greek theatre:
4. We are also studying Roman civilisation. Mary Beard's TV series 'Meet the Romans' is fun and a good way to find out more about everyday life in Rome.  
[Meet the Romans with Mary Beard 1/3 - HD](#)



There are three of these. Watch and enjoy them all and try watching other videos which come up too about the ancient world. Bettany Hughes has several on Greece.

A debate crew years ago between [Mary and Boris Greece v Rome](#) - is long but fun:  
[Greece vs Rome, with Boris Johnson and Mary Beard](#)

5. Lots of historical fiction is set in Greek or Roman times. You can find short descriptions of each of these on Amazon. Pick at least one, read it and make notes on what you learnt and of course whether or not you enjoyed it:

- [Lindsey Davies' 'whodunits'](#)
- [Cordianus novels by Steven Saylor](#)
- [Imperium by Robert Harris](#)
- [The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller](#)
- [Circe by Madeline Miller](#)
  
- [A Thousand Ships by Natalie Haynes](#)
- [The Silence of the Girls by Pat Barker](#) (I highly recommend this)
- [The Penelopiad by Margaret Atwood](#)

There are many, many more. If you discover any you enjoy, please do recommend to others.

6. These books are also interesting if you have time or inclination:

- [Mythos by Stephen Fry](#)
- [Heroes by Stephen Fry](#)
- [Women and Power by Mary Beard](#) (short but thought provoking)
- [Rubicon](#) or [Dynasty](#) by Tom Holland