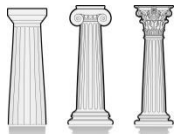
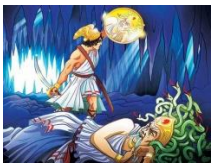
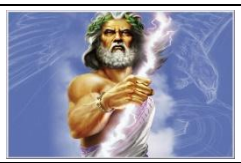
Ancient Greeks Vocabulary Guide

	Word	Definition
	acropolis	A citadel or fortified part of an ancient Greek city, typically one built on a hill.
	ancient	Belonging to the very distant past generally thousands of years ago.
	city state	Greece was split into separate groups called city states. They made their own rules, had their own laws and often clashed with each other.
	civilization	The society, culture, and way of life of a particular area
	Mount Olympus	Was believed to be the home of the Ancient Greek gods.
	Parthenon	The temple that sits atop the Acropolis in Athens.
	temple	The place of worship for the Ancient Greeks. Temples were often dedicated to one particular god.
	theatre	A venue that was home to performances of plays the Ancient Greeks wrote.
	tragedy and comedy	Most Greek plays were either tragedies – retelling a sad event – or comedies that aimed at making people laugh.
	Sparta	A famous city state that focussed on a strong military and total discipline.
	Athens	The centre of the Ancient Greek world which went on to become the capital of modern Greece.
	hoplites	Heavily armed foot soldiers of Ancient Greece.

	slaves	People that had no rights and were owned by free Greeks. They were often captured during battles.
	Alexander the Great	The most famous Ancient Greek general. He conquered much of Europe and Asia.
	**column**	A key feature in Greek architecture used to support the structure of a building that has since been copied worldwide throughout history.
	democracy	The idea that every free person gets a vote and their opinion will be heard.
	**myths**	The stories told by the Ancient Greeks about their gods. They often explained events or gave reasons for things happening in the world.
	pottery	The Ancient Greeks created beautiful pieces of pottery that often showed scenes from their plays, myths, and everyday life.
	philosophy	The Ancient Greek world saw the birth of philosophy which is the art of thinking about life and the world we are in.
	siege	A military operation in which enemy forces surround a town cutting off essential supplies, with the aim of compelling those inside to surrender.
	Marathon	Marathon is the scene of a famous Greek battle victory over the Persians in 490 BC; the modern race is based on the tradition that a messenger ran from Marathon to Athens with the news.
	demi-gods	The Ancient Greeks believed that their Gods came to Earth in human form and had relationships with mortal humans. Their children were known as demi-gods meaning half god and half mortal often with super human strength.
	**Zeus**	The King of the Ancient Greek Gods he is often shown in a white toga with long white hair and a white beard.