

What did the Greeks do for us?

Many of the things that make the UK a really cool place to live were actually invented by the Greeks – we just copied them. OK, we didn't copy *everything*. But let's give them a bit of credit anyway.

First off the Greeks gave the world democracy – which we still use in Britain today to choose who runs the country.

In ancient Athens, citizens met regularly to vote on the laws that changed their daily lives using a simple show of hands by all. I say all... women, slaves and foreigners were banned from voting. So NOT so democratic really!

The Greeks also gave us the Olympic Games. The very first Olympics took place in 776BC. The only event was a 200m foot race and the winner was a humble baker named Coroebus.

As time went on the Greeks added more events making it more like the Olympics we know today. The big difference being that the Greeks did it all in the nude!

The Greeks pretty much invented modern mathematics, sculpture, philosophy, science and even medicine. And they used some of their new knowledge to make cool inventions like the water wheel, the alarm clock, the catapult and even, the vending machine!

Finally, our language has roots in ancient Greece, from the individual letters through to complete words like dinosaur and helicopter!

So, whether we are talking about language, science, maths, law, buildings, sport, art or annoyingly early wake up calls - the Greeks got there first.

