



What is Greece like today?

YEAR 5
GEOGRAPHY

KNOWLEDGE MAT

KEY KNOWLEDGE

Where is Greece?

- Greece is a country in south-eastern Europe.
- It borders a number of countries, including Albania, Turkey, Bulgaria and Macedonia.
- It also has a large coastline on the Mediterranean Sea.
- Greece covers an area of 131,957 sq. km.
- It is the 15th largest European country by area.
- About 10.8 million people live in Greece.
- The capital city is Athens.
- Greece has around 6,000 islands, although only around 227 of these are habited.



KEY VOCABULARY

Architecture: planning, designing, and constructing buildings.

City: a large town. London is a city.

Climate: the general weather conditions that are typical of a place

Coastal: an area of land close to the sea

Compass points: any of the main points of a compass: north, south, east, west, north-east, north-west, south-east, south-west

Continent: a very large area of land that consists of many countries.

Economy: the way people spend money and the way people make money.

Europe: is a continent.

Greece: a country in Europe.

Greek Orthodox: a denomination of the Christian faith.

Human features: features of land that have been impacted by human activity

Island: a piece of land that is completely surrounded by water

Mainland: the largest part of a country or continent is the mainland when contrasting it with the islands around it.

Mediterranean: a large sea that separates Europe from Africa.

Physical features: natural features of land.

Trade: the buying and selling of goods and services.

Tourist: when people travel for pleasure.



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Human Features

Greece has a long and rich history, and a culture which has developed over thousands of years from the time of the Ancient Greeks. Its warm climate also makes it a popular holiday destination for people from across the world.

Population

The population of Greece is around 10.8 million people. This makes it the fourteenth most populous country in Europe. The population density is 82 people per square kilometre. This is the 30th highest population density in Europe.



Settlements

The most populous and capital city of Greece is Athens. It has a population of over 3 million people. Other large settlements include Thessaloniki, Patra, Piraeus and Larisa. Most settlements were founded around the coast, as Greeks historically were seafaring people.



Economic Activity

Greece is a part of the European Union and its currency is the Euro. Greece has suffered many financial problems in recent years, and have had to be helped by other countries. Tourism is a large source of income for Greece.



Resources/ Trade

Greece have many natural resources, and are a large trader of petroleum products. In terms of food, Greece exports high quantities of fresh fish, olive oil, tomato-based products and wine.



Physical Features

- Greece is one of the most mountainous countries in Europe.
- The northern mainland region is the most mountainous. The highest peak is Mt Olympus, which is 2,917m high.
- Greece also contains thousands of islands in the Aegean, Ionian and Mediterranean Seas. The largest island is Crete.
- Greece has a warm and sunny climate. The temperature averages around 33°C in summer and 14°C in winter.
- Rainfall is heaviest in the northern mountains. Some islands receive very little yearly rain.
- The longest river entirely in Greece is Haliakmon, which is about 185 miles long.
- There are many volcanoes. The most famous are those of Santorini, Kos, Milos and Nisyros.
- Lakes of a large size include Trichonis, Vegoritis and Volvi.

