VISITING GREECE



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Expemo code:
1J3A-G1L2-28C

1 Warm up

Read the questions below and choose the correct answer.

1. What is the currency of Greece?
   a. Euro b. Drachma c. Pound
2. What is the capital city?
   a. Thessaloniki b. Athens c. Patras
3. Which of these is **not** a Greek island?
   a. Corfu b. Crete c. Corsica
4. What colors are featured on the Greek flag?
   a. blue and white b. red and white c. black and white

Answer the questions below.

1. What climate do you associate with Greece?
2. What do you know about Greece's ancient or modern history?
3. Do you know any famous Greek people?

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2 Visual Guide

Part A: Match the pictures of Greek landmarks and icons to the descriptions below.



1) feta



2) ouzo



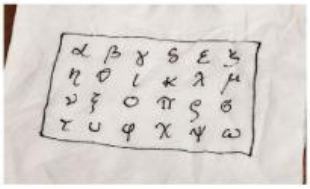
3) moussaka



4) Greek Orthodox Church



5) taverna



6) Greek alphabet



7) Parthenon



8) Samariá Gorge



9) Parnassus

1. _____ a mountain range in Central Greece
2. _____ a type of Greek cheese made from sheep's milk (or a mixture of sheep's and goat's milk)
3. _____ a dish made from layers of eggplant and meat with cheese on top
4. _____ a café or restaurant
5. _____ a strong alcoholic drink from Greece, usually drunk with water
6. _____ twenty-four letters used in the Greek language, starting with alpha and ending in omega
7. _____ a former temple dedicated to the Greek goddess Athena
8. _____ a national park on the island of Crete
9. _____ an organization of several different religious groups, including the church of Greece

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Part B: The following words will be heard in the video you are about to watch. Choose the best word to label each picture.

ancient ruins cliff facade monastery pillar summit



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____

3 Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Match the words to their definitions.

1.	speckled (adj)	a.	(of a building or landmark) be very high
2.	pursuit (n)	b.	represent an idea or quality exactly
3.	embody (v)	c.	a very important part of something
4.	soar (v)	d.	under, or in a lower position than, something
5.	jut (v)	e.	something that you give your time and energy to
6.	beneath (prep)	f.	among the best, most expensive, etc. examples of something
7.	top-end (adj)	g.	something (such as a large building) that you can see clearly from a distance and that helps you to know where you are
8.	mainstay (n)	h.	come out further than surrounding objects
9.	landmark (n)	i.	covered with small marks or spots

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Part B: Choose a word from part A to fill in the blanks.

1. When visiting one of Greece's many islands, you are likely to see sandy beaches _____ with small stones.
2. If you wish to experience fine Greek cuisine, consider visiting one of Athens' _____ restaurants.
3. The Acropolis is probably Greece's most famous _____. Using it as a reference point can help you to find your way around Athens.
4. Greeks have grown olive trees since ancient times, and olive oil is still a _____ of Greek cuisine.
5. The tallest building in Athens, Athens Tower, _____ 103 meters above the ground.
6. Greece offers a wide range of outdoor _____ for active people; you can even enjoy mountain skiing with a sea view!
7. In 2001, a 2,500-year-old ship was discovered _____ the sea near the island of Kythera, Greece.
8. The Greek mainland _____ out from southern Europe into the Mediterranean Sea.
9. For some people, the idea of spending a week on a Greek island _____ the idea of the perfect vacation.

Part C: Answer the questions below.

1. What outdoor or indoor **pursuits** do you enjoy?
2. What (if anything) are the **mainstays** of your country's cuisine?
3. What **embodies** your idea of a good vacation?



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4 Listening for the main idea

You are going to watch a video about visiting Greece. Watch for the first time and check which subjects are mentioned.

- ☐ Greek myths
- ☐ Life in Athens
- ☐ Parnassus
- ☐ Sunsets
- ☐ Ancient Greek philosophy
- ☐ Cost of accommodation

5 Listening comprehension

Watch the video again and choose the correct answers.

1. Greece balances its past, present, and future in a way that is...
   a. completely unique.
   b. not done by many other countries.
   c. typical of European countries.
2. According to the narrator, who is attracted to the Acropolis?
   a. older people
   b. tourists
   c. people of all ages
3. The narrator believes you will never forget the first time...
   a. you see the Meteora.
   b. you visit Athens.
   c. you take a trip to a Greek island.
4. Where is described as the center of the ancient Greek world?
   a. the Acropolis
   b. Delphi
   c. Santorini

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5. In Santorini, it's possible to enjoy the sunset...
   a. without many people around you.
   b. only in a crowd.
   c. between May and August.

6. What two advantages of visiting Greece in April or September are given?
   a. It will be cooler and less crowded.
   b. It will be cooler and cheaper.
   c. It will be cheaper and less crowded.

7. In Greece, the network of bus services...
   a. covers only cities.
   b. can transport you to small villages.
   c. is not recommended.

6 Focus on vocabulary 2

Now read the transcript of the video and find a word which means ...

1. _____ whitened (para 1)
2. _____ representing the perfect example (para 2)
3. _____ towards the sky (para 3)
4. _____ several (para 3)
5. _____ a mix of different things (para 5)
6. _____ is full of (para 5)
7. _____ island-hopping
8. _____ charming (para 8) – (2 different words)



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Transcript

1. Experience endless miles of *aquamarine coastline, sun-bleached ancient ruins, strong feta and stronger ouzo. It's easy to understand how so many myths of gods and giants *originated in this vast and varied landscape. With wide-open skies and a sea speckled with islands, Greece balances its past, present and future in a way managed by few other countries. The result is a nation with endless cultural pursuits.
2. The reason the Acropolis remains the quintessential landmark of Western civilization: it is spectacular. The Acropolis embodies a *harmony, power and beauty that speaks to all generations.
3. You're not likely to forget the first moment the magnificent Meteora comes into view: soaring pillars of rock that jut heavenward, and a handful of monasteries at the summit.
4. Arrive early to catch the magic of the sun's rays pouring over the *sanctuary of Athena Pronea at Delphi, the center of the ancient Greek world.
5. Life in Athens is a magnificent mash-up of the ancient and the modern. Beneath the *majestic facades of landmarks, the city teems with life and creativity.
6. There's more to Santorini than sunsets, but this remarkable island shaped by the fire of prehistoric eruptions has made the celebratory sunset its own. You can catch the sunset without the crowds from almost anywhere along the cliff edge.
7. High season runs May through August. Milder temperatures and fewer crowds can be found in April and September. Travel costs in Greece can range from less than 60 euros a day if you enjoy a dorm bed and street stall meals to over 150 euros a day for top-end hotels and excellent dining. Buses are the mainstay of land transport with a network that reaches out to small villages. Island-hopping requires a *multitude of ferries.
8. Greece doesn't disappoint. The ruins really are that spellbinding, the seafood that fresh, local music that enchanting and the brown sugar sand truly is that soft.

Glossary

aquamarine (adj.) - pale blue-green in color
originate (v) - happen or appear for the first time
harmony (n) - a state of peace
sanctuary (n) - safe place where people in danger can stay and be protected
majestic (adj.) - impressive because of its size or beauty
multitude (n) - an extremely large number

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7 Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Fill in the blanks with the words below to create definitions for each vocabulary item. Check your answers in pairs.

aggressive or unfriendly	a special event	attached to a ring	in a slow, relaxed way
more than enough	parents and children	respected for something	with people

1. sieve (n): a tool made of a net _____, used for separating larger pieces of something from smaller pieces
2. stroll (v): to walk somewhere _____
3. extended family (phrase): a family group that includes not only _____ but also uncles, aunts, grandparents, etc.
4. festivities (n): the activities that are organized to celebrate _____
5. hostility (n): _____ feelings or behavior
6. renowned (adj.): famous and _____
7. abundance (n): a large quantity that is _____.
8. inhabited (adj.): _____ living there



Part B: Fill in the blanks with words from part A.

1. While making tsoureki (Greek Easter bread), I put the flour through a _____ before adding it to the other ingredients.
2. Greece has an _____ of ancient monuments and historical sites; it's important to choose carefully.
3. Ropoto is an abandoned town in central Greece. It was _____ until 2012 when a natural disaster forced the residents to leave.
4. Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato are three of the most _____ ancient Greek philosophers.
5. After a busy day of sightseeing, I relaxed by _____ along the beach and enjoying a glass of ouzo.
6. I'm visiting Crete with my _____ this summer to celebrate my grandmother's birthday. Three generations of people will be there.
7. Every year, Greece celebrates a carnival known as Apokreas. _____ include dancing and parades.
8. The Greek fans showed no _____ toward the player, even though he had chosen to play for a different country.

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Part C: Answer the following questions:

1. Think of an important celebration in your country /culture. What **festivities** are associated with this occasion?
2. When you visit a new place, do you enjoy **strolling** around looking at things, or do you prefer doing things at a faster pace? Why?
3. What is there an **abundance** of in your country?

8 Skim reading

Match the following paragraph titles to the paragraphs (A-F) in the article on page 10. Two are not needed.

1. Early beginnings
2. An ancient competition
3. Eating well and enjoying the sun
4. Nature and natural wonders
5. Hopping between islands
6. Learning about Greek gods and legends
7. Supporting relatives across generations
8. The importance of religion

9 Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions.

1. What do Greek people usually call the country where they are from?
2. How many Greek islands have people living on them?
3. In the past, how often was meat eaten in a Mediterranean diet?
4. What example is given of an older generation supporting a younger one?
5. Why must you pay attention to the date if you want to experience Easter in Greece?

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Welcome to Greece

Experience natural wonders, ancient monuments, and fantastic food, all at your own pace

A. _____

Although the country's official name is Hellenic Republic, most of its citizens refer to it as *Hellas* or *Hellada*. Greek legend claims that the world was created by passing soil through a sieve, with the stones remaining in the sieve being used to build Greece! Looking at a map, it's easy to understand why. Greece has more than 2,000 islands, of which about 170 are inhabited. Santorini, Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes, and Corfu are five of the most popular.

B. _____

Over 80% of Greece's land is mountainous. The country is also extremely rich in wildlife, claiming 6,000 native plants and an abundance of animal species. Natural features like the volcanic rocks of Falakro (on Limnos), the Samaria Gorge (on Crete), and the Blue Caves of Zakynthos (on Zakynthos) are popular destinations.

C. _____

Greeks spend a lot of time outside appreciating the Mediterranean climate. In many places, the tradition of the volta is still followed: at sunset people can be seen strolling up and down the main street or, on the islands, along the shore. Greece is renowned for its healthy Mediterranean diet based on vegetables, fruit, olives, olive oil, cheese, bread, and seafood. Meat was traditionally a luxury consumed only on special occasions but is more present in modern diets. There's more to Greek cuisine than moussaka, and food lovers should not be disappointed.

D. _____

Greek society is also famous for its strong family structure, and the vast majority of the country's businesses are still family-run. The extended family, and the obligation placed on family members to support one other, is extremely important. For example, married couples may live with their in-laws until they can find or afford their own housing. In most cases the elderly are looked after by younger relatives; there are hardly any care homes in Greece.

E. _____

Virtually all of the population belongs to the Church of Greece (Greek Orthodox Church), with Easter being the most important religious and family festival. Many people return to their hometowns for the traditional festivities, which include a church service on Saturday evening and lighting the Holy Fire at midnight on Easter morning. Visitors interested in witnessing this aspect of Greek culture should bear in mind that, due to following a different calendar, Easter takes place at a later date than in other European nations.

F. _____

Ancient Olympia grew to be the most celebrated site of Ancient Greece and the birthplace of the Olympic Games. The first games were held in 776 BCE, and the very first race was won by Coroebus of Elis, a cook! In the early days of the Olympics, Greeks across the known world would be reunited every four years, even during times of war. All hostilities would be temporarily forgotten. Olympia remains a powerful landmark that can be visited today.

source: welcome-to-greece.com





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10 Talking point

Discuss the following questions.

1. What places mentioned are you interested in visiting? Why?
2. How does the importance of extended family in Greece compare with your culture?
3. Could you follow a Mediterranean diet? How would it differ from what you usually eat?
4. Do you enjoy watching the Olympic Games? How do you think the original Olympics compared to the modern ones?
5. Have you ever been island-hopping? If so, describe your experience. If not, what do you think the advantages (and disadvantages) of this type of vacation would be?

11 Optional extension: English words with Greek roots

Part A: Prefixes. Many common prefixes used in English come from the Greek language. Read the example and choose the Greek meaning of the prefix.

against alone far many small

Prefix	Meaning	Example
anti-	1	James is quite **antisocial**; he doesn't like spending time with people.
tele-	2	Advances in **telecommunication** have helped us to communicate with people all over the world more easily.
mono-	3	The woman gave an extremely long **monologue** about the company. I think she didn't want anybody else to speak.
poly-	4	Corinne is a **polyglot**. She speaks five languages fluently and is learning another two!
micro-	5	Greece generally enjoys warm Mediterranean weather, but it has several **microclimates** due to its mountainous landscape.

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Part B: Choose the correct prefix to complete the words.

1. To help find lost animals, vets can insert a 2mm _____**chip** containing the owner's data under an animal's skin.
2. Theo lives hundreds of miles from his company's office. He _____**commutes** from his home, contacting the office by phone and video call.
3. The man was bitten by a dangerous snake; fortunately, an _____**dote** was available to help his body fight the venom.
4. That company has _____**polized** the market, making it very difficult for other companies to sell their products.
5. Rectangles, squares and other four-sided shapes are examples of _____**gons**.

Part C: Match the words to their definitions.

1.	monologue (n)	a.	a substance that controls the effects of a poison or disease
2.	antisocial (adj)	b.	not wanting to spend time with other people
3.	microchip (n)	c.	a flat shape with three or more straight sides
4.	polyglot (n)	d.	a long speech by one person during a conversation that stops other people from speaking or expressing an opinion
5.	telecommute(v)	e.	have or take control of the largest part of something so that other people are prevented from sharing it
6.	antidote (n)	f.	a very small part of a computer which stores information or does calculations
7.	polygon (n)	g.	the weather in a particular small area, especially when this is different from the weather in the surrounding area
8.	microclimate (n)	h.	the technology of sending signals, images, and messages over long distances by radio, phone, television, satellite, etc.
9.	monopolize (v)	i.	work at home and communicate with your office by phone or email
10.	telecommunication (n)	j.	a person who can speak or use several languages

Part D: Find more words with these prefixes. Use a dictionary to help you.

anti-	tele-	mono-	poly-	micro-

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Examples of other Greek words:

- *logos* - word
- *phonos* - sound
- *gramma* - writing
- *scopos* – watcher
- *bios* - life

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