

# Key dates

## Periods in Greek history

The 'Archaic' period usually refers to the years from 800 to 500 BC. It saw the formation of Greek culture.

The 'Classical' period is generally used for the fifth and early fourth centuries BC. It is particularly associated with the politics and culture of city states (*poleis*).

The 'Hellenistic' period is usually taken to run from the accession of Alexander as king of Macedon in 336 BC to the first century BC. Alexander conquered the Persian empire and much of the near east, opening up those areas to a common Greek culture (*koine*), which continued even into the period of the Roman empire.

## Periods in Roman history

753 BC      Legendary foundation of Rome: period of kings.

509 BC      The republic set up (in place of kings), with a ruling senate and two annually elected consuls.

'Early republic' usually relates to the fourth and third centuries BC. Rome was established as a leading Mediterranean power by defeating Carthage in the Punic Wars.

'Mid republic' usually means the second century BC. It saw continuing expansion of Rome's power in areas of the Mediterranean such as Greece and Asia Minor.

'Late republic' usually means the first century BC. This saw increasing tension in Italy, to do with citizenship rights for the Italian allies of Rome and the distribution of land; in mid first century Rome there was mounting rivalry between individuals (such as Pompey and Julius Caesar) with political and military power.

31 BC      Octavian defeated Mark Antony at the battle of Actium, and in 28 BC by a constitutional settlement took the title *princeps* (leading citizen). In 27 BC he took the title Augustus.

## List of emperors, their reigns and their dynasties

### *Julio-Claudians*

27 BC–AD 14	Augustus
AD 14–37	Tiberius
AD 37–41	Gaius, also known as Caligula
AD 41–54	Claudius
AD 54–68	Nero
AD 68–69	Galba
AD 69	'The year of the Four Emperors': Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Vespasian

### *Flavians*

AD 69–79	Vespasian
AD 79–81	Titus
AD 81–96	Domitian
AD 96–98	Nerva
AD 98–117	Trajan
AD 117–38	Hadrian

### *Antonines*

AD 138–61	Antoninus Pius
AD 161–80	Marcus Aurelius (co-emperor with Lucius Verus AD 161–69)
AD 180–92	Commodus (co-emperor with his father, Marcus Aurelius 177–80)
AD 193	Pertinax
AD 193	Didius Julianus

### *Severans*

AD 193–211	Septimius Severus
AD 211–17	Caracalla (co-ruler with Geta AD 211–12)
AD 217–18	Macrinus
AD 218–22	Elagabalus
AD 222–35	Alexander Severus

*Dynasties* emperors from Augustus to Nero are known as Julio-Claudians; Vespasian to Domitian as Flavians; Antoninus Pius to Commodus as the Antonines; and Septimius Severus to Alexander Severus as Severans.