

# Greek Theatre Knowledge Organiser

## History



Masks in Greek theatre were used to show emotion, facial expressions and different characters.



Women were not allowed to participate, work or act in the theatre.



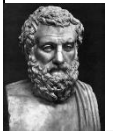
Plays were performed in honour of the Greek God Dionysus at the Athens Festival.



The three main genres of Greek theatre are Tragedy, Comedy and Satire.



The Chorus performed in the Orchestra area and often narrated the plays.



The first actor was a man name Thespis

**PACE** – The speed of the voice.

**TONE** – Change the softness or harshness to show emotion in the voice.

**PITCH** – How high or low your voice can go.

**PROJECTION** – travelling the voice from A to B

## The Theatre of Dionysus in Athens



They held more than 180,000 people

The semi-circle shape gave everyone a good view

The theatres were built on hillsides in the open air

Plays were performed here to honour the God Dionysus

The seating was made out of stone and man made

## Key Drama Skills

**Pace:** The speed in which you speak. E.g. Talking quicker if you are arguing with someone.

**Synchronisation:** Everyone speaking/moving at the exact same time.

**Pause:** Creates impact on a performance allowing the audience time to focus

**Choral:** Use the techniques of the Greek Chorus to perform vocally in synchronisation and create dramatic impact.

**Status:** Establish your character's authority in the scene by using your voice. E.g. have a commanding voice if you are in charge.

**Body Language:** Use certain parts of the body to communicate emotions of your character to an audience.

**Levels:** Using these can establish you characters role. Sit on a lower level to show a peasant. Stand up to show a King or Queen.

**Caricature:** Exaggerating an action or vocal skill when playing a character.