

Greek Theatre is the earliest form of theatre recorded in Europe in **600 BC**. It began as a religious ceremony where a priest would give a sermon and a chorus of people would sing behind him.

It was held in an **amphitheatre**:



The stage is at the base and the audience are seated in a funnel shape which helps to trap the noise in the space so the sermon could be heard. Eventually the sermon changed into a storytelling and the priest turned into a narrator. The stories would have morals and messages for the audience.



Minack Theatre
Cornwall
Outdoor Amphitheatre

There are two types of story told in Greek Theatre. **Comedy and Tragedy.**

The chorus would wear masks to show emotions that should be felt about the story being told. These masks are where we get our sign for Drama from:



GREEK THEATRE

Masks were used for **chorus** at first and then eventually characters acting out parts would start to tell the story too. The characters would wear masks too. The holes for the mouth were large so the lines could still be delivered clearly.



Chorus	Narrator	Ensemble
--------	----------	----------

In Ancient Greece, the chorus could be up to 50 people strong, this slowly changed to around 12 people. The chorus created setting, scenery, and atmosphere as the story is told. The chorus would work together in an 'ensemble.' Individuals would step forward and act out key scenes and the chorus would react with emotions. These individuals became the actors.



How Modern Theatre Still Uses Greek

Traditions: We still use the narrator from Greek Theatre in lots of types of theatre, especially theatre with a message, it helps the audience to distance themselves from the action and reflect. Chorus is used in more creative ways with dance, physical theatre and still images to help include more detail and atmosphere in the storytelling.