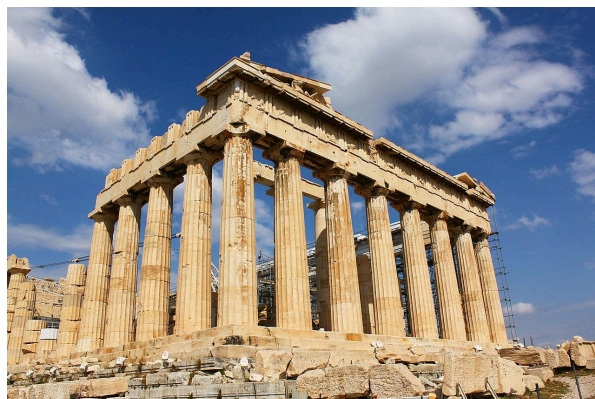


Great Football Cities: Athens



1) Discussion

- a) What are your favourite European cities?
 - b) Have you been to watch any football matches in Europe?
 - c) What do you know about Greek football?
-

2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1) Bustling (adjective) | a) People who do manual or industrial work, usually not wealthy. |
| 2) Passionate (adjective) | b) A small, green plant with three leaves, a symbol of Ireland. |
| 3) Purity (noun) | c) Full of busy activity and noise. |
| 4) Working-class (noun) | d) To expect something to happen and prepare for it. |
| 5) Shamrock (noun) | e) Being clean, without anything bad. |
| 6) Anticipate (verb) | f) Having or showing strong feelings. |
-



b) Complete the sentences with the correct form of the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

Bustling

Passionate

Purity

Working-class

Shamrock

To Anticipate

- 1) Fans of Liverpool FC _____ the match against Manchester United, knowing it would be an exciting and tense game.
- 2) Diego Maradona was a hero to many in Argentina, especially among the _____ who saw him as one of their own.
- 3) As a youngster, Wayne Rooney was known for the _____ of his playing style, playing games like he was on the street with his friends.
- 4) The streets around the stadium were _____ with fans as they celebrated Real Madrid's victory in the Champions League.
- 5) During the game, the _____ ultras of AC Milan made a lot of noise.
- 6) Celtic FC's logo features a _____, representing their Irish heritage.



3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

a) Who are the big three clubs in Athens?

The City of the Violet Crown

Athens, the capital of Greece, is a city rich in history and culture. Known for its ancient landmarks like the Parthenon and the Acropolis, Athens is also a modern, bustling city. It is a place where the old meets the new, with lively streets, vibrant markets, and a strong passion for sports, especially football.

AEK Athens was founded in 1924 by Greek refugees from Asia Minor. The club's colours are yellow and black, symbolising the Byzantine Empire. AEK is known for its passionate supporters and its success in Greek football. The team has won 12 Greek Championships and 15 Greek Cups. AEK's fans are proud of the club's strong connection to Greek history and its role in helping refugees.

Olympiacos, founded in 1925, is the most successful football club in Greece. The team wears red and white, colours that represent strength and purity. Olympiacos has won an impressive 47 Greek Championships and 28 Greek Cups. The club's fans, known as the "Gate 7," are famous for their enthusiastic and loud support during matches. Olympiacos represents the working-class people of Piraeus, a port city near Athens.

Panathinaikos was established in 1908, making it one of the oldest football clubs in Greece. The team's colours are green and white, and its symbol is a shamrock. Panathinaikos has won 20 Greek Championships and 19 Greek Cups. The club's fans, called the "Gate 13," are known for their loyalty and intense support. Panathinaikos has a strong tradition in both football and other sports like basketball and volleyball.

The biggest rivalries in Athens are between these three clubs, especially when they play each other in the "Derby of the Eternal Enemies" (Olympiacos vs. Panathinaikos) and the "Athens Derby" (AEK vs. Panathinaikos). These matches are highly anticipated events, full of excitement, tension, and fierce competition. Football in Athens brings people together, showing the city's passion and love for the sport.



4) Discussion

- a) What do you think about Athens as a football city?
- b) Would you like to visit Athens to watch a game?
- c) Which team would you like to watch in Athens?
- d) Can you think of any famous Greek footballers?
- e) In 2004 Greece won the Euros, what do you know/remember about this team?

