

Ancient Greece





F.Y.R.O.M.

BULGARIA

ALBANIA

ALEXANDER

Thessaloniki

TURKEY

AEGEAN
SEA

IONIAN
SEA

Patras

Athens

ULYSSE

Herakleion

Section 1 Objectives

- Identify the ways geography and climate shaped Greek Life.
- Explain the rise and development of Mycenaean civilization.
- Describe how Homer and Greek myths



Vocabulary - Lesson 1

isthmus

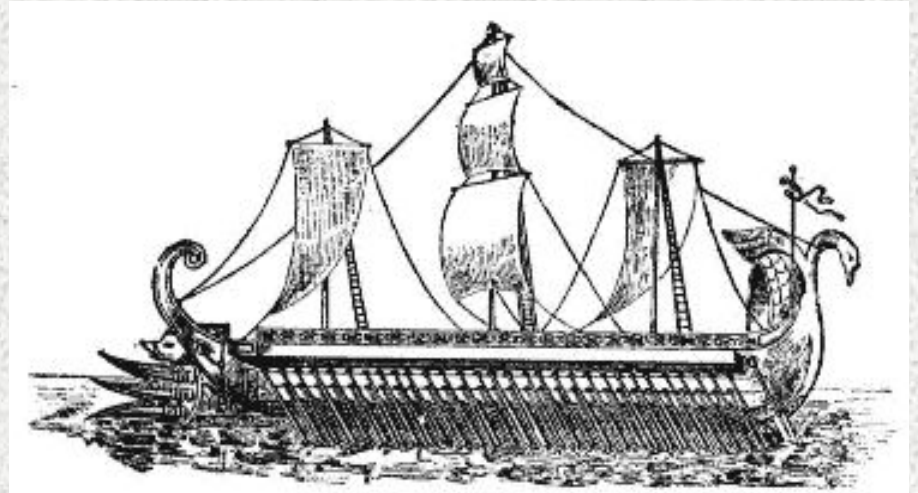
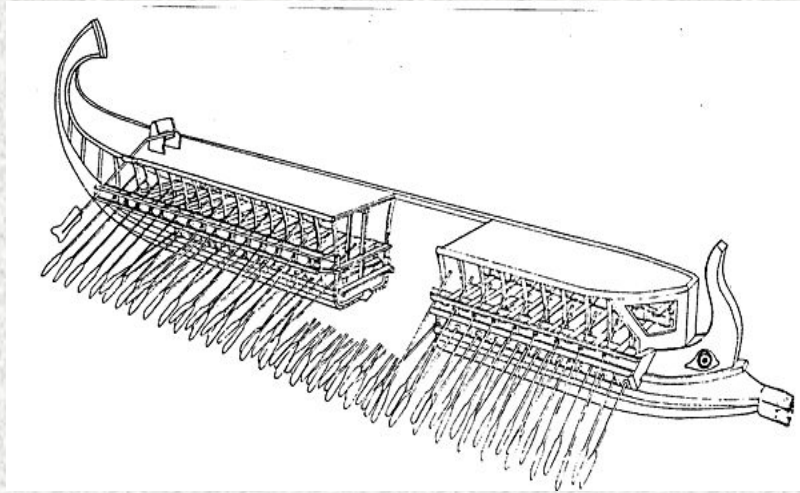
A small strip of land, with water on both sides, that connects two larger areas of land.

harbor

A sheltered place with deep water close to shore.

trireme

A large fighting ship used by the Ancient Greeks and others beginning in the late 6th century B.C.



Setting the Stage

Greece was not always a unified country but was rather a collection of separate societies. The largest society was that of the Minoans who lived on the large island of Crete- until people from all around the Mediterranean began to migrate and settle in mainland Greece (inland).

Geography of Greece

- It's a mountainous **peninsula** {piece of land that juts out onto a body of water} surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea
- Includes 2,000 islands in the Aegean and Ionian Seas
- The largest island was Crete, southeast of the mainland.
- Colonies of Ancient Greece spread across the seas and were located on the coasts of Northern Africa, Spain, Italy, and Asia Minor.



How did the Sea shape Greek Culture

CAUSES

Greeks rarely had to travel more than 85 miles to reach the coastline

Greeks lacked natural resources like timber, metal, and usable farmland that was found on their own land

Sea

What do you think is the **EFFECT** of each of these causes?



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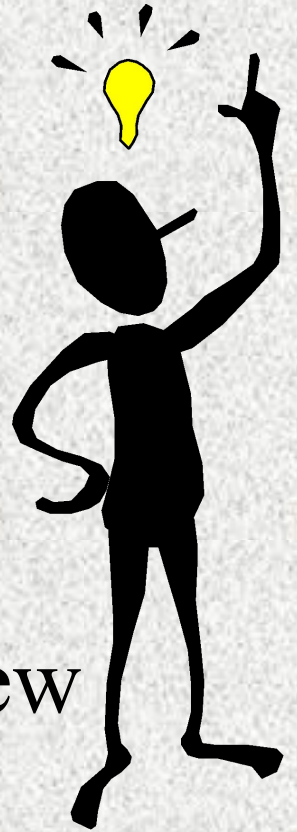
What do you think is the **EFFECT** of each of these causes?

Greeks became skilled sailors

The sea became a link to other societies and allowed them to trade for the resources they needed

The Mediterranean Sea

- The sea brought people together.
- Greece had many natural harbors.
- The sea was a source of food.
- Trade was possible.
- The sea made it possible to form new colonies and to trade ideas.



The Mediterranean Sea

- Conflicts with other nations over trade and colonization made it necessary for Greece to develop fighting skills and ships.
- Large ships for fighting were called **triremes**.
- The culture of Greece was influenced by the sea.
- The sea allowed travel and connected Greeks to the outside world.
- Many Greeks became fishermen and traders.

How did the land shape Greek Culture

CAUSES

Rugged mountains covered 3/4th of Greece and divided the land into different regions

Uneven terrain made land transportation difficult.

Only a small part, 1/5th of the land was arable, or fertile for farming.

Difficulties of the land made it hard to support a life of luxury

Land

What do you think is the **EFFECT** of each of these causes?



How did the land shape Greek Culture

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Land

What do you think is the **EFFECT** of each of these causes?

Instead of a single gov't, they developed small independent communities.

Little roads existed that could connect different communities. Made them isolated.

Could not support large populations

Motivated Greeks to seek new sites for colonies.

How did the climate shape Greek Culture

CAUSES

Greece had a varied climate from winter to summer

Climate

What do you think then is the **EFFECT** of each of these causes?



How did the climate shape Greek Culture

CAUSES

Greece had a varied climate from winter to summer

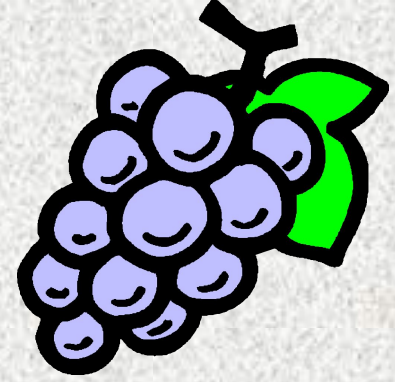
Climate

Allowed for an outdoor life and men spent much of their time at outdoor public event

What is the **EFFECT** of each of these causes?



Farming



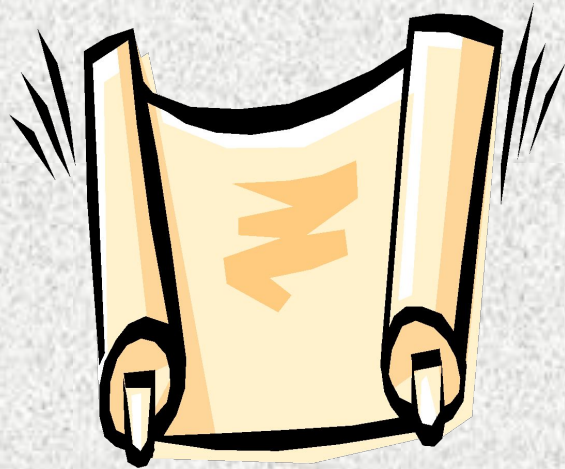
- Greece had thin soil and a dry climate.
- Only 1/5 of the land was good for farming.
- Small amounts of wheat and barley were grown.
- The main crops were grapes and olives.
- Olive oil was traded for other products.

Lesson 2 - The Early People of Greece

Vocabulary:

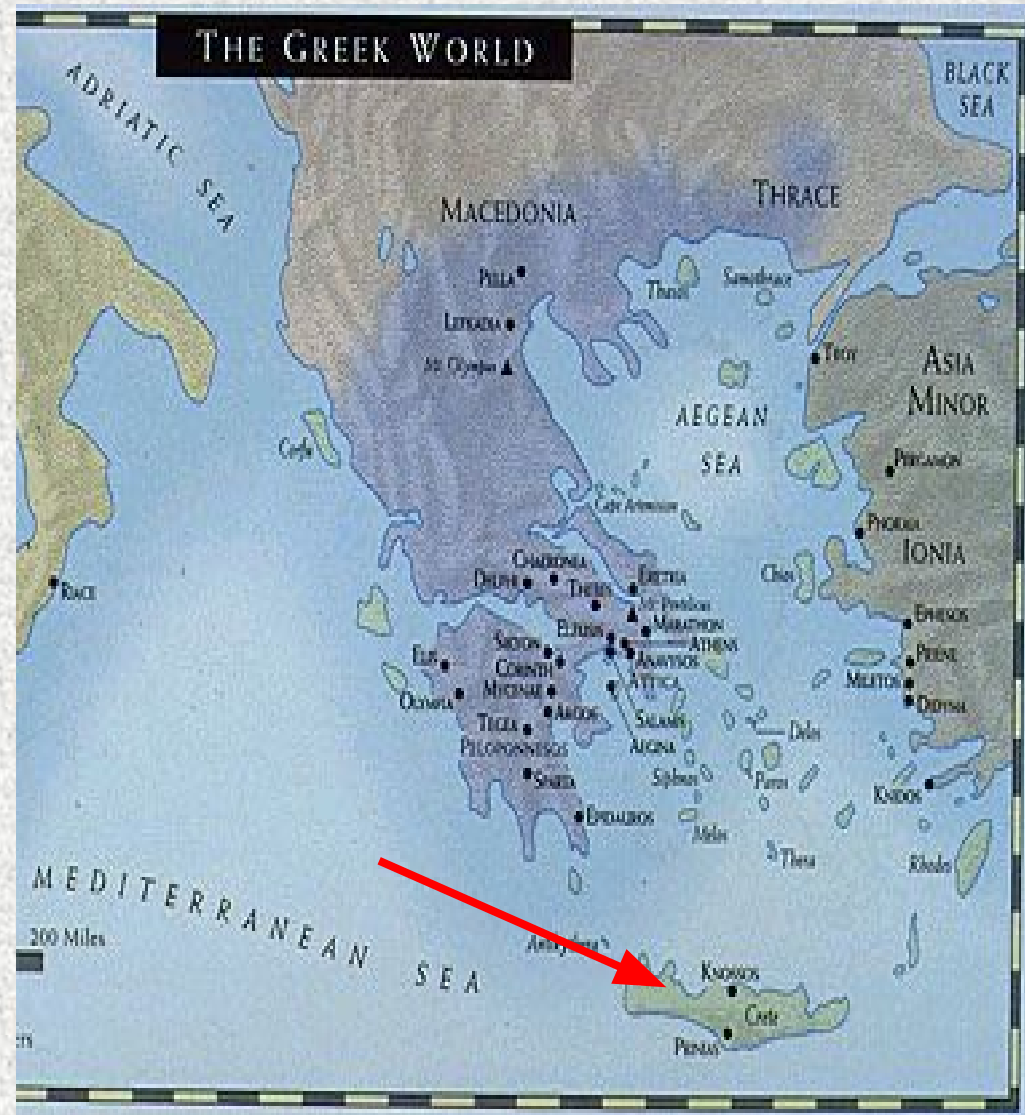
epic

A long story-poem.



The Minoans

- Minoans lived on the island of Crete.
- British archaeologist, Arthur Evans, discovered the ruins of the ancient kingdom. He called it the Minoan civilization in honor of the legendary king of Crete called Minos.
- Minoans built huge palaces that may have been the center for governing and for religion.



- The palaces were like mazes.
- Many houses were built around them.
- Beyond the palaces were small towns, villages, and farmland.
- The remains of four palaces have been found.
- The largest is called Knossos and probably stood at least 3 stories high.
- It probably covered an area as large as 20 football fields.
- As many as 12,000 people may have lived there.

The Palace of Knossos (notice the fresco)



- Paintings of peaceful scenes decorated the walls of palaces.
- The art showed that the Minoans loved music, dancing, and sports.
- Men and women wore long hair and wore gold jewelry.
- Religion was important to them.
- Paintings and other archaeological evidence suggests that Minoans were expert sailors and sea traders.
- Goods were traded for copper, tin, and gold.
- The metals were mixed to form bronze and used to make bowls, axes, and other items.

- Minoans developed a system of writing.
- The only remaining records were written on clay tablets.
- No one knows what caused the decline of the Minoan civilization.

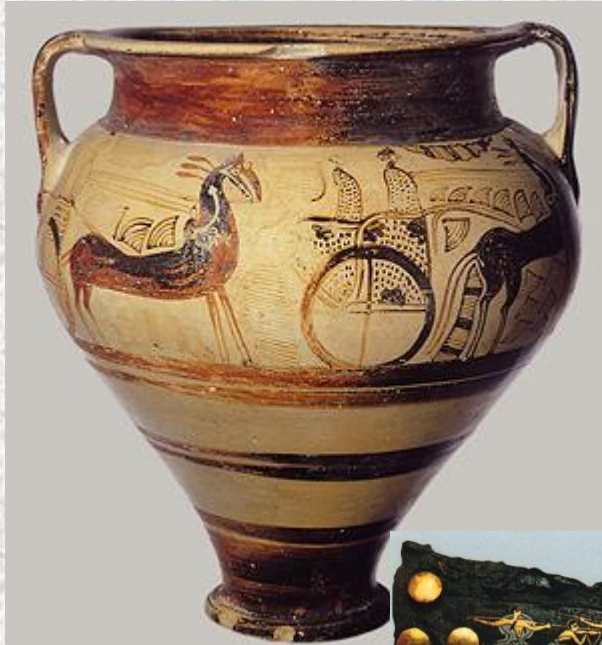


Mycenaean Civilization Develop



- **Mycenaeans** were Indo-European immigrants who settled on the Greek mainland around 2000 B.C. that comes from the name of their leading city Mycenae.
 - Mycenae was located in Southern-Greece on a rocky ridge with a protective wall 20 feet thick.
 - A warrior-king ruled the surrounding villages and farms.
 - These kings dominated from about 1600 to 1100 B.C.

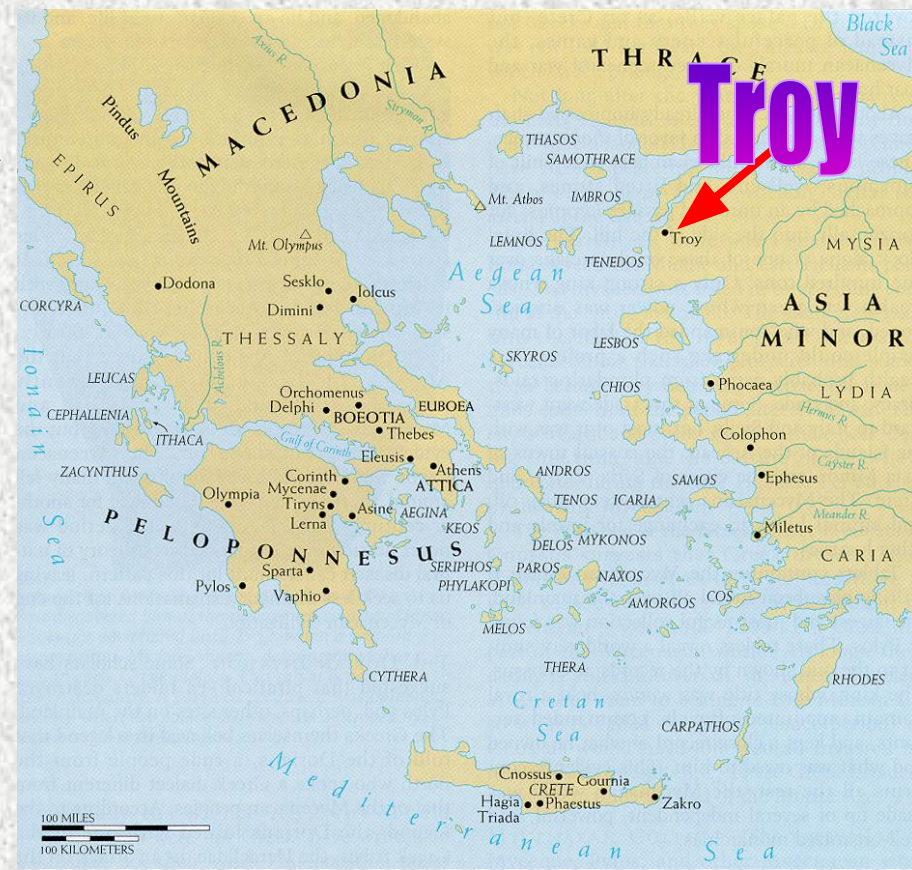
Contact with Minoans



- Either through trade or war the Mycenaeans came into with the Minoans.
- What did they learn from them?
 - They showed the Mycenaeans the value of seaborne trade.
 - They started to sail through the eastern Mediterranean
 - They adapted the Minoan writing system to the Greek language
 - Decorated vases with Minoan designs
 - Formed core of Greek religious practice

The Trojan War

- During the 1200's B.C. the Mycenaeans fought a ten-year war against Troy, a trading city located in Anatolia known as the Trojan Wars
- They did so by sneaking in a giant wooden horse and attacking the city while they were asleep. This story was believed to be completely fictional until a new archaeological discovery in the 1870's found evidence that these stories may have been based off of real battles and people.
- *Legend says that a Greek army besieged and attacked Troy because a Trojan prince had kidnapped Helen, the beautiful wife of a Greek king.*

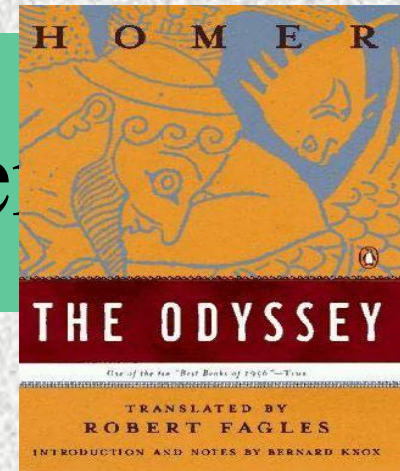
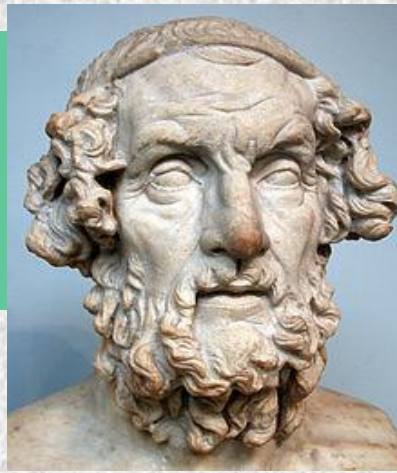


Dorians Enter!



- Around 1200 B.C. the Mycenaean civilization collapsed when sea raiders attacked and burned it down...a new group called the **Dorians** moved into the area and they spoke a dialect of Greek
 - They were not as advanced
 - Economy and trade collapsed under their rule
 - Temporarily lost the art of writing : no written record exists from 1150 to 750 B.C. (400 years)

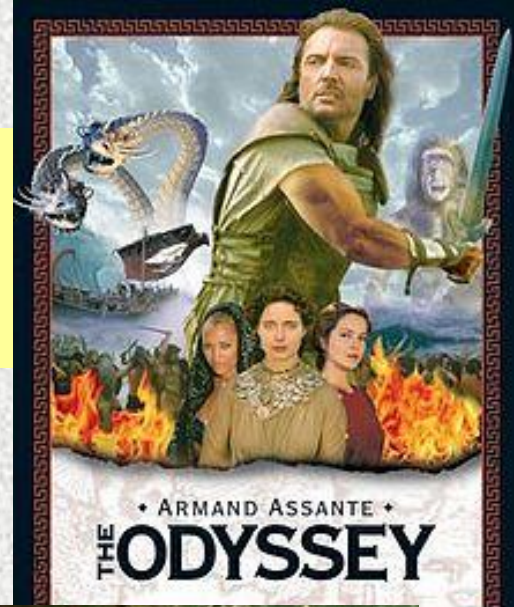
Epics



- **Because they lacked written records, they turned towards learning history through the spoken word that was passed on from generation to generation**
- According to Greek tradition the greatest story teller was a blind man named **Homer**.
 - Little is known about his personal life
 - Historians believe that he wrote his **epics**, or narrative poems celebrating heroic deeds, between 750 and 700 B.C.
 - Ex: One of his greatest epic poems is called the *Iliad* that is based on the Trojan War
 - Heroes are the fierce Greek Achilles and courageous Hector of Troy who seeks to find the Greek ideal of *arête* meaning virtue or excellence. A Greek could display this ideal on the battlefield as well as the athletic field.

The Odyssey

- Is one of two major ancient Greek epic poems attributed to Homer. It is, in part, a sequel to the *Iliad*.
- The poem mainly centers on the Greek hero Odysseus and his journey home after the fall of Troy in the Trojan Wars. It takes Odysseus ten years to reach his home of Ithaca. In his absence, it is assumed he has died, and his wife Penelope and son Telemachus must deal with a group of unruly suitors, the mnesteres, who compete for Penelope's hand in marriage and overtake her home.



Greeks Create Myths

- Greeks developed myths, or traditional stories about their Gods
 - Used them to make sense of the mysteries of nature (i.e. changing seasons) and the power of human passions
 - Attributed human qualities (i.e. love, hate) to Gods
 - Gods fought with each other constantly
 - Lived forever
 - Zeus was ruler of the Gods along with his wife Hera
 - Had a daughter named Athena who was goddess of wisdom and guardian of cities (city of Athens was named after her)



City-States and Greek Culture

Vocabulary

polis

a city-state in ancient Greece—
a city and the farms, towns, and
villages around it.



acropolis

a walled fort built on a hill

agora

an open-air market and
gathering place in Greek
city-states

tyrant

a cruel ruler, someone who usually took control of a government illegally and ruled alone

aristocracy

a wealthy ruling class

helot

a slave owned by the state in ancient Sparta

myth

story passed from generation to generation that usually tells about an ancient god or hero

oligarchy

a system in which a small group controls the government

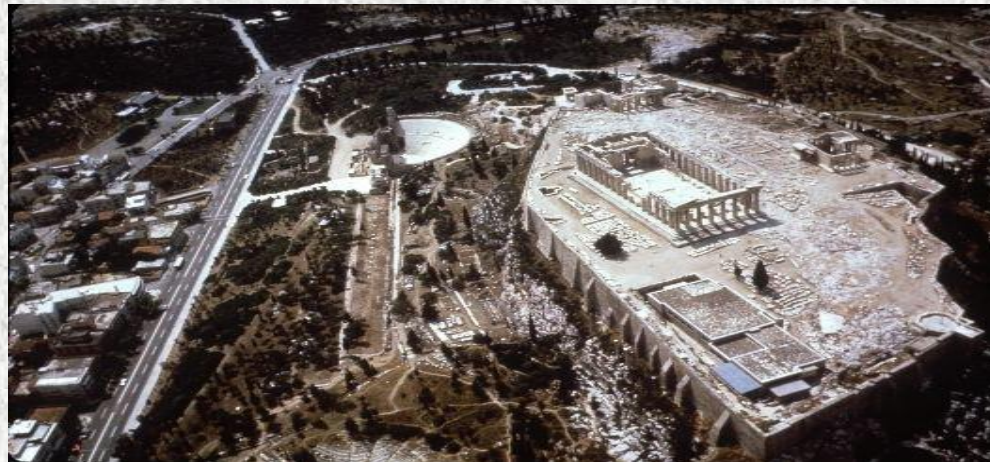
democracy

rule by the people



Rise of City-States

- City-States such as Megara, Argos, Corinth, Athens, and Sparta, were made up of a city, small towns, villages, and nearby farms.
- A City-State was called a **polis**.

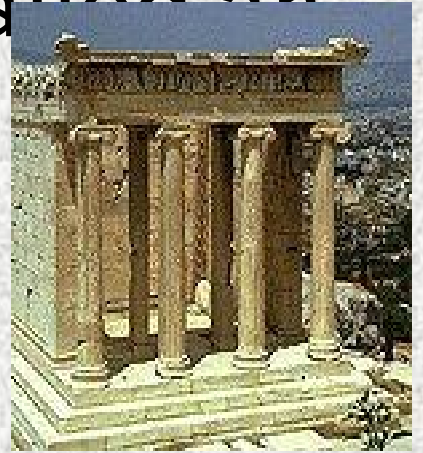




Greek Political Structures

<u>Monarchy</u>	<u>Aristocracy</u>	<u>Oligarchy</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State ruled by a single person, called a king• Rule is hereditary• Some rulers claim divineright• Practiced in Mycenae by 2000 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State rules by a small group of noble, landowning families• Rule is hereditary and based on family ties, socialrank, or wealth• Social status and wealth support rulers' authority• Practiced in Athens prior to 594 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A government ruled by a few powerful people• Started when trade allowed for a new class of wealthy merchants and artisans to emerge; they became unhappy with the nobility so they took power or shared it with people• Ruling group controls military• Practiced in Sparta by 500 BC

❖ Most Greek communities built a fort on top of a large hill called an **acropolis**. The acropolis was the center of religion in the city-state.

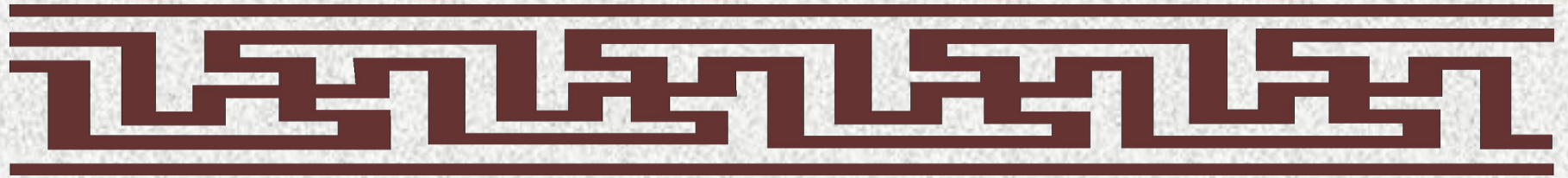


❖ People met in the **agora** to trade and discuss the news.

❖ Kings (**tyrants**) ruled the city-states of early Greece.

❖ Later, each city-state developed its own form of gov't.

- ❖ In some city-states the **aristocracy** shared authority with the king.
- ❖ In other city-states **democracies** were formed and male citizens took part in assemblies to make laws.



- ❖ Most city-states had fewer than 5,000 people.
- ❖ When they became too crowded, some city-states set up colonies.

- ❖ Greek ideas were spread throughout the Mediterranean area through trade and colonization.
- ❖ City-states began to compete for trade partners and land.
- ❖ Both Sparta and Argos wanted to control Peloponnesus.
- ❖ Athens and Thebes wanted to control northeast Peloponnese.
- ❖ Sparta and Athens were not rivals in the beginning, but they had different ideas and lifestyles.



Sparta

- ❖ Located in the southern Peloponnese
- ❖ Simple life – much physical activity
- ❖ Descendants of Dorian settlers
- ❖ Slaves (helots) were the captured people who had lived in the area before the Spartans.
- ❖ Helots were owned by the state.
- ❖ Sparta had 10 times as many slaves as citizens.

- ❖ **Military strength was used to control the city-state.**
- ❖ **Boys were taken from home at age 7 for training and continued until age 18.**
- ❖ **Boys were often tortured by older boys, beaten in front of others without crying out, and made to sleep on bare floors to make them tough.**

❖ Men served in the army until the age of 30.

❖ They were trained to believe that there was no greater honor than to die defending Sparta.

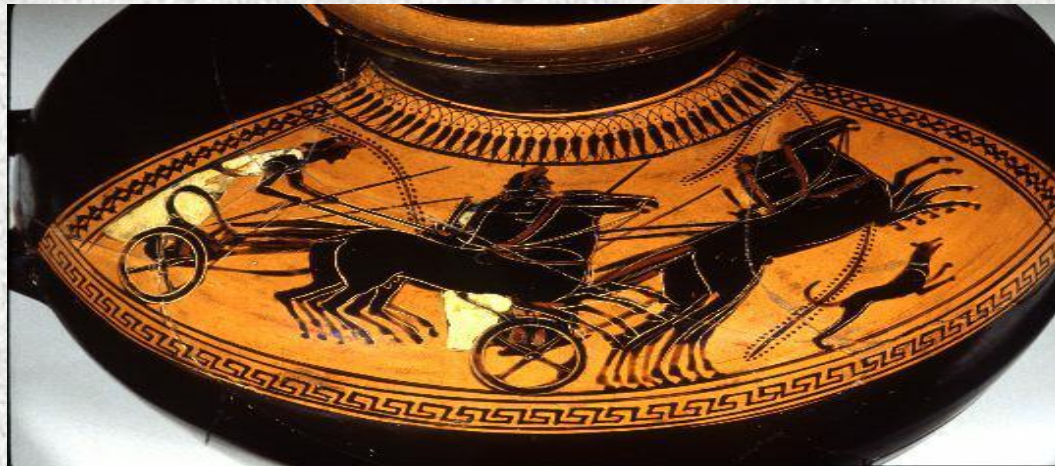


Spartan Women

- ❖ Girls were trained at home in gymnastics and running.
- ❖ Women had fewer rights than men, but more rights than women in other city-states.
- ❖ They handled business matters.
- ❖ Their most important role was raising strong children.

Life in Sparta

- ❖ Spartans lived a simple life and didn't want change.
- ❖ They were afraid travel and trade would bring unwanted changes to their society.



Spartan Government

- ❖ Sparta had 2 kings
- ❖ Kings had little authority except in war
- ❖ Each king was part of a 30 member senate (all 60 years or older)
- ❖ All male citizens were allowed to participate in the assembly
- ❖ 5 wealthy landowners were elected to handle daily governing (euphors)

- ❖ Senators and euphors held the most power.
- ❖ A small group like this is an aristocracy.
- ❖ Spartan government was admired by other city-states.

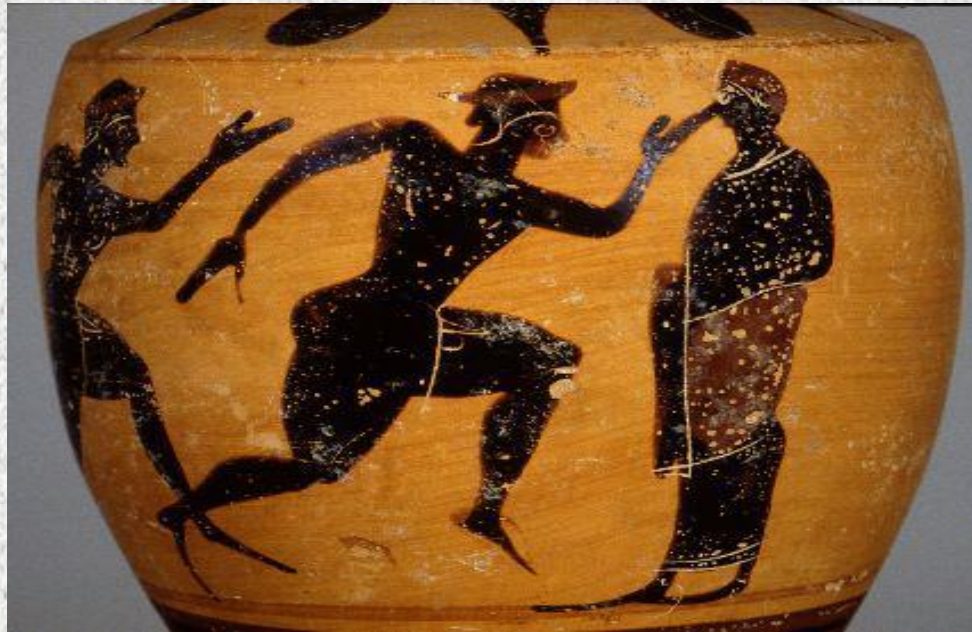


Athens

- ❖ Located in Attica – northeast part of Peloponnesus Peninsula
- ❖ Men served in the army during war times.
- ❖ Citizens were encouraged to participate in government.
(democracy – rule by the people)

- ❖ Every free man over the age of 20 had full political rights and took part in the assemblies.
- ❖ Each man had one vote and the majority ruled.
- ❖ Persons causing trouble could be voted out of the city-state for a period of 10 years.
- ❖ Women could not vote, but they were considered to be citizens.

- ❖ Slaves in Greece made up one-third of the population.
- ❖ They were owned by private citizens.
- ❖ They did much of the work and had no rights as citizens.



Greek Identity

Greeks were loyal to their city-states, but despite these divisions the Greeks shared a common culture:

- ❖ They honored the same ancient heroes.
- ❖ They participated in common festivals.
- ❖ They prayed to the same gods.
 - They believed Zeus and the other gods controlled the events in the world.
- ❖ Olympics brought all the city-states together.

- ❖ They shared a common alphabet – probably influenced by the Phoenician alphabet.
- ❖ They shared the Greek language.
- ❖ They felt superior to non-Greeks, whom they called “barbaroi,” people who did not speak Greek

Persian Wars 499-449 B.C.E

- Around 540 B.C. Persia conquered Greek cities in Asia Minor.
- About 500 B.C. the Greeks rebelled against Persia.
- Athens sent their army to help the colonies, but they couldn't defeat the Persians.
- Persia's King Darius I sent troops to attack Athens.



- Athenians met Persians on the plain of Marathon.
- Persia had more men, but Athens was able to defeat them in one day.
- Darius I died, and his son Xerxes took over as king.
- In 480 B.C. Xerxes sent 200,000 soldiers in 800 ships to attack Greece.
- The Greek city-states joined their armies and navies to fight Persia.

The Impact of the Persian Wars

- The Greeks won the war even though they had less men.
- Greek city-states formed leagues in case of future attacks.
 - Sparta led the Peloponnesian League.
 - Athens led the Delian League.
- Victory over the Persians increased the Greeks' sense of their own uniqueness.
- Athens emerged as the most powerful city-state.

Section 2 Assessment

A government in which power is in the hands of a small, powerful elite is called

- a) an aristocracy.**
- b) a democracy.**
- c) an oligarchy.**
- d) a monarchy.**

One difference between Athens and Sparta was that

- a) Sparta encouraged trade, while Athens prohibited it.**
- b) Sparta formed a limited democracy, while Athens remained a monarchy.**
- c) Athens encouraged trade, while Sparta prohibited it.**
- d) Athenian women were permitted to own property, while Spartan women were not.**