

The Early Greeks

Big Ideas

- * The geography of Greece influenced where people _____ and what they did. (page 337)
- * The Minoans earned their living by building _____ and trading. (page 338)
- * Mycenaeans built the first Greek kingdoms and spread their power across the Mediterranean region. (page 339)
- * The idea of citizenship developed in Greek city-states. (page 341)
- * Colonies and trade spread Greek culture and spurred _____. (page 343)

Content Vocabulary

Peninsula, Polis, Agora, and Colony

Did You Know?

In early Greece, roads were bumpy dirt trails and of little use to travelers. Because of this, ships became very important. To be near ships, most Greek communities settled within 60 miles of the _____.

I. The Geography of Greece

- Mainland Greece is a mountainous peninsula—a body of land with water on _____ sides.
- The Ionian Sea is to the west of Greece, the Aegean Sea is to the east, and the Mediterranean Sea is to the south.
- Ancient Greeks were fishers, _____, traders, and farmers.
- Although Greece's rocky soil made it difficult to farm, people could grow wheat, barley, olives, and grapes in the favorable _____.

How might a peninsula be affected by its surrounding water?

II. The Minoans

- The ruins of the Minoan civilization, the first civilization to arise in Greece, are on the island of _____.
- Artifacts at the palace at Knossos reveal the riches of the Minoan people, such as wine, oil, jewelry, and _____.
- The Minoan people were traders, traveling by _____ to trade with other countries.
- The Minoan civilization collapsed around 1450 B.C. Historians disagree on the cause of the Minoan _____.

How do historians know the Minoans were a wealthy people?

III. The First Greek Kingdoms

- The first Greek kings were Mycenaean leaders, whose people invaded the Greek mainland around 1900 B.C. In the center of each Mycenaean kingdom was a palace surrounded by large _____.

- B. The Mycenaeans began trading with the Minoans and learned much about Minoan _____. Before collapsing around 1100 B.C., the Mycenaean civilization was the most powerful on the Mediterranean.
- C. The Dark Age occurred between 1100 B.C. and 750 B.C. and was a time of poverty and less _____ among people.
- D. The Dorians invaded Greece, bringing new weapons and farming technology to the Greek people. They settled on the Peloponnesus.
- E. The Greeks learned about an alphabet from the Phoenicians, one of their trading partners. The Greek alphabet had _____ letters that stood for different sounds.

What was one positive result of the Dark Age?

IV. The Polis

- A. A _____, or city-state, was like an independent country. City-states varied in size and population.
- B. An acropolis, located at the top of a hill, was the _____ gathering place of the city-state.
- C. An _____, or open area, served as a market and as a place for people to meet and debate issues.
- D. The Greeks were the first people to develop the idea of citizenship, in which citizens of a country are treated equally and have rights and responsibilities.
- E. In Greek city-states, only free, native-born, land-owning men could be _____.
- F. Citizens could vote, hold office, own property, and defend themselves in _____.
- G. The military of the city-states was made up of ordinary citizens, not nobles. These citizens were called hoplites and fought each battle on foot instead of on _____.

How does the Greek definition of a citizen compare to the modern definition of a United States citizen?

V. A Move to Colonize

- A. After the _____ Age, Greek people began to set up colonies in other countries. This colonization spread Greek culture.
- B. Trade between colonists and the parent cities grew, and soon merchants were trading goods for _____ instead of more goods.

What invention allowed merchants to trade for money?

Summary

- * Geography influenced the way Greek _____ developed.
- * The Minoan civilization on the island of Crete built ships and became wealthy from trade.
- * The Mycenaeans created the first _____ kingdoms.
- * After the Dark Age, the Greeks set up colonies and trade increased.
- * The idea of _____ developed in Greek city-states.