



Geography and the Early Greeks



Chapter 9 Timeline

CHAPTER EVENTS

c. 2000 BC
The Minoan civilization prospers in Crete.



2000 BC

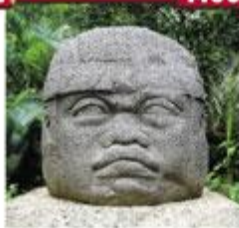
c. 2000 BC
The main part of Stonehenge is built in England.



1700 BC

1400 BC

c. 1200 BC
The Greeks and Trojans fight the Trojan War.



c. 1200 BC
The Olmec civilization develops in the Americas.

1100 BC

c. 900 BC
The Phoenicians dominate trade in the Mediterranean.



c. 750 BC
The Greeks begin to build city-states.

800 BC



c. 500 BC
Athens becomes the world's first democracy.

500 BC

753 BC
According to legend, Rome is founded.



Greece: Physical Map



Greece is a land of rugged mountains, rocky coastlines, and beautiful islands. The trees you see are olive trees. Olives were grown by the early Greeks for food and oil.



Geography Shapes Greek Civilization

- The Greeks lived on rocky, mountainous lands, located on a peninsula surrounded by the Mediterranean, Ionian, and Aegean Seas.
- The peninsula has an irregular shape.
- Many islands float off the mainland. This area was the home of one of the world's greatest civilizations.



Geography Shapes Greek Civilization

- The few small valleys and plains of Greece provided farmland and that is where people settled.
- These communities were separated by steep mountains, so there was little contact between groups.
- The villages created separate governments.

Geography Shapes Greek Civilization

- Because they were surrounded by water the Greeks became skilled shipbuilders and sailors.
- The Greeks were exposed to other cultures when they sailed to other lands.



Early Trading Cultures



The Minoans


The Minoans traded goods like this vase decorated with an octopus. Trade made the Minoans rich enough to build magnificent buildings

The Mycenaean

After Minoan civilization declined, the Mycenaean became the major traders in the eastern Mediterranean. This beautiful gold mask was found in a tomb in Mycenae.

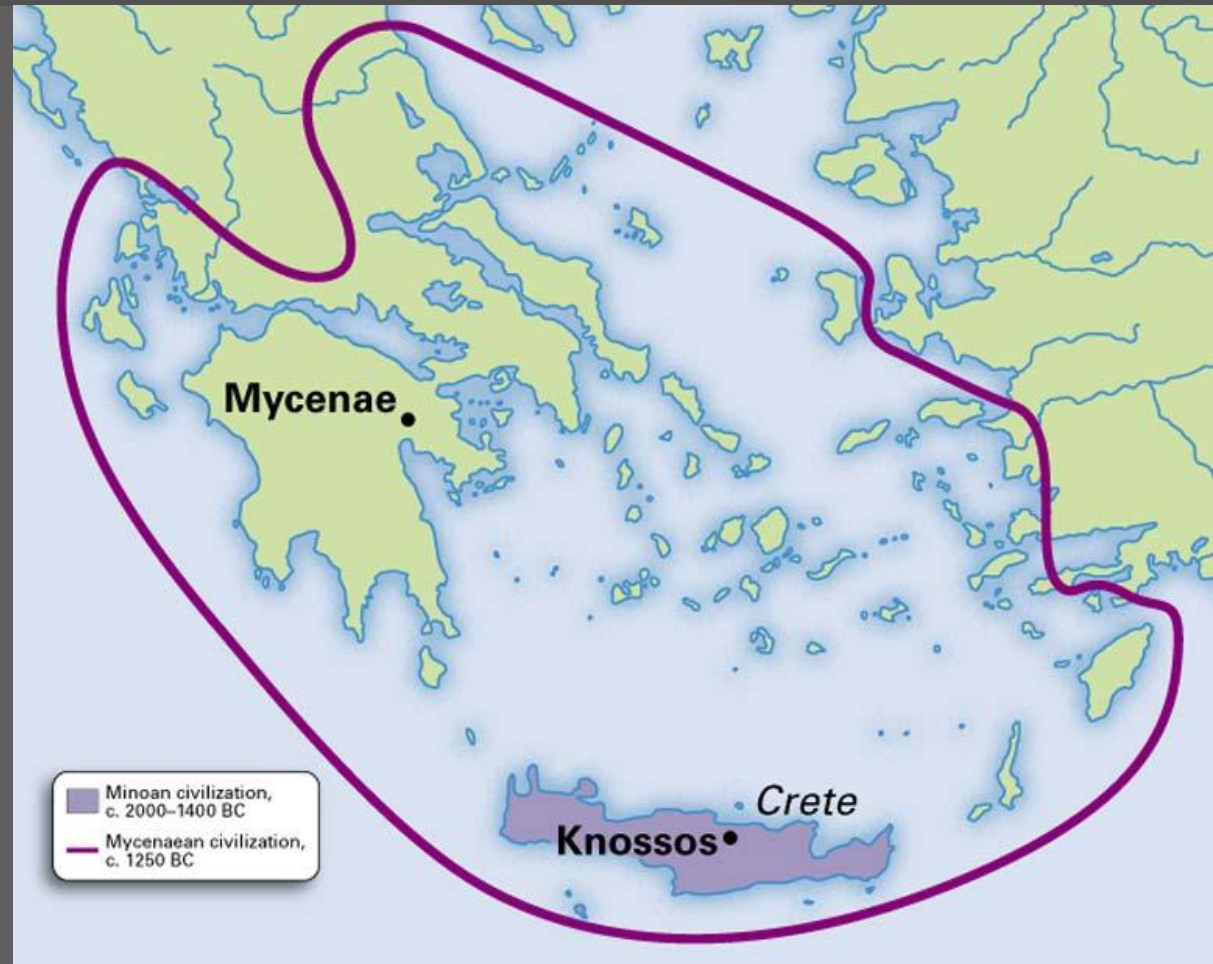


Trading Cultures Develop

- Of the many cultures that settled and grew in early Greece, the earliest and most influential were the Minoans and the Mycenaens.
 - By 2000 BC these two cultures had built advanced societies on the island of Crete.
 - The Minoans were known as the best shipbuilders of their time. They used ships mainly for trading purposes. A volcano that erupted in the 1600s BC may have led to the end of the Minoan civilization.
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Minoan and Mycenaean Civilizations

Map: Minoan and Mycenaean Civilizations: This map shows that the Minoan civilization occupied the island of Crete. It shows that Mycenaean civilization which existed around 1250 BC included the areas of Greece and the island of Crete.





Trading Cultures Develop

- The Mycenaeans spoke the language that became Greek.
- While the Minoans were sailing, the Mycenaeans were building fortresses on the Greek mainland.
- The Mycenaeans eventually took over the trade routes once sailed by the Minoans. The Mycenaeans set up a powerful trading network on the Mediterranean and Black seas. But Mycenaean culture also fell prey to earthquakes and invaders. Greece entered a dark period.

Natural Disaster

Natural Disaster! This map shows the island of Thera where the volcano erupted. It is in between the island of Crete and Anatolia where the city of Troy was located. These are both south of Peloponnesus where the city of Mycenæan is located. For centuries, the Minoans had thrived on the island of Crete. The Minoans were great sea traders who often sailed to the island of Thera, just 70 miles away. The eruption of Thera produced fast-moving waves called tsunamis in the Mediterranean Sea. Scientists today est



Nature is a powerful force. Throughout history, great natural disasters have affected civilizations. One natural disaster was so devastating that it may have contributed to the destruction of the entire Minoan civilization.

In the 1600s BC a volcano on the Greek island of Thera erupted. The colossal explosion was one of the largest in history. It was so powerful that people could see and hear it from hundreds of miles away. In a moment of nature's fury, the history of the Mediterranean world was changed forever.

For centuries, the Minoans had thrived on the island of Crete. The Minoans were great sea traders who often sailed to the island of Thera, just 70 miles away.

The eruption of Thera produced fast-moving waves called tsunamis (soo-NAH-mee) in the Mediterranean Sea. Scientists today estimate that the waves may have traveled at about 200 miles an hour.

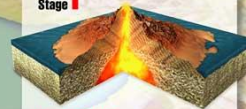


The ancient island of Thera is known as Santorini today. The huge gap on the island's western side and the water in the middle are evidence of the explosion more than 3,500 years ago.

The explosion produced a massive cloud of ash that smothered crops, cities, and people. For years afterward, the ash dimmed the sunlight, making it difficult for farmers to grow their crops.

Three Stages of Disaster

Stage 1



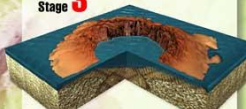
Warning Signs Following a series of earthquakes, the volcano begins to shoot ash into the sky. People flee the island in fear.

Stage 2



Explosion Ash and rock are flung into the air and sweep down the volcano's sides, destroying everything in their path. Cracks through the island rock begin to form from the powerful explosions.

Stage 3



Collapse The volcano collapses and falls into the sea, creating massive waves. The powerful waves slam into Crete, flooding coastal areas.



Greeks Create City-States

- After 300 years of war and disorder communities began to band together for stability and protection.
 - They created the **polis**, or city-state.
 - This marked the beginning of the Greek **classical** age, a time filled with great achievements.
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Greek City-States and Colonies

600 BC



Map: Greek City-States and Colonies, c. 600 BC. This is the map that shows the areas for the Greek city-states and colonies. You can see that they were located along the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. The trade routes also ran along the coastline and across these two bodies of water.



Greeks Create City-States

- A city-state often was built around a fortress perched atop a high hill called an **acropolis**.
- Walls surrounded many of these cities.
- Much of daily life centered around the agora, or marketplace, where politics and shopping shared the stage.
- As stability returned some of the Greek city-states formed colonies in foreign lands.

Delphi



In this photo you see the ruins of the temple at Delphi. It was one of the most sacred places in ancient Greece.



Early Colonies

- Early colonies included modern-day Istanbul in Turkey, Marseilles in France, and Naples in Italy.
 - This created further independence for these city-states, and some city-states became great trading centers.
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