

CHAPTER 8

Ancient Greece

SECTION 1

Geography

And

The Early Greeks



Geography Shapes Greek Civilization

- Greece is a peninsula.
- Its is mountainous & rocky.
- There are a few valley and flat coastal plains for farming.



Mountains and Settlements

- Greek communities saw themselves as separate countries.
- Most communities were along the coast.
- Those that were inland were separated by the mountains.



Ancient Greece and nearby regions

Seas & Ships

- The early Greeks turned to the seas to for food & trading.
- The Greeks were skilled shipbuilders & sailors.
- They traveled to places such as Egypt & present-day Turkey.



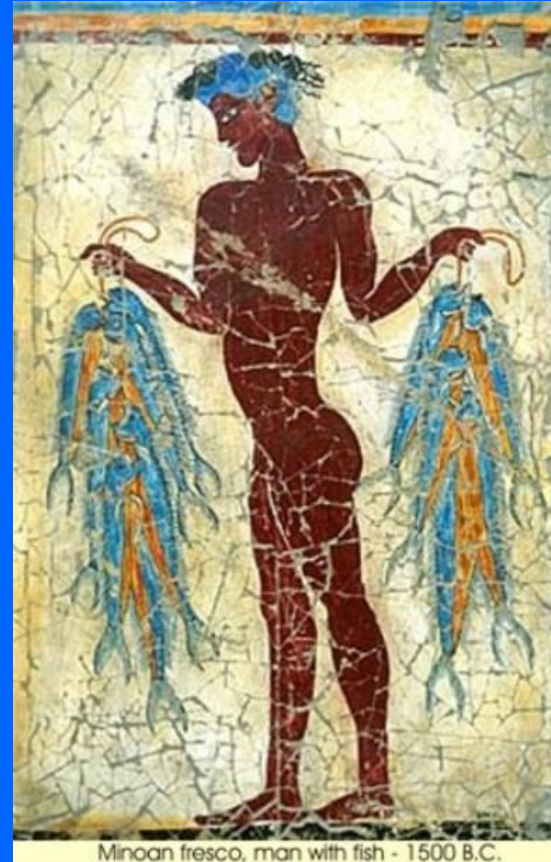
Trading Cultures Develop

- The two earliest Greek cultures that developed were the Minoans and Mycenaeans.
- The Minoans built their society on the island of Crete.
- The Mycenaeans built theirs on the Greek mainland.



The Minoans

- Since the Minoans lived on an island, they spent much of their time at sea.
- It's location was perfect for traders, but it was also dangerous.



Minoan fresco, man with fish - 1500 B.C.

The Minoans

- In the 1600s BC, a huge volcano erupted just south of Crete.
- It caused a giant wave that flooded much of the island.



The Minoans

- The eruption threw up huge clouds of ash, ruining crops and burying cities.
- Historians think this is what led to the end of their civilization.



The Mycenaeans

- They lived in the place that is now Greece.
- Historians do not consider the Minoans Greek because they did not speak the Greek language.
- Historians consider the Mycenaeans to be the first Greek people.



The Mycenaeans

- The Mycenaeans built fortresses all over the Greek mainland.
- The Minoan civilization declined which allowed the Mycenaeans to take over Crete.
- They set up colonies all over Greece and Italy.



The Mycenaeans

- The Mycenaeans often attacked other kingdoms.
- In the 1200s BC, their kingdom began to fall apart.
- The decline was caused by:
 - Invaders from Europe
 - Earthquakes
- After this, Greece slipped into a period called the Dark Age.

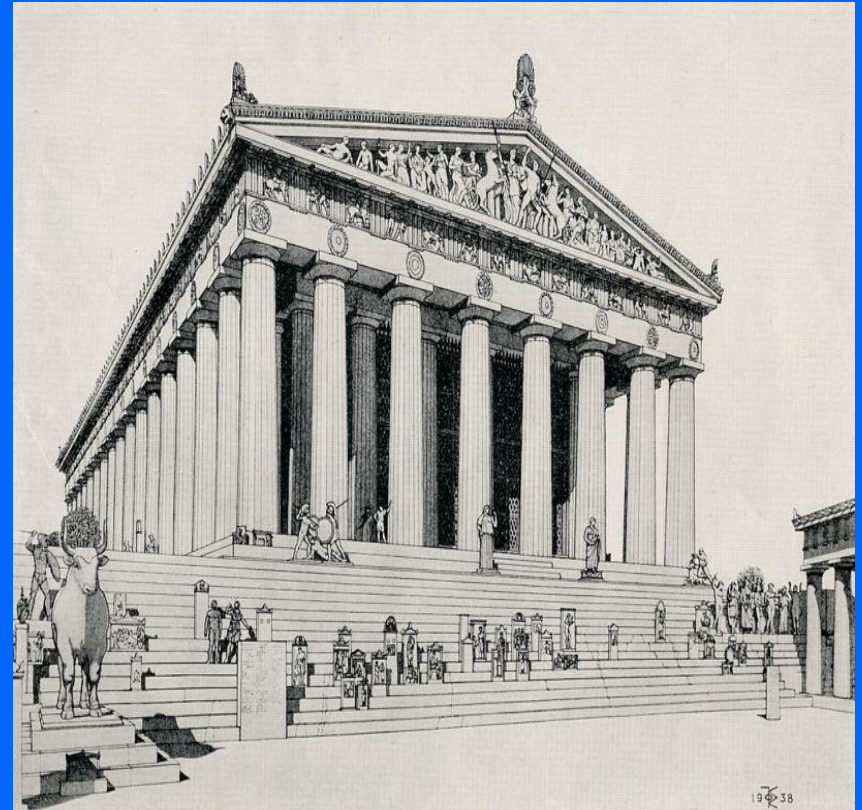
Greeks Create City States

- The Greeks of the Dark Ages left no written records.
- After the collapse of the Mycenaean civilization, Greeks banded together in small groups for protection & stability.
- Over time, these groups set up independent city-states.



Greeks Create City States

- The Greek word for city-state is a polis.
- The creation of city-states marks the beginnings of Greece's classical age.
- A classical age is one that is marked by many great achievements.



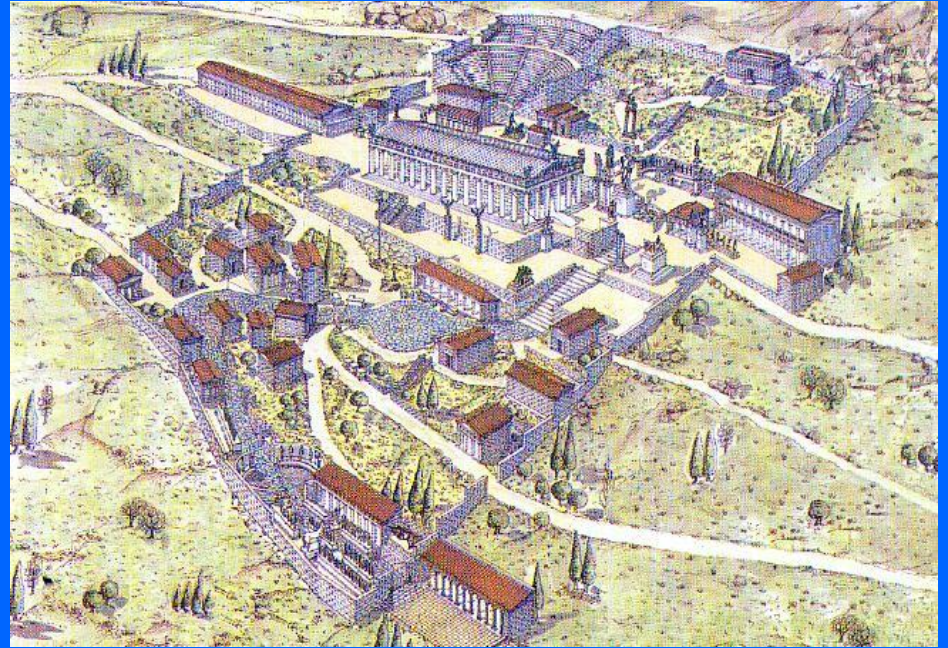
Life In A City State

- A Greek city was usually built around a strong fortress.
- The fortress often stood upon a high hill & was called an acropolis.
- The town around the acropolis was surrounded by walls for added protection.



Life In A City State

- Not all residents of the city-states lived inside the city walls.
- In times of war everyone would gather inside the city walls.



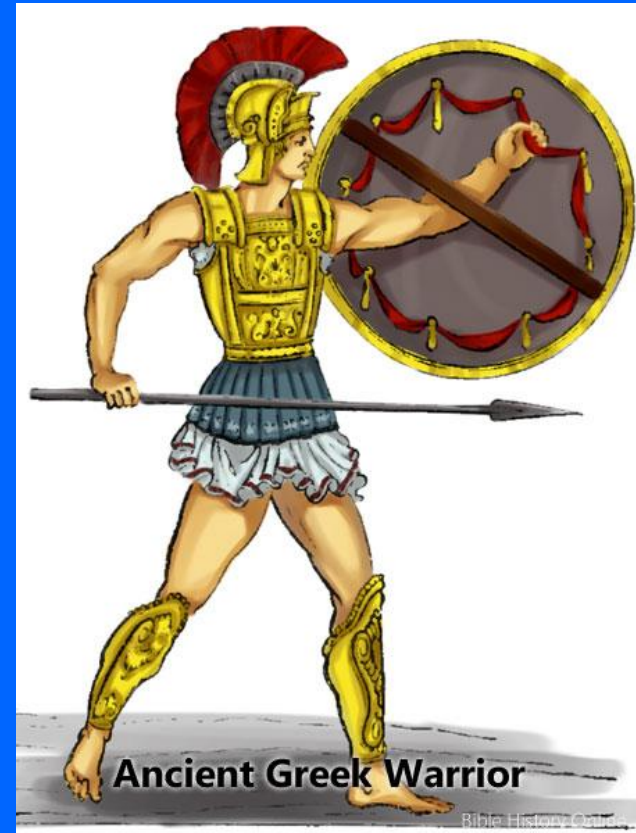
Life In A City State

- Life in the city often focused on the marketplace, or agora.
- It was a large open space that served as a trading and meeting place.
- People held both political & religious assemblies in the market.



Life In A City State

- The city-state became the foundation of Greek civilization.
- Besides providing security for its people, the city gave them an identity.
- People thought of themselves as residents of a city, not as Greeks.



City-States and Colonization

- As life became more settled for the Greeks, they started expanding by creating colonies.
- Groups from Greece went to distant lands to set up a colony.
- Once they were set up & independent they became their own city-state.

Patterns of Trade

- Items the Greeks traded:
 - Copper
 - Iron
 - Wine
 - Olive oil

