

# Geography of Ancient Greece



# The Sea

- Greece is a Peninsula surrounded by water
- Aegean Sea (to the East)
- Ionian Sea (to the West)
- Black Sea (to the North-West)
- Mediterranean Sea (to the South)
- Trade was imperative because Greece was not rich in natural resources.



# The Land

- Mountains covered 75% of Greece
  - Mount Olympus (highest, home of Greek Gods)
  - Made for difficult travel, but good protection
- Fertile Valleys covered 25% and made for the living areas known as city-states
- Not enough fresh-water to feed a large population (only about 2 million people)



# The Climate

- Moderate temperatures
- Only rains in winter
- Led to outdoor living
  - Agora (marketplace)
  - Gymnasium
  - Political meetings
  - Theatre
  - Religious ceremonies



- Participation in city-states was a DUTY & a VIRTUE





# The Bronze Age

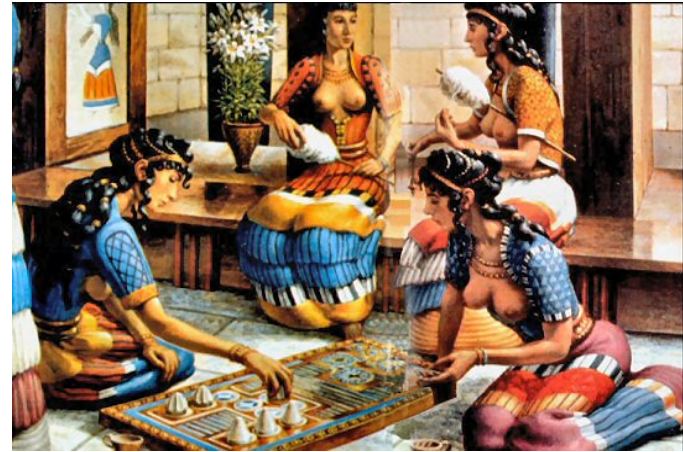
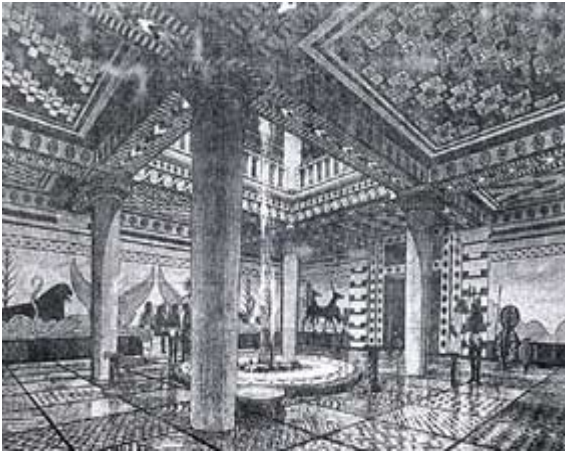


- Island Life
  - Minoan Life
- Mainland Life
  - Mycenaean Life
  - Trojan War



# Minoan Society

- On Island of Crete (to the South)
- From 2000-1400 BC
- Lived a prosperous life from trade



- Evidence that women shared social equality
- Uncertain how the cause for the end of Minoan Civilization

# Mycenaean Society

- Lived on Mainland of Greece
- From 1600-1200 B.C.
- Migrated from India, Egypt, and other lands
- Walled-cities for protection
- Enormous wealth from war/  
plunder & trade— even
- indoor plumbing
- Most were farmers



# Trojan War

- Happened around 1200 B.C.
- Trojan prince had taken Helen, wife of a Greek king.
- Trojan Horse (myth or fact?)



# Dark Ages

- Dorians
- Homer
- Arete
- The Olympics
- Religion/ Mythology

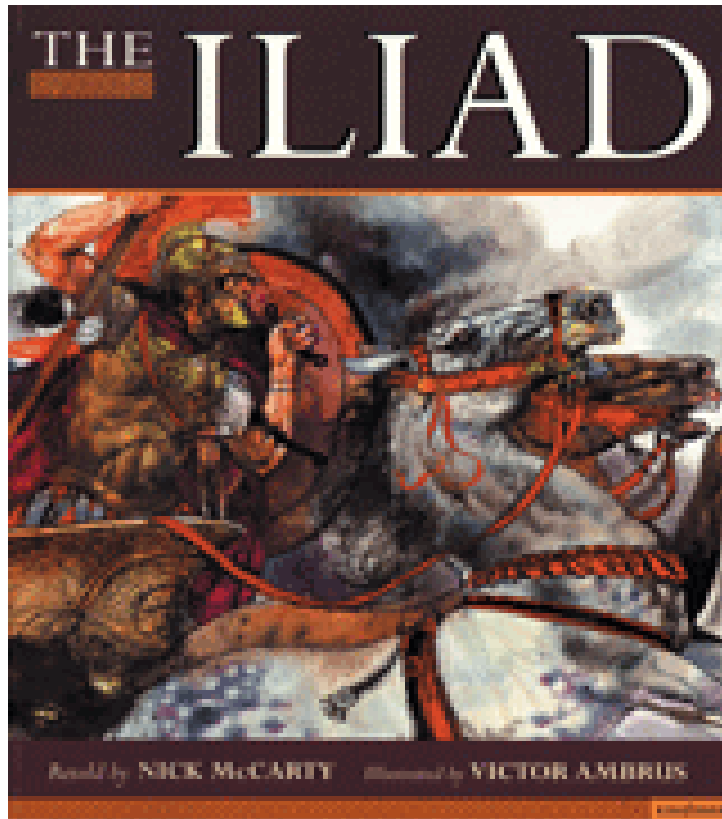
# Dorian Migration

- Mycenaean Society was destroyed by invaders around 1200 B.C.
- From 1150-750 B.C., distant relatives known as the Dorians settled there.
- They destroyed trade and lost all writing (causing the term “Dark Ages”)

# Homer

- The most famous “bard” during the Dark Ages.

# The Iliad



# The Odyssey



# Arete

- To Strive for excellence, show courage, and win fame and honor
- Homer used his Epics to portray the Greek ideal of Arete



# The Olympics



- Competition took place in Olympia every four years, beginning in 776 B.C.
- Lasted 5 days
- Winners crowned with wreath of olive leaves
- Real prize was Arete

# Mount Olympus



# Gods and Goddesses

- Very human, with human emotions, but immortal
- Gathered at Mount Olympus
- MYTHS – stories about gods intended to explain mysteries of nature and human existence
- Religion was closely linked to government and polis' pride.