Homer’s Epic Poems

Ancient Greeks believed in many monsters, gods, and heroes. Around 750 BC, a man named Homer emerged. He was a blind poet that lived in Greece. He hade two great stories – the Iliad and the Odyssey. Both being epic poems, or long poetic stories, they have a hero.

The setting for these poems is the Trojan War.

The Odyssey tells of the journey of Odysseus on his way home, while the Iliad talks about the story of the trojan war.

Religions and Gods

The Greeks believed that the many gods they worshipped could strongly influence daily life. These gods were considered immortal. There were hundreds of Greek gods. The Greeks had a close relationship with their gods.

Myceneans

* Mycenean is the term applied to the art and the culture of Greece from 1600 to 1200 BCE
* Celebrated by Homer as the seat of King Agamemnon, who led the Greeks in the Trojan War.
* Started to decline about 1250 BCE. They might have been conquered by Dorians, another group that influenced classical Greek culture.

Greek Mythology

* The Greeks, like nearly all the civilizations before them, used a polytheistic religion.
* Much like the Sumerian, their gods were used to explain the unexplainable.
  + Natural Phenomena
  + Human Qualities
  + Human Qualities
  + Life events
* Greek gods and goddesses had very human qualities and had emotions like love, hate and jealousy.
* These gods would interact and influence the life of Greeks.

Greek Geography

Greece is made up of two peninsulas.

* The Balkan peninsula is home to the city state of Athens.
* The penomonneus meninsula is home to the city-state of Sparta.

Greek Politics

Greece was a group of city states with their own gove