

## Ancient Greece

## Before You Read: Predicting

Scan the title of the chapter and the lesson titles. Write three questions that you think will be answered in the chapter. One example might be

*What were the main geographic features of Greece?*

If you find the answer to any of your questions as you read, write it down in your notebook.

## Big Ideas About Ancient Greece

**Government** Governments create law codes and political bodies to organize a society.

Mountains separated ancient Greece into regions, which were organized as separate city-states. Originally, kings ruled those city-states, but over time other forms of government evolved. The city-state of Athens developed direct democracy, in which all male citizens met in an assembly to make their own laws.



## Integrated Technology

## eEdition

- Interactive Maps
- Interactive Visuals
- Starting with a Story



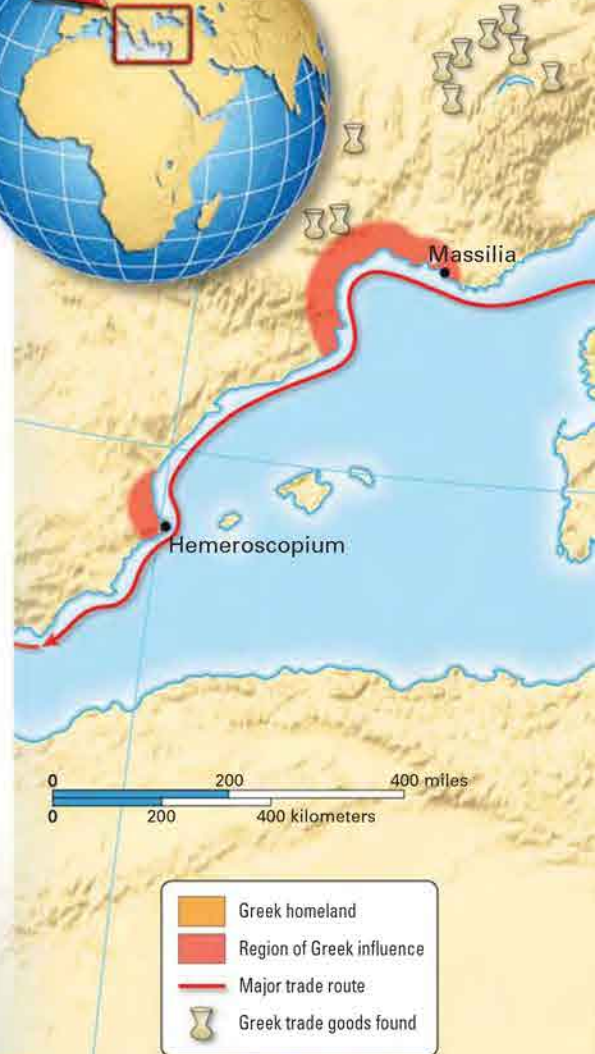
Ancient Greece



## INTERNET RESOURCES

Go to [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com) for

- WebQuest
- Homework Helper
- Research Links
- Internet Activities
- Quizzes
- Maps
- Test Practice
- Current Events



GREECE

WORLD

1500 B.C.

1500 B.C.  
Mycenaean civilization  
thrives in Greece.  
(Mycenaean headpiece, 1500s B.C.) ▲



1050 B.C.  
Dorians move  
into Greece.

1000 B.C.

c. 1200 B.C.  
Olmec culture rises in Mexico.  
(Olmec sculpture of man with infant) ►



1027 B.C.  
Zhou Dynasty begins  
in China.



# Greek Trade, 500 B.C.

INTERACTIVE



**800 B.C.**

Greeks use an alphabet.  
(ring showing Greek letters,  
400s B.C.) ▶



**490 B.C.**

Athenians win the  
Battle of Marathon.

**700 B.C.**

**751 B.C.**

Kush conquers  
Upper Egypt.

**c. 563 B.C.**

The Buddha is born.  
(head of the Buddha, southeast  
Asia, A.D. 1100s ) ▶

**400 B.C.**



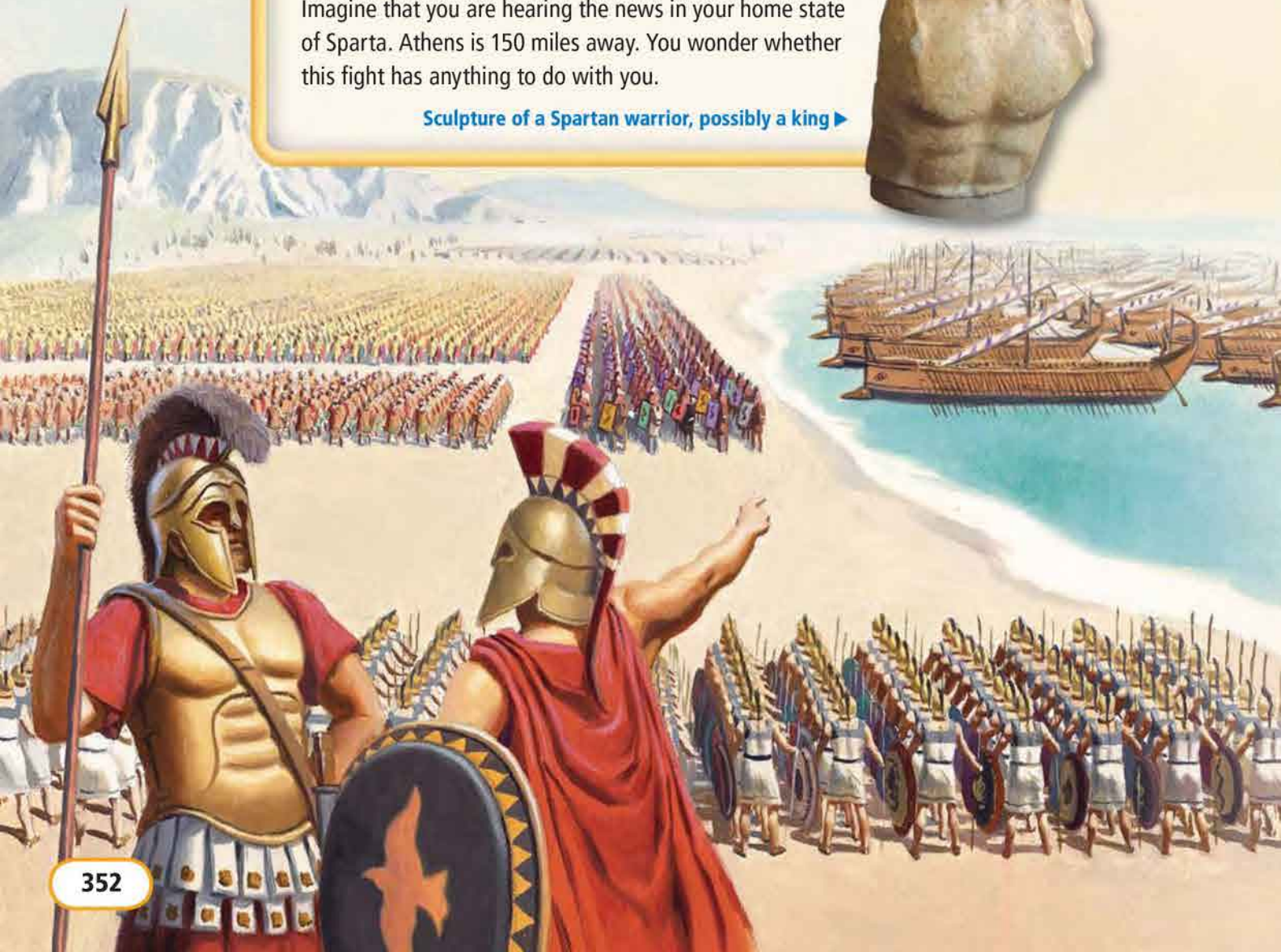


# THE PERSIAN INVASION

**Background:** Ancient Greece was not a unified country. It was made up of independent city-states (states made of a city and its surrounding lands). Two of the leading city-states were Athens and Sparta. In 490 B.C., the mighty Persian Empire dominated Southwest Asia. The Persian king Darius decided to conquer Greece.

Darius and his army have just landed near Athens. Imagine that you are hearing the news in your home state of Sparta. Athens is 150 miles away. You wonder whether this fight has anything to do with you.

*Sculpture of a Spartan warrior, possibly a king ►*





**Y**ou are a soldier in Sparta. All of the free men in Sparta are soldiers. Your father and grandfather were soldiers. All of the men in your family for more than 150 years have been soldiers.

Sparta's army is its great strength and the source of its pride. From the time you were a boy, you trained to be a soldier. You learned to be tough. You and your friends played at war, preparing for the real thing.

Athens is Sparta's main rival. Its way of life is different. Men there spend most of their time talking about politics. Boys in Athens study debate, music, and poetry. You wonder what kind of people would waste their time on such things.

An Athenian messenger has just arrived to tell the Spartan rulers that the Persian army has landed near Athens. He ran for two days to bring the news. He pleads with the rulers, "The enemy's force is enormous. There are 600 ships and more than 15,000 soldiers, many of them with horses. We have only about 10,000 soldiers. Athens desperately needs the help of your powerful army. Will you not join us in this fight?"

You've heard about the Persian Empire. Their rulers have been conquering their neighbors for more than 100 years. Their lands stretch from the Mediterranean Sea to the border of India. Persians now rule over Egypt.

Such a powerful empire might eliminate your rival for you. Then Sparta would be the greatest city-state in Greece. Why should Spartans die for men who would rather be politicians than warriors? Then a horrible thought occurs to you. What if the Persians don't stop with Athens? What if they decide to come after Sparta next?

**Do you help your rival against a greater enemy?**

## Reading & Writing

- 1. READING: Compare and Contrast** How were Athens and Sparta similar and different? Compare and contrast them.
- 2. WRITING: Persuasion** Suppose that the rulers of Sparta have asked your advice. Think about the reasons for and against helping Athens. Then write a letter to the ruler explaining what you think Sparta should do.

## MAIN IDEAS

- 1 Geography** Rugged mountains divided Greece into many regions.
- 2 Geography** The sea linked the regions of Greece to each other and to foreign regions. Sea trade became common.
- 3 Culture** Trade helped the early Greeks develop a sophisticated culture.

## TAKING NOTES

## Reading Skill: Understanding Effects

An effect is an event or action that is the result of a cause. Copy a chart like the one below on your own paper. As you read Lesson 1, look for the effects of the causes that are listed.

Causes	Effects
Mountains cover most of Greece.	
Several seas surround Greece.	
Greece traded with other regions.	

 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R26



▲ Pottery Plate The sea was very important to the ancient Greeks. For one thing, it provided them with a variety of seafood, as shown on this plate.

## Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

**mainland** the main part of a country or territory (page 355)

*Surrounding the mainland are thousands of islands, which are part of Greece.*

**rugged** having a rough, jagged, or uneven surface (page 355)

*The country's rugged landscape made it difficult for people to travel.*

**found** to establish; to bring into being (page 356)

*Greek traders helped to found colonies where they could exchange their goods.*

**collapse** to break down or end suddenly (page 358)

*Greek culture took some time to recover after its early civilization collapsed about 1200 B.C.*



# The Geography of Greece

## TERMS & NAMES

peninsula

Peloponnesus

isthmus

Phoenician

alphabet

**Build on What You Know** Has construction or an accident ever blocked the road your family wanted to take? How did you get around the problem? Mountains prevented the ancient Greeks from traveling over land. This lesson will explain their other methods of travel.

## Geography Shapes Ancient Greek Life

**1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION** What were the main features of the geography of Greece?

The mainland of Greece sticks out into the Mediterranean Sea. It is a **peninsula**, a body of land that has water on three sides. Greece also includes thousands of islands.

A gulf of water almost divides the Greek peninsula in two. The southern tip forms a second peninsula called the **Peloponnesus** (PEHL•uh•puh•NEE•suhs). A narrow strip of land called an **isthmus** (IHS•muhs) links the Peloponnesus to the rest of Greece. (See the map on page 351.)

**Coastline of Greece**  
Because of its long coastline, Greece has many ports. This port, Piraeus, is near the capital and ancient city of Athens. ▼

## Landscape and Climate

Mountains cover 70 to 80 percent of Greece. The mountains divided it into many regions. The uneven landscape made transportation over land difficult. Greece had no large rivers on which people could travel. The rugged landscape made it hard to unite Greece under a single government.

Greece has mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers. In much of Greece, temperatures range from about 50°F in winter to 80°F in summer. The warm climate encouraged outdoor life. For example, outdoor athletic competitions such as races were an important part of Greek culture.



### Land Use in Greece

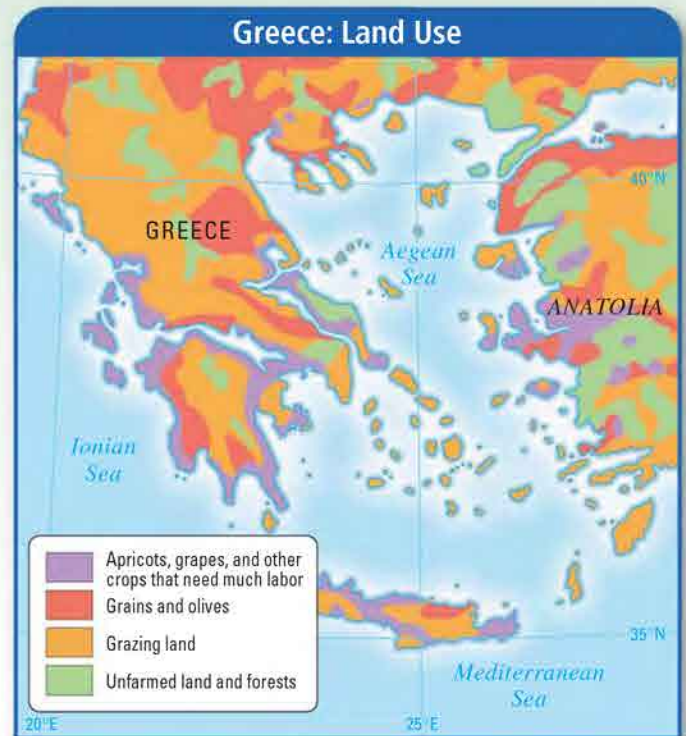
Mountains cover 70 to 80 percent of Greece. As a result, only about 20 to 30 percent of Greek land was good for farming. Even so, the ancient Greeks found ways to make the best use of the land that they had.

- They grew grain on the few open plains. Olive trees grew on the edges of those plains.
- The Greeks planted grapevines on the lower slopes of hills.
- Sheep and goats grazed on land that was too rocky or too infertile to grow crops.

#### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

##### INTERPRETING MAPS

**Region** Was more land used for growing grains and olives or for grazing animals?



**Agriculture** Greek land was rocky, so only about 20 to 30 percent of it was good for farming. Even so, more than half of all Greeks were farmers or herders. Most farmland was located in the valleys between mountains.

In Greek society, landowners were part of the upper class. In general, only men owned property. A person who owned land could support himself. He had enough wealth to pay for equipment such as helmets, shields, and swords. This allowed him to serve in the army and defend his homeland. As a result, people respected landowners, who had a higher place in society than merchants or poor people.

In order to get more farmland, the Greeks founded colonies in other regions. The western end of Anatolia had broad plains and rivers. The Greeks founded many colonies there.

**Resources** The lack of farmland was not the only problem. Greece also lacked natural resources such as precious metals. The Greeks had to find those resources somewhere else.

One resource that Greece did have was stone for building. Greece also had plenty of good sites for harbors.

**REVIEW** How did the mountains affect life in Greece?



## Trade Helps Greece Prosper

### 2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did the sea affect Greek life?

Just as rivers influenced other ancient cultures, the sea influenced Greece. Greece has a long coastline, and most places in Greece are less than 100 miles from the coast. In fact, many cities were built directly on harbors.

**Highways of Water** Several seas played a major role in the life of ancient Greece. The largest was the Mediterranean Sea to the south. The Ionian and Aegean seas were branches of the Mediterranean. The Ionian Sea is west of Greece. The Aegean Sea is east of Greece.

These “highways of water” linked most parts of Greece to each other. The Greeks used the seas as transportation routes.

**A Seafaring People** The Greeks became skilled sailors and shipbuilders. They built rowing ships for fighting and sailing ships for trading. Some warships had two or three levels of oars on each side. Most sailing ships had a single mast and square sail.

The Ionian and Aegean seas are not very large. Small ships could sail around them by staying near the coast or by sailing from island to island. Once the Greeks learned these routes, they could sail to other regions.

The sea was a source of fish, an important part of the Greek diet. The Greeks traded fresh fish from the sea to local ports along the coast. The Greeks also dried some kinds of fish so that they could be transported over great distances.

**Trade and Commerce** Greece did not produce much grain, but some regions produced surplus olive oil, wine, wool, and fine pottery. Greek city-states bought and sold surplus goods from each other. In addition, Greeks traded these items to other regions around the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, including Egypt and Italy.

The main products that the Greeks bought were grain, timber for building, animal hides, and slaves. The Greeks also traded for nuts, figs, cheese, and flax, which was used to make linen.



▲ Greek Ship In recent times, people built this ship to show how ancient Greek fishing ships looked.

**REVIEW** How did the sea help the Greek economy?



## The Earliest Greeks

### 3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did trade influence Greek culture?

The Greek culture of sailing and trading developed over thousands of years. The earliest Greeks had moved onto the Greek peninsula about 2000 B.C.

**Mycenaean Civilization** The first Greek civilization was built on the Peloponnesus. It was named after its most important city, Mycenae (my•SEE•nee). A king ruled each city of Mycenaean Greece. The Mycenaeans were traders. Their culture featured writing, gold jewelry, bronze weapons, and fine pottery. Their civilization collapsed about 1200 B.C., perhaps because of invaders.

After the fall of the Mycenaeans, Greek culture declined. People no longer kept written records. Without such records, historians know little about the period from 1200 to 750 B.C.

**New Advances in Greek Culture** In time, Greek culture made advances again. One reason for this is that the Greeks learned from other people, such as the **Phoenicians** (fih•NISHSH•uhnz). They were another important trading people, who lived on the coast of the eastern Mediterranean. By trading with other people, the Phoenicians spread their system of writing. It used 22 symbols to stand for sounds. Such a system of symbols is called an **alphabet**.

## Comparisons Across Cultures

### Alphabets

Writing systems change over time. The Greeks borrowed the Phoenician alphabet of 22 letters but wrote the symbols differently. Also, the Greeks added two letters. Since the time of ancient Greece, their alphabet has evolved into the one used in the United States today.



▲ American Sign Language is a language for the deaf that uses gestures to convey meaning. It includes an alphabet.

Culture	Characters from Alphabet																									
Phoenician	𐤀	𐤁	𐤂	𐤃	𐤄	𐤅	𐤆	𐤇	𐤈	𐤉	𐤊	𐤋	𐤌	𐤍	𐤎	𐤏	𐤐	𐤑	𐤒	𐤓	𐤔	𐤕	𐤖	𐤗	𐤘	𐤙
Greek	Α	Β	Γ	Δ	Ε	Ζ	Η	Θ	Ι	Κ	Λ	Μ	Ν	Ξ	Ο	Π	Ρ	Σ	Τ	Υ	Φ	Χ	Ψ	Ω		
Modern English	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



The Greeks picked up the Phoenician alphabet between 900 and 800 B.C. They changed some letters to suit their language. The Greek alphabet later evolved into our own alphabet of 26 letters.

The Greeks also learned about coins from trading with other peoples. Coins were invented about 650 B.C. in Anatolia. Most parts of Greece were making their own coins by 500 B.C.

Eventually, the Greeks also developed new forms of literature and government. You will learn more about these developments in Lessons 2 and 3.

**Greek Coins** This coin is from the city of Athens, Greece. One side shows the goddess Athena, for whom Athens was named. The other side shows an owl, which was a symbol of Athena's wisdom. ▼



**REVIEW** What did the Greeks learn from trading with other peoples?

### Lesson Summary

- The mountainous geography of Greece limited agriculture and political unity.
- The Greeks depended on the sea to connect with each other and with the wider world.
- Trade brought an alphabet and coins to Greece.

### Why It Matters Now . . .

The Greek alphabet influenced the development of all Western alphabets, including the English alphabet.

## 1 Lesson Review

### Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of
- |            |              |         |
|------------|--------------|---------|
| peninsula  | Peloponnesus | isthmus |
| Phoenician | alphabet     |         |

### Using Your Notes

**Understanding Effects** Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

2. What effects did the geography of Greece have on settlement patterns?

Causes	Effects
Mountains cover most of Greece.	
Several seas surround Greece.	
Greece traded with other regions.	

### Main Ideas

3. How did the geography of the Greek peninsula affect the political organization of the region?
4. How did the seas affect Greek trade patterns?
5. How did trade with other peoples contribute to Greek civilization?

### Critical Thinking

6. **Analyzing Causes** Why did the Greeks develop trade with other regions?
7. **Contrasting** What were two major differences between the civilizations of Greece and Mesopotamia?



**Homework Helper**  
ClassZone.com

### Activity

**Making a Map** Take out the world map you started in Chapter 2. Using the map on page 351 as a model, add the Greek homeland to your map. You should also add the cities of Athens and Sparta.