

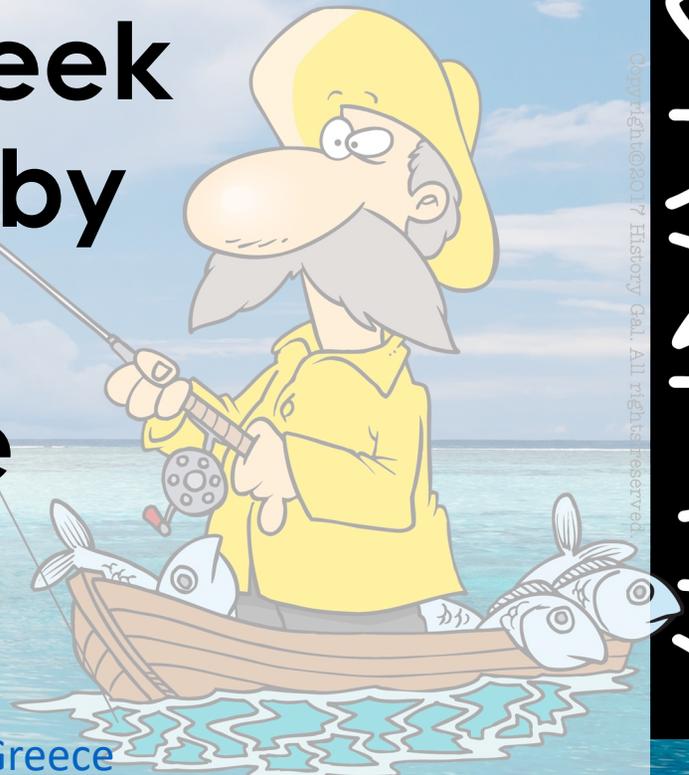
# ANCIENT GREECE



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# ANCIENT GREECE

- Located in Southeastern Europe
- Made up of a mainland located on a peninsula and over 1000 rocky islands
- Almost 75% of the Greek mainland is covered by mountains
- It's surrounded by the Ionian, Aegean, and Mediterranean Seas



# ANCIENT GREECE

- The climate of Greece generally features hot summers and mild winters
- Rocky soil makes large scale farming difficult, but they are well-known for their grapes and olives
- Much of their food comes from the surrounding waters and the seas are an important part of their economy



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# ANCIENT GREECE

- The mountains helped protect the ancient Greeks by making it difficult for foreigners to attack
- The mountains also made it difficult for the different areas of Greece to communicate and exchange ideas

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# ANCIENT GREECE

- One of the most important impacts is that the mountains made unification difficult

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# ANCIENT GREECE

- One of the most important impacts is that the mountains made unification difficult

**INSTEAD OF FORMING A CIVILIZATION UNDER ONE GOVERNMENT, THE ANCIENT GREEKS FORMED SEPARATE CITY-STATES**

[Geography of Ancient Greece](#)

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# ANCIENT GREECE

**A CITY-STATE  
IS AN  
INDEPENDENT  
CITY WITH ITS  
OWN  
GOVERNMENT  
AND  
ECONOMIC  
SYSTEM**

Even though each city-state was independent, we each shared the same culture, language, and religious beliefs.



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# ANCIENT GREECE

- The earliest Greeks were called Minoans and they lived on the Mediterranean island of Crete
- In 1900, evidence of their settlements was discovered in the city of Knossos by archeologist Arthur Evans
- Evans discovered colorful frescoes (paintings made on wet plaster), clay tablets, and figures carved from bronze, gold, and stone

[Ancient Cities: Minoans](#)  
[3D Tour](#)

MINOANS

# ANCIENT GREECE

- Minoans earned a living from sea trade by exporting wine, honey, and olive oil to Cyprus, Canaan, Mesopotamia, and Egypt's Old Kingdom
- By 2000 BC, the Minoans dominated the eastern Mediterranean trade
- Around 1628 BC, a tidal wave caused by a nearby volcanic eruption wiped out many of their coastal communities
- In 1400 BC, they were conquered by the Mycenaeans

MINOANS

# ANCIENT GREECE

- The Mycenaeans were the first advanced civilization on the Greek mainland
- The city of Mycenae served as the center of their government and they were headed by a king

[Minoans and Mycenaeans](#)

MYCENAEANS

# ANCIENT GREECE

- They kept detailed records of personal wealth for tax purposes and paid taxes in wheat, livestock, and honey

- They traded with the Minoans, Egyptians, and civilizations in Asia Minor



MYCENAEANS

# ANCIENT GREECE

- They also went to war with nearby civilizations using **BRONZE** weapons
- Homer, a Greek author, wrote about their war with Troy (the Trojan War) and how the Mycenaeans tricked the Trojans in his epic poem, the Iliad

[Life in the Bronze Age](#)  
[Trojan War](#)



MYCENAEANS

# ANCIENT GREECE

- In the 1100s BC, the Mycenaeans and other Bronze Age civilizations collapsed perhaps due to internal fighting, invasions, or natural disasters

[Bronze Age Collapse](#)

MYCENAEANS

# ANCIENT GREECE

- After the decline of the Myceneans, Dorians with IRON weapons conquered the Greek mainland and ruled for about 300 years
- This period is called the Dark Age and during this time, thousands of Greeks fled the mainland and settled in Ionia

DORIANS

# ANCIENT GREECE

**DARK AGE:** did not build cities

did not make art, music or literature

writing was forgotten

trade stopped

poverty increased

DOORWAYS

# ANCIENT GREECE

- In 750 BC, Ionians settled on the Greek mainland and brought culture, crafts, and the Phoenician alphabet to the area
- In the 700s BC, oral poetry that had been passed down through the generations during the Dark Age was compiled into Homer's Iliad and Odyssey

[Homer](#)

[Everything You Need to Know to Read the Odyssey](#)

[The Science Behind the Myths](#)

IONIANS