

# Ancient Greece

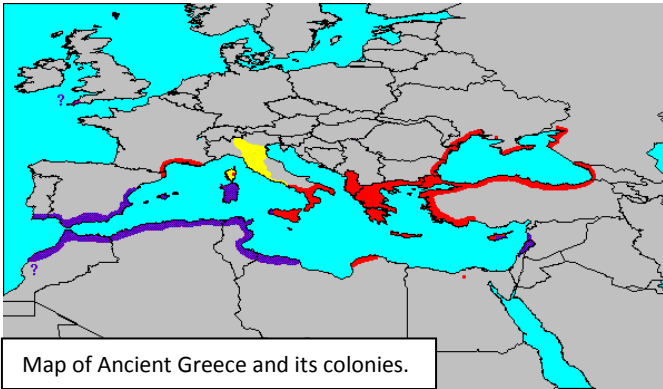
(Adapted from Discovery Techbook)

RESUMEN: La civilización griega creció en el Mediterráneo. Grecia es una serie de islas y penínsulas. Grecia estaba dividida en ciudades-estados. Debido a que Grecia es montañosa, los griegos criaban cabras y cultivaban aceitunas y uvas. Los griegos comerciaban con otras civilizaciones y también crearon sus colonias. Micenas fue una de los primeros pueblos de Grecia. Después aparecieron otras ciudades importantes como Atenas y Esparta.

## Islands and Mountains

**Ancient**<sup>1</sup> Greece was located in southeastern Europe along the Mediterranean Sea, which separates Europe from Africa. Other great civilizations surrounded the Greek civilization, including the Egyptians to the south, the Romans to the west, and the Persians to the east.

Unlike many of these other civilizations, the Greek civilization did not develop in a river valley, but it was surrounded by water. Ancient Greece had the Mediterranean Sea to the south, the Ionian Sea to the west, and the Aegean Sea to the east.



Greece is actually a series of islands or archipelagos and peninsulas. These

islands and peninsulas were covered with high mountains, making travel by land very difficult. As a result, the ancient Greek people mostly traveled by water.

Greek civilization developed into independent city-states because Greece's mountains, islands, and peninsulas separated the Greek people from each other and made communication difficult.

## Using Natural Resources in Ancient Greece



The steep mountains of the Greek geography also affected the crops and animals that farmers raised in the region. They raised goats and sheep because these animals were able to move on mountains. They planted olive trees and grape vines that could grow on a hill. They made oil from the olives and wine from the grapes, and used goats and sheep for milk, cheese, and **wool**<sup>2</sup>.



The mountainous islands of Greece limited the amount of farmland to the Greeks. As a result, the Greeks decide to conquer other areas. They also established colonies in Southern Italy, Northern Africa, Turkey, and the southern coast of France. In addition to military conquests and the establishment of colonies, trade became an important aspect of Greek life.

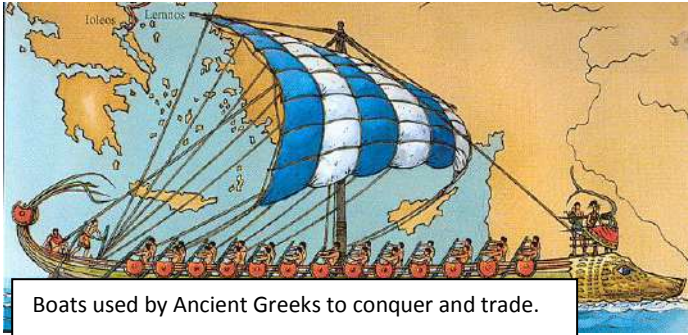
<sup>1</sup> Ancient: Antiguo

<sup>2</sup> Wool: lana

## Mycenae

One of the **earliest<sup>3</sup> settlements** in ancient Greece was Mycenae. The Mycenaeans **ruled<sup>4</sup>** much of southern Greece from 1500 BCE to 1100 BCE.

The Mycenaeans used the sea to improve their civilization. The Mycenaeans' strong **naval fleet<sup>5</sup>** controlled nearby waters and conquered other cities.



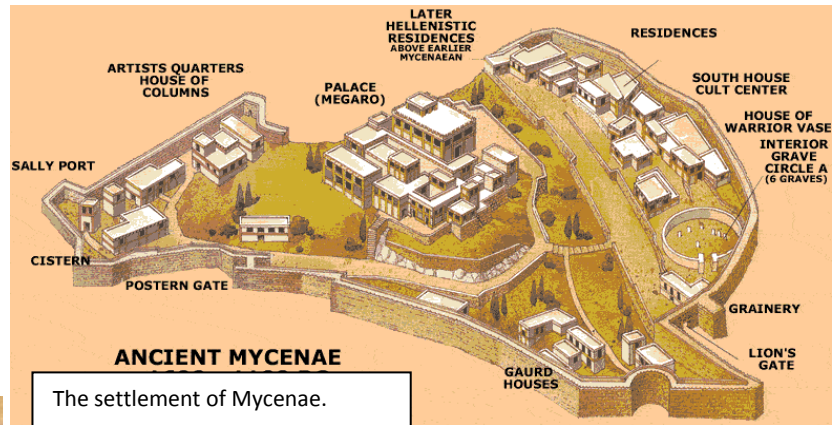
Boats used by Ancient Greeks to conquer and trade.

### Unique City-States

After Mycenae, several other Greek **city-states** began to increase in power. **Athens, Sparta, Corinth, and Thebes were among the most powerful of these city-states.** Eventually, Athens and Sparta developed as rival powers. Athens and Sparta developed their own style of **government<sup>6</sup>** and culture that would eventually influence other Greek city-states and civilizations.



People feared Spartans because they were great warriors.



The settlement of Mycenae.

The Mycenaeans also used trade with other kingdoms to get the **resources they needed.** Ancient Greece's location on the sea made trade an important part of its economy. The Mycenaeans traded with civilizations in Egypt, Palestine, and Syria. Mycenae's trade with other civilizations, as well as its military strength, made it a commercial and cultural center in the Mediterranean until about the year 1200 BCE.



Painting of Ancient Athens.

Although the Greek city-states developed independently, they shared some common culture and goals. **When faced with danger, the Greek city-states could defend themselves, but could work together to protect one another.** This danger often came from another great power—Persia. Persia wanted to expand its own power and influence in the region. This often caused wars between Persia and Greek city-states.

<sup>3</sup> Earliest: primeros

<sup>4</sup> Ruled: gobernaron

<sup>5</sup> Naval fleet: flota naval, flota de barcos

<sup>6</sup> Government: gobierno