

Geography played a _____ role in the development of Greece. Greece is very m_____ and is surrounded by _____ on three sides. A polis is another name for a c_____ s_____. As a result, Greek cities were _____ of each other and developed their own w_____ of l_____. Farming was _____ so the Greeks turned to the _____ for food, t_____ and t_____. The Minoans settled on the island of _____. They were skilled _____, _____, and _____. They traded throughout the _____ and _____ seas. Their civilization declined as a result of a v_____ e _____. The Mycenaeans were a powerful w_____ civilization on mainland Greece. They like the Minoans were skilled traders. Their civilization was destroyed by constant w_____. The Greeks fought a famous war against _____. After ten years of fighting the _____ were able to destroy _____.

[illegible]

1. Who came up with the idea of the Trojan Horse?
2. Mycenae has trading settlements in the Mediterranean and _____ Seas.
3. The Greeks built a _____ to get inside the walls of Troy.
4. Who was the woman the king of Sparta loved?
5. The Minoans and the Mycenaeans were both skilled _____.
6. The Minoans and Mycenaeans both had a strong _____ to defend themselves.

7. _____ played a central role in the development of Greece.
8. A term for a Greek city-state.
9. This civilization was destroyed by a volcanic eruption?
10. The _____ effected Greek culture greatly.

a. Strength
b. Technology
c. Luck
d. Wit and cunning

2. Summarize the Trojan War and explain how the Greeks were able to win?

Aegean Civilizations

Geography of Greece

The geography of Greece played a central role on the way civilizations developed there. Greece is a rocky, mountainous peninsula that is surrounded by water on three sides. Because much of Greece is mountains, people lived in villages along the coast.

As a result many of the towns and villages were separated by the mountains and communication and travel was very difficult. As a result, they developed their own way of life. As time went on, these villages and towns developed into independent cities called a polis with their own unique form of government and life.

Each city considered themselves Greeks but also independent of each other. Farming, of course, was very challenging in this rocky terrain so many Greek villages turned to the sea for trade, transportation, and food. As a result, the Greeks became expert shipbuilders and traders.

Why did the cities of Greece develop into independent poli?

The Minoans

Many different cultures settled in mainland Greece and the surrounding islands. One of the earliest cultures was the Minoans. They settled on the island of Crete around 2500 BCE. Crete is located off the southern coast of Greece in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The Minoans were skilled farmers, craftsman, and shipbuilders. Minoan ships traded goods with other countries in the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas. They had a very advanced civilization with written language, running water and bathrooms that flushed. By 1450 BCE, the Minoan civilization was in decline. Many historians believe volcanic ash from an eruption on an island north of Crete destroyed much of Crete's agriculture and buried many of its cities. In less than one hundred years, the Minoan civilization had disappeared and the Mycenaeans to the north on the mainland took their place as the dominant culture in Greece.

Why do you think volcanic ash would be responsible for the destruction of a civilization?

Mycenae

Because Greece is mountainous many separate kingdoms developed there. The most powerful of these kingdoms was Mycenae.

Like the Minoans, they were skilled farmers, craftsman, and traders. However, they were also warriors and fought with everyone that came in contact with. They were the dominant military and naval power in the area. By 1400 BCE, the Mycenaeans had become major traders in the Aegean Sea. They had settlements throughout the Mediterranean and the Aegean Seas.

By 1100 BCE, the Mycenaean civilization had disappeared. Some historians believe this was due to invasions from two outside groups, the Dorians and the Sea People. Other historians believe it was because of the many wars the Myceneans fought with other kingdoms in Greece.

Seeing Mycenae was a very powerful kingdom, why do you think it was destroyed by constant warfare?

Trojan War

Competing with Mycenaean power was the city of Troy. According to legend, the King of Sparta fell in love with the princess Helen. However, Helen fell in love with the Paris the Prince of Troy. The Greek king Menelaus was furious. Leading a fleet of ships and army, Menelaus and his brother Agamemnon besieged Troy. For ten long years the Greeks tried to destroy the city of Troy, but they could not get within the city walls. Great warriors like Achilles and Hector fought to decide which side would win to no avail. Finally, a Greek named Odysseus came up with a plan as to how to get into the city. The Greeks built a large wooden horse. They planned to leave it in front of the city as a peace offering. The Greeks then boarded their ships and left. The Trojans, overjoyed brought in the horse and celebrated. That night, as the Trojans slept, Greek soldiers who had been hiding in the horse snuck out and opened the gates to the city. The Greek ships had turned around and the rest of the Greek army was ready and waiting to enter the city. Troy was destroyed.

What should the Trojan king have done? Explain.