




5.1 Cultures of the Mountains and the Sea



The roots of Greek culture are based on interaction of the Mycenaean, Minoan, and Dorian cultures

Geography Shapes Greek Life

– Ancient Greece

Collection of separate lands where Greek-speaking people live

Includes mainland and about 2000 islands

– The Sea

The sea shapes Greek civilization

Proximity to sea, lack of resources encourage sea travel and trade



Geography Shapes Greek Life

– The Land

Mountains slow travel, divide land into regions
Lack of fertile land leads to small populations,
need for colonies

– The Climate

Moderate climate promotes outdoor life
Greek men, especially, spend much of their
time outside



Mycenaean Civilization Develops

The Trojan War

- Trojan War – fought by Mycenaeans against city of Troy in 1200s BC
- Once thought to be fictional, archaeological evidence has been found



Greek Culture Declines Under the Dorians

Dorians Replace Mycenaeans

- Mycenaean civilization collapses around 1200 BC
- Dorians – possibly relatives to the Bronze Age
- Greeks – move into Greece
- Less advanced than Mycenaeans, Dorians leave no written records

Greek Culture Declines Under the Dorians

Epics of Homer

- Oral tradition grows, especially epics of Homer – blind storyteller
- Epic – a narrative poem about heroic deeds
- Homer's Epic the *Iliad*, about Trojan War, shows Greek heroic ideal



Greek Culture Declines Under the Dorians

Greeks Create Myths

- Greeks develop their own myths – traditional stories about gods
- Greeks seek to understand mysteries of life through myths
- Greeks attribute human qualities – love, hate, jealousy – to their gods
- Zeus, ruler of Gods, lives on Mount Olympus with his wife, Hera
- Zeus's daughter Athena is goddess of wisdom and guardian of cities