



Geography of Greece

- Greece is a small mountainous country in Europe.
- Greece is near the Mediterranean Sea.
- The main part of Greece is on a peninsula.
- The rest of Greece is made up of islands.





Greek Background

- Minoans
 - -Lived on the island of Crete
 - Were shipbuilders, traders, and farmers
 - Literature, art, and architecture flourished
 - Disappeared after earthquake and tidal wave hit area



Greek Background

- Mycenaeans
 - Lived in lower Greece
 - Mycenaeans were war-like and may have come from Russia or parts of Mesopotamia. Arrived about 1900 BC and by 1500 ruled entire peninsula
 - This was the group that tried to defeat
 Troy in the Trojan War.

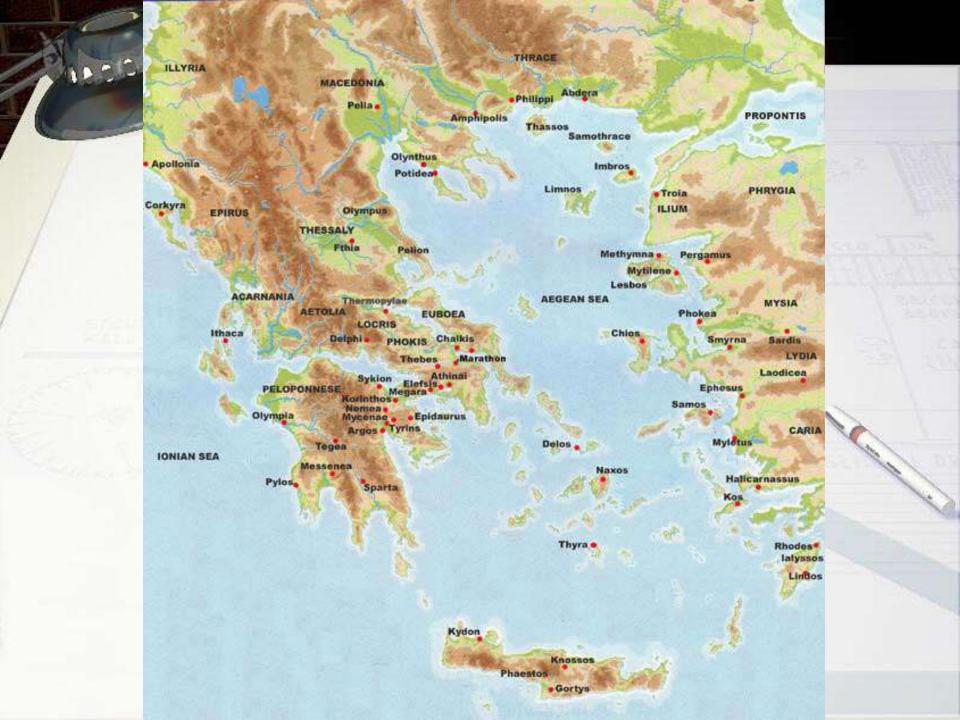
Greek Background

- After collapse of Mycenaean civilization, a 300 year period called Dark Ages began
 - Life becomes more agrarian
 - Power shifting from kings to families
 - Bronze gives way to iron
 - Mycenaeans flee to Asia. Early Greeks establish life around Aegean and Mediterranean Seas



Greek City-States

- Due to Greece's topography, the Greeks began to build city-states instead of one country.
- A city-state is a city with its own laws, rulers, and money.
- City-states were cities that acted like countries.





Athens

- Athens was the most important Greek citystate.
- The people of Athens wanted to rule themselves and not have a king or queen.
- Athens became the world's first democracy around 508 B.C.
- A democracy is a government in which all citizens can vote and have equal say in what happens.



- Athens was a democracy because all citizens could vote, but only half the people in Athens were citizens.
- Women, people born outside of Athens, and slaves could not vote.



Sparta

- Sparta was a Greek city-state.
- Sparta was very powerful and had its own army.
- Sparta conquered other city-states to gain wealth and power.
- There were three classes of people in Sparta: citizens, non-citizens, and slaves.
- Only men born in Sparta were citizens.



Sparta's Classes

- Women were not allowed to become citizens, however, women were allowed to own land and businesses, which gave them more freedom than other Greek city-states.
- The second class in Sparta was people who came from other city-states or other countries. They could own businesses but not become citizens.
- The third class was slaves.



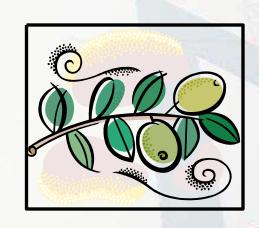
Sparta warriors

- Learning to read and write in Sparta was not very important.
- Training to become a good soldiers was important.
- Young boys were taken from their parents and trained to be soldiers as well as good in sports such as running.
- Girls were also trained to be good in sports.



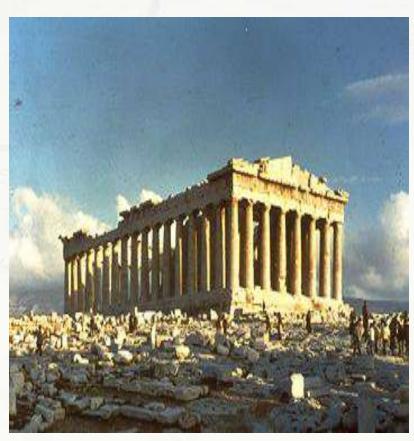
- Because the terrain made large farms impossible to develop, Greeks became good fishermen, sailors, and traders
- Farms were small, but some large olive and grape farms developed - almost like plantations in the South
- There were a variety of craftsmen also









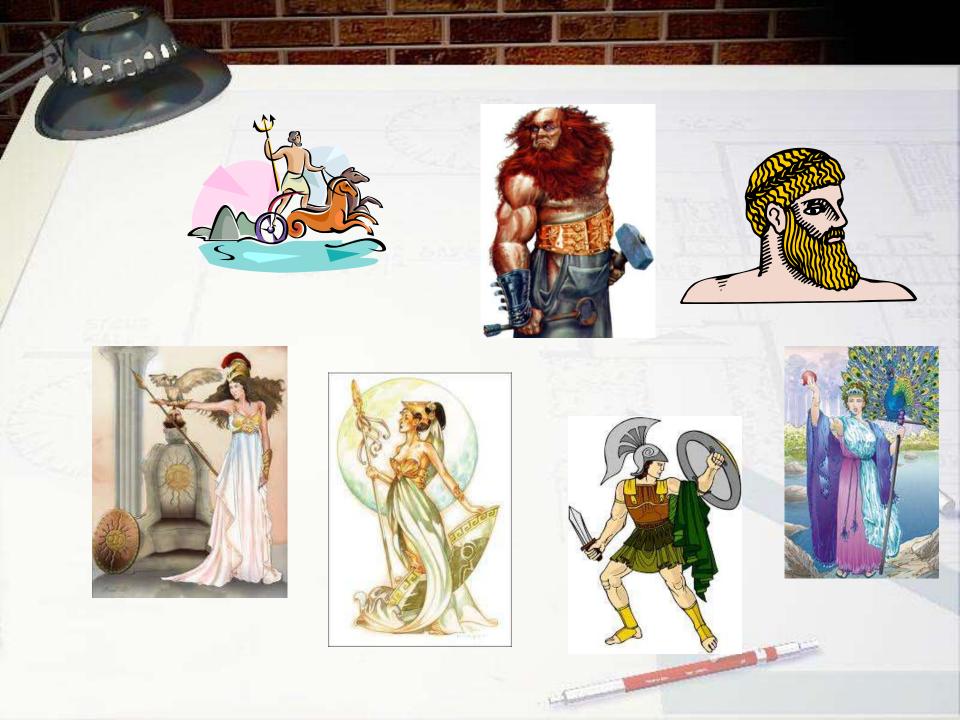






Greek Religion

- Greeks were polytheistic.
- Religion was based on group of gods who lived on Mt. Olympus
- Gods had supernatural powers but very human flaws





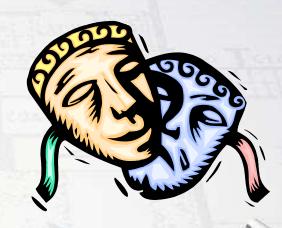
Greek Contributions

- Government
 - Democracy
 - Citizenship
 - Trial by jury
- Greek myths
- Architecture
 - Columns
- Greek myths
- Theatre
- Olympics







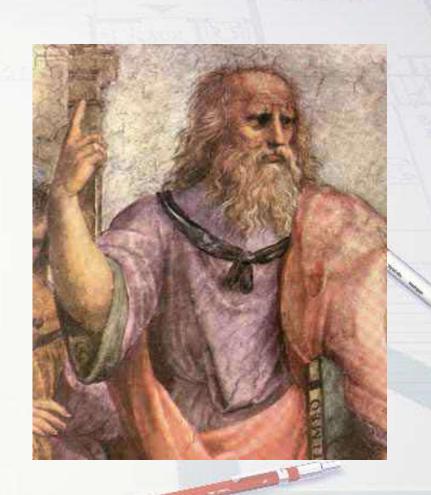






Plato

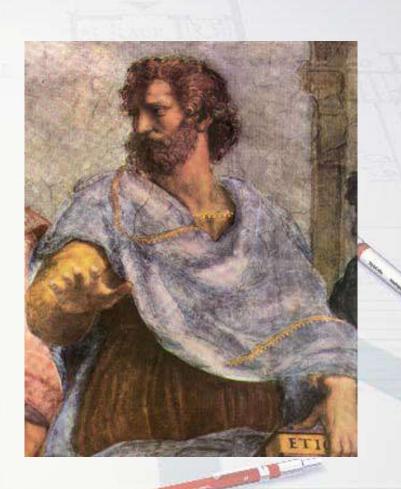
- Plato was a student of Socrates.
- He started a school called The Academy.
- Plato's writing took the form of a dialogue between teacher and student.





Aristotle

- Aristotle was another Greek philosopher and student of Plato.
- He wrote about science, art, law, poetry, and government.





Alexander the Great

- Alexander the Great was the son of King Phillip II of Macedonia.
- Alexander conquered Persia, Egypt, the Middle East and Northern India.
- He died at age 33 from malaria.



Alexander's Empire

