



Chapter

6

Ancient Greece

Chapter Preview

This chapter will introduce you to the history of ancient Greece.

Section 1

Early Greek Civilization

Section 2

Religion, Philosophy, and the Arts

Section 3

Daily Life in Athens

Section 4

Sparta and Athens

Section 5

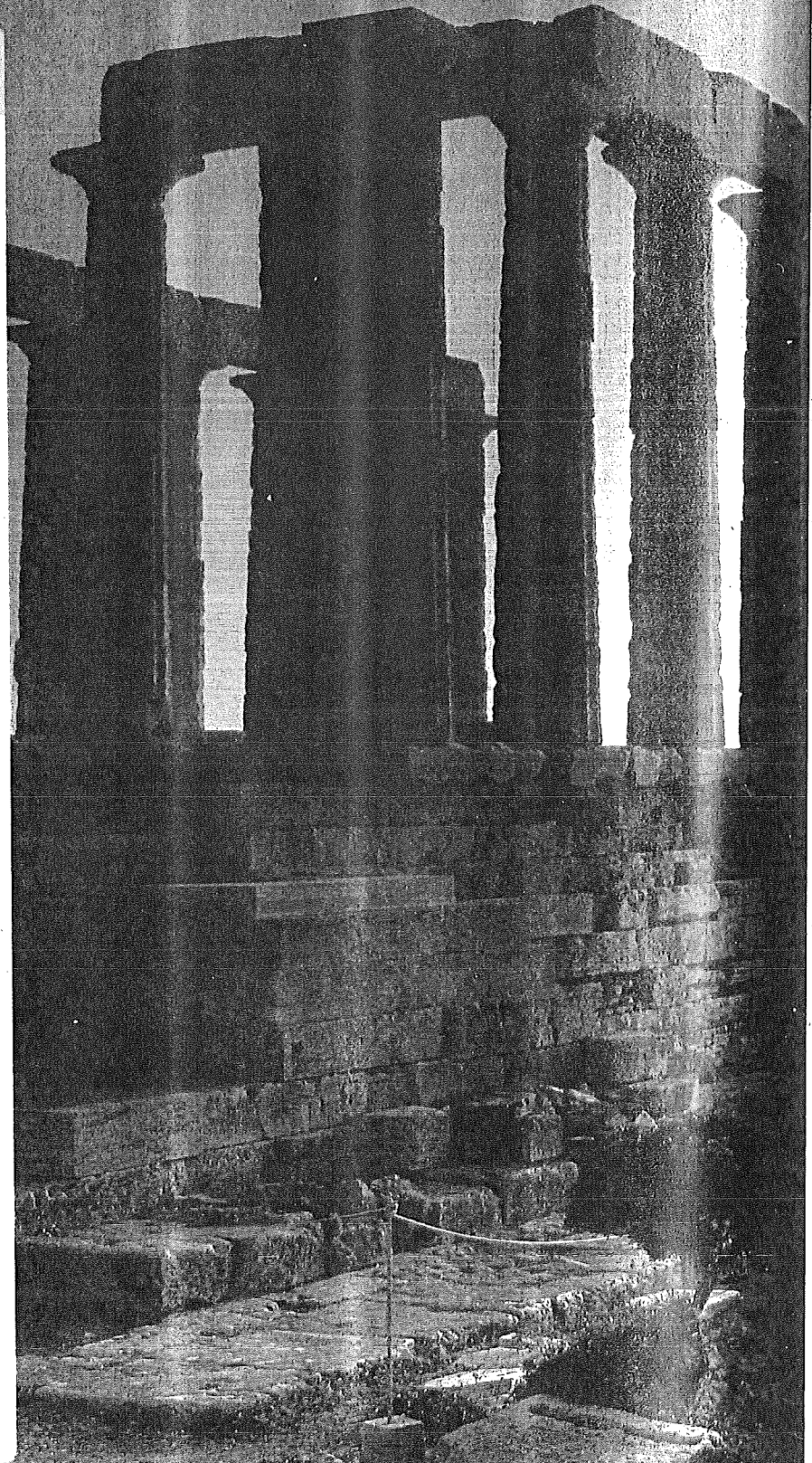
The Spread of Greek Culture



Target Reading Skill

Word Analysis In this chapter you will focus on using word parts and recognizing word origins to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words in the text.

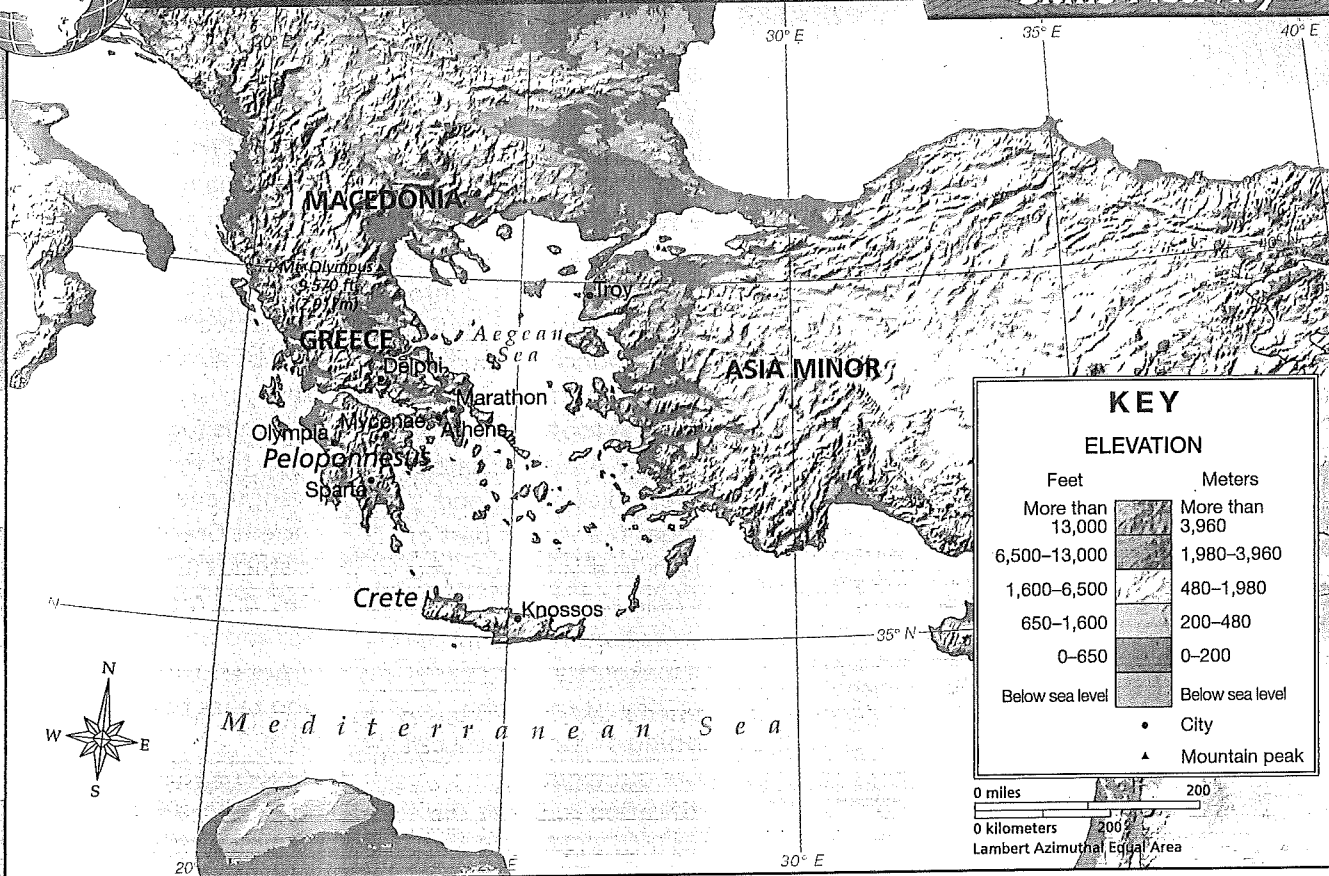
► The ruins of the Temple of Poseidon in Greece





Ancient Greece

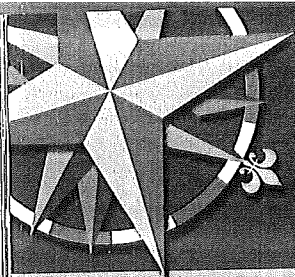
MAP MASTER™ Skills Activity



Location Examine the land of the ancient Greeks: it included the mainland and many islands in the Aegean and Mediterranean seas. The ancient Greeks also built colonies on the coast of Asia Minor, a region within present-day Turkey. **Identify** Name the major cities in ancient Greece. **Draw Conclusions** Study the map to make some guesses about how the people of ancient Greece earned their living. What role do you think the sea had in their lives? Why do you think some Greeks left ancient Greece to build cities elsewhere?

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lbp-2611 for step-by-step
map skills practice.





Early Greek Civilization

Prepare to Read

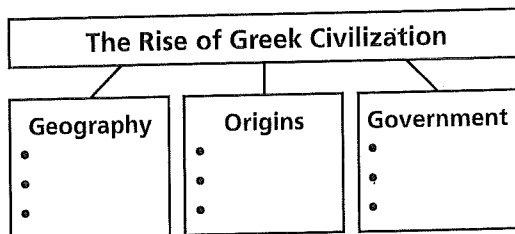
Objectives

In this section you will

1. Find out about the geography of Greece.
2. Learn about the rise of civilization in ancient Greece.
3. Study the beginnings of government in ancient Greece.

Taking Notes

As you read, find the details about early Greek civilization. Copy the chart below, and use it to record your findings.

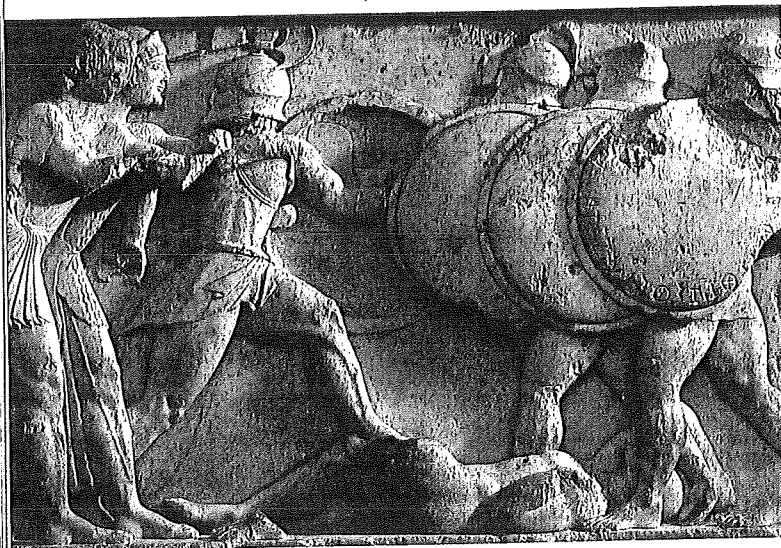


Target Reading Skill

Use Word Parts When you come across an unfamiliar word, break the word into parts to help you recognize and pronounce it. You may find roots, prefixes, or suffixes. A root is the base of a word. A suffix attaches to the end of a root and changes the word's part of speech. In this section, you will read the word *fortification*. The suffix *-ion* makes the word a noun. If you know the meaning of *fortify*, you can figure out what a fortification is. Break the word into a root and a suffix to learn its meaning.

Key Terms

- **peninsula** (puh NIN suh luh) *n.* an area of land almost completely surrounded by water and connected to the mainland by a narrow strip of land
- **acropolis** (uh KRAH puh lis) *n.* the fortified, or strengthened, hill of an ancient Greek city
- **aristocrat** (uh RIS tuh krat) *n.* a member of a rich and powerful family
- **tyrant** (TY runt) *n.* a ruler who takes power by force
- **democracy** (dih MAHK ruh see) *n.* a form of government in which citizens govern themselves



Following their defeat of the Titans, Zeus and his brothers and sisters battled the giants. The gods Apollo and Artemis, above left, confront a group of helmeted giants.

First there was nothing. Then came Mother Earth. The gods of Night and Day appeared next, and then starry Sky. Earth and Sky created the Twelve Titans (TYT unz). These great gods rebelled against their father Sky and took away his power. The youngest of the Titans, Cronos, ruled in his father's place. In time, Cronos had six children. The youngest, mighty Zeus (zoos), toppled Cronos from his throne.

With such stories, the people of ancient Greece described the struggles of their gods. Like their gods, the people of Greece had to struggle for power and independence. Their struggles began with the land itself.

The Geography of Greece

The land of Greece looks as if the sea had smashed it to pieces. Some pieces have drifted away to form small, rocky islands. Others seem to barely cling to the mainland. Greece is a peninsula made up of smaller peninsulas and islands. A peninsula is an area of land almost completely surrounded by water and connected to the mainland by a narrow strip of land. Look at the map on page 167 titled Ancient Greece. As you can see, no part of Greece is very far from the sea.

The Mountains of Greece Mountains are the major landform of Greece. Greece's islands are mostly mountain peaks. Mountains crisscross the mainland, leaving only small patches of farmland. Only about one fifth of Greece is good for growing crops. It is no wonder the Greeks became traders and sailors. At times, they left Greece to found colonies far away.

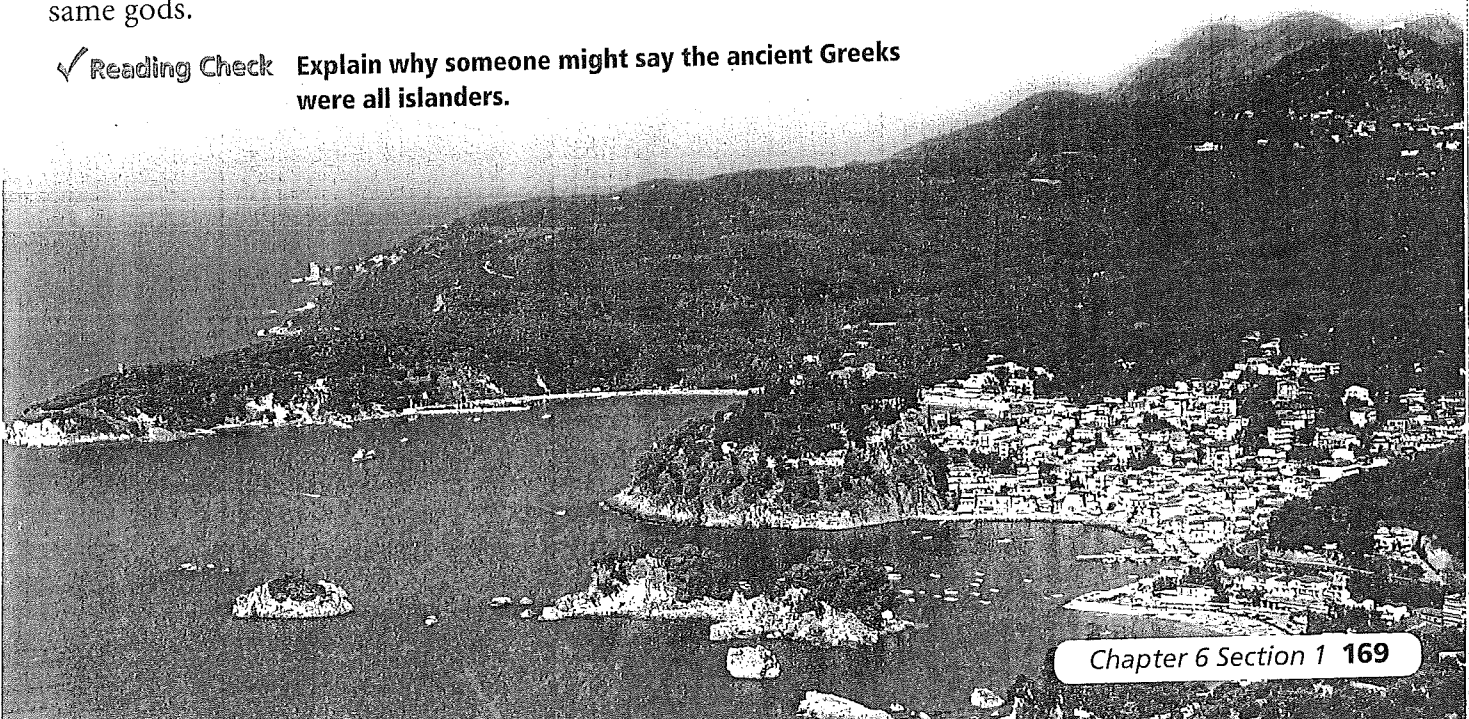
Geography and Ancient Communities The ancient Greeks were in a way all islanders. Some lived on real islands, completely surrounded by water, or on small peninsulas. Others lived on what could be thought of as land islands. Instead of water, mountains separated the people in these small communities from one another.

Because it was difficult for Greeks from different communities to meet, each community developed its own customs and beliefs. Each was more than ready to go to war to protect itself. In fact, for most of their history, the Greeks were so busy fighting among themselves that it was easy to forget that they shared a common heritage, spoke the same language, and worshiped the same gods.

✓ **Reading Check** Explain why someone might say the ancient Greeks were all islanders.

Greece's Coastline

This view of the port of Parga shows the rocky islands and mountains that are common in Greece. **Infer** Why did many ancient Greeks become traders and sailors?



The Rise of Greek Civilization

Early Greek civilization arose both on and off the Greek mainland. Two ancient peoples, the Minoans (mih NOH unzh) and the Mycenaeans (my suh NEE unzh), made important contributions to Greek civilization.

Minoan Civilization From about 3000 to about 1100 B.C., Bronze Age people called the Minoans lived on the island of Crete. Surrounded by the waters of the Aegean (ee JEE un) and Mediterranean seas, Crete was an ideal place for the Minoans to develop a broad sea-trade network. Mainland Greece and other Greek islands, Egypt, and Sicily all traded with the Minoans, who at one time dominated the Aegean.

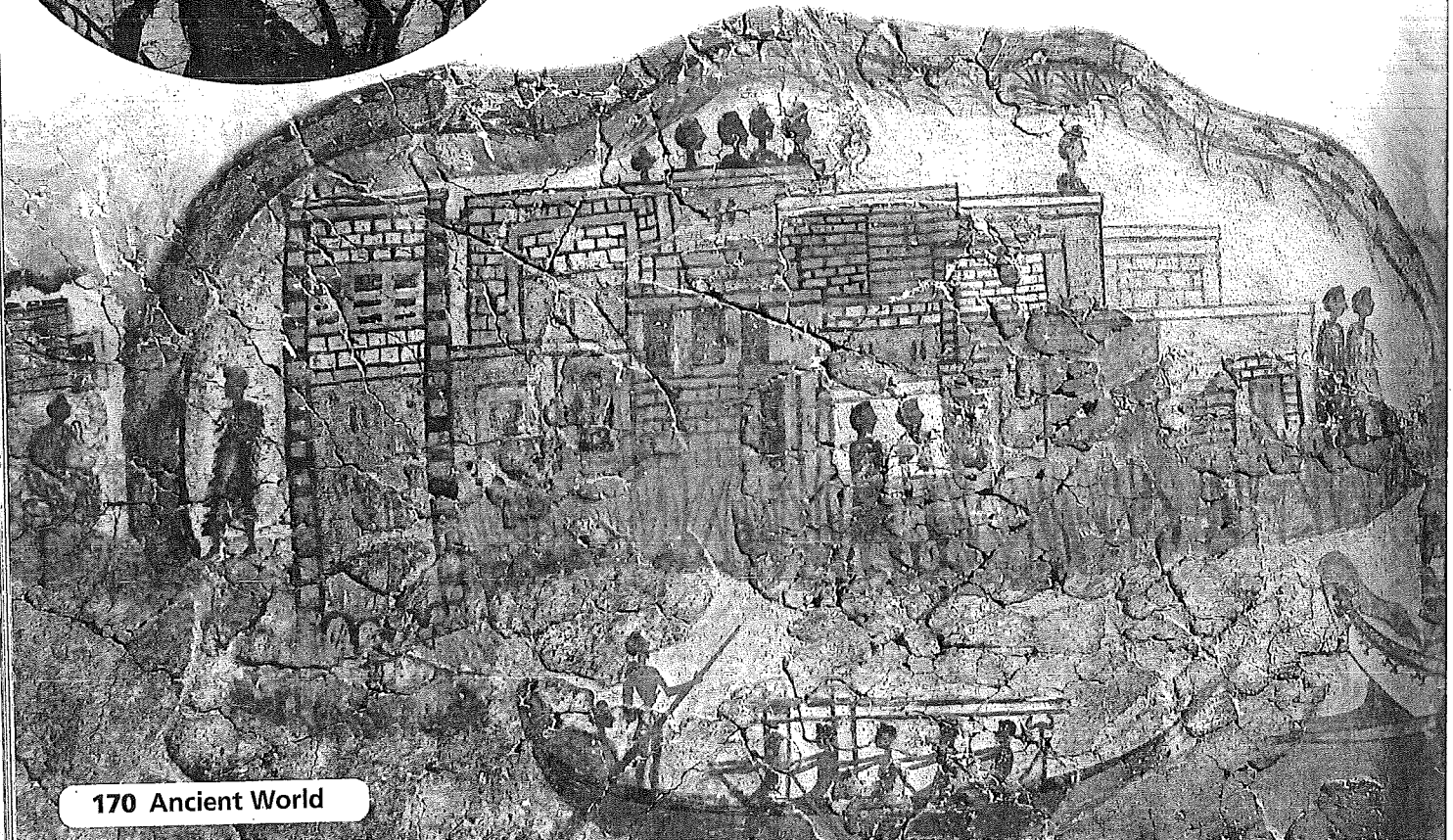
The Minoans developed an advanced culture. Samples of Minoan writing have been found on thousands of clay tablets. Palace ruins in the ancient city of Knossos (NAHS us) on Crete hint at rooms once covered with fanciful wall paintings. Statues found within suggest that the Minoans worshiped mainly goddesses. In the middle of the 1400s B.C., Knossos was destroyed, and Minoan civilization declined. People from mainland Greece, the Mycenaeans, were the likely invaders.

Ancient Cultures

The fresco from the 1500s B.C., shown below, illustrates Minoan naval combat. A Mycenaean princess appears in the inset photo. **Conclude** How do we know that both the Minoans and the Mycenaeans developed advanced cultures?



The Mycenaeans After the Mycenaeans came to power, mainland and island cultures blended. However, the focus of these cultures moved to the mainland, where Mycenae was located.



At the height of their power, around 1400 B.C., the Mycenaeans controlled the Aegean Sea and parts of the Mediterranean. Like the Minoans, the Mycenaeans also used writing. Studies of the Mycenaeans' script show that they spoke an early form of Greek.

The Minoans had gained much of their power through trade. Although the Mycenaeans traded widely, they relied upon conquest to spread their power. Greek myth tells the story of the Trojan War, a long struggle between Greece and the city of Troy on the west coast of Asia Minor, in present-day Turkey. There was an actual struggle over trade in the region, though the details of the legend were invented.

The Trojan War According to the myth, Greece conquered Troy by using a trick—the Trojan Horse. Greek warriors hid inside a huge wooden horse. The horse was rolled to the city gates. Thinking it was a gift, the Trojans brought the horse into their city. During the night, the Greek soldiers climbed out of the horse and let the rest of their army into Troy. The Greeks burned and looted Troy and then returned home.

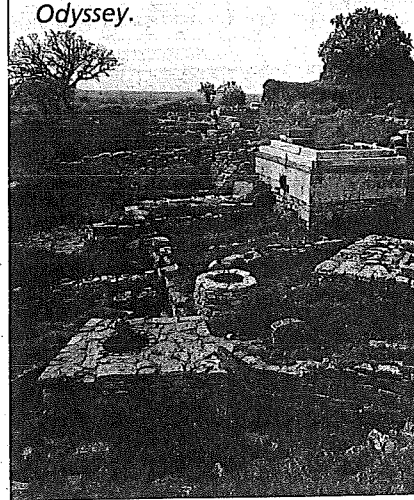
Two epics, or long storytelling poems, about the Trojan War survive today. They are the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. These epics may have been composed by many people, but they are credited to one poet called Homer. The poems were important to the Greeks. They taught the Greeks what their gods were like and how the noblest, or best, of their heroes behaved. Today, people think these poems came from stories memorized by several poets and passed down by word of mouth through many generations. Homer may have been the last and greatest in this line of poets.

The Dark Ages of Greece Not long after the Trojan War ended, civilization in Greece collapsed. No one knows exactly why. Life went on, but poverty was everywhere. People no longer traded beyond Greece for food and other goods. They had to depend on what they could raise or make themselves. Some were forced to move to islands or to the western part of Asia Minor. They were so concerned with survival that they even forgot the practice of writing.

These years, from the early 1100s B.C. to about 750 B.C., have been called Greece's Dark Ages. Without writing, people had to depend on word of mouth to keep their traditions and history alive. Old traditions were remembered only in the myths that were told and retold.

Links to Science

Troy Discovered Over the years, people came to believe that Troy and the Trojan War were fictional. An amateur archaeologist, Heinrich Schliemann, disagreed. In the late 1800s, he used clues in the *Iliad* to pinpoint the location of Troy in Turkey. When he and later archaeologists dug there, they found nine layers of ruins from ancient cities, as shown below. One was possibly the Troy of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.



**Pottery painting of a
Greek cobbler ▶**



Roots and Suffixes

If *fortify* means "strengthen," what is a fortification?

Greece's Dark Ages were not completely bleak, however. During that time, families gradually resettled in places where they could grow crops and raise animals. Some of these family farms may have developed into villages. When families chose where to build their farms, they favored places near rocky, protected hills. There they built fortifications and other structures to protect themselves from attack. The name for the fortified hill of an ancient Greek city is **acropolis**, meaning "upper city."



✓ **Reading Check** What happened during Greece's Dark Ages?

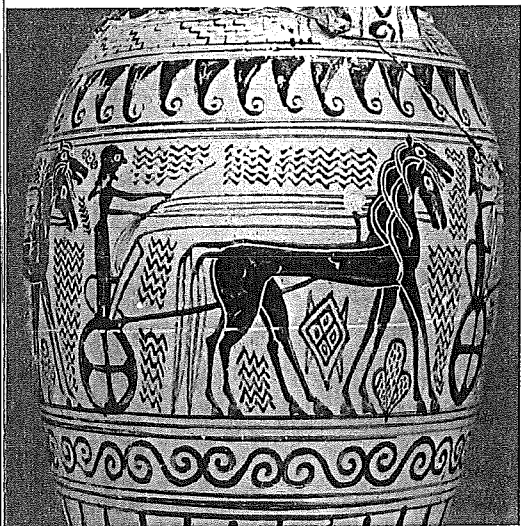
Governing Ancient Greece

Historians believe that sometime around 750 B.C., villages throughout Greece began joining to form cities. Each city formed near an acropolis. As these cities developed, they became city-states. Hundreds of Greek city-states formed, each one more or less independent.

The Rule of the Aristocrats The earliest rulers of city-states were probably chieftains or kings who were military leaders. By the end of Greece's Dark Ages, most city-states were ruled by aristocrats, members of rich and powerful families. Aristocrats controlled most of the good land. They owned horses, chariots, and the best weapons, which made them stronger than others.

A New Type of Ruler As the Greeks sailed to foreign ports, trading olive oil, marble, and other products, the city-states became richer. A middle class of merchants and artisans developed. They, too, wanted a say in the government of their cities. These people could not afford to equip themselves with horses and chariots for war. However, they could afford armor, swords, and spears. With these weapons, large groups of soldiers could fight effectively on foot. Gradually, military strength in the cities shifted from the aristocrats to the merchants and artisans.

As a result of these changes, aristocratic governments were often overthrown and replaced by rulers called tyrants. A **tyrant** was a ruler who took power by force. Tyrants were usually supported by the middle and working classes. Today, we think of tyrants as being cruel and violent. That was true of some Greek tyrants, but others ruled wisely and well.



The Aristocrats

Some wealthy ancient Greeks owned chariots such as the one shown on this vessel from about 700 B.C.

Analyze How did the aristocrats use their wealth to gain power?

Democracy: Rule by the People Eventually, the people of many city-states overthrew tyrants who were too harsh. Some of the cities adopted a form of government that would have a lasting effect around the world for years to come. It was called **democracy**, a form of government in which citizens govern themselves. The city-state in which democracy was most fully developed was Athens.

In the 500s B.C., a leader named Solon reformed Athen's laws. One law canceled all debts, or money owed to other people, and freed citizens who had been enslaved for having debts. Another law allowed any male citizen of Athens aged 18 or older to debate important laws. These laws and others made Athens the leading democracy of the ancient world.

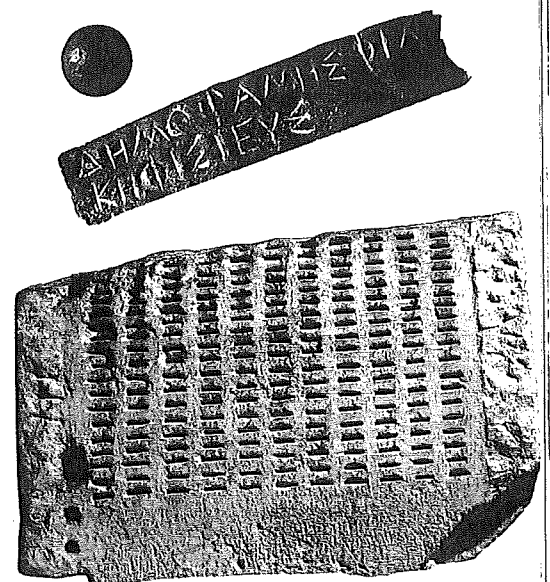
Citizens of Athens might be rich or poor. However, not everyone living in ancient Athens benefited from democracy. Only about one in five Athenians was a citizen.

In Athens, only men could be citizens. A citizen had to have two parents who came from families with citizenship. Some of the people living in Athens were enslaved. These people could not take part in democracy, nor could women or men with non-citizen parents. But the men who were citizens of Athens were free and self-governing.

✓ Reading Check Who could be granted citizenship in ancient Athens?

Tools of Democracy

Athenians used a machine to help select juries. A colored ball (top) dropped into a kleroterion, or allotment machine (bottom), would fall at random next to the slots containing names of potential jurors. In the middle is a voting tablet used in ancient Athens. Infer How do you think voting helped strengthen Athenian democracy?



Section 1 Assessment

Key Terms

Review the key terms at the beginning of this section. Use each term in a sentence that explains its meaning.

Target Reading Skill

Find the word *location* on page 171 in the Links to Science column. If *locate* means "find," what does *location* mean?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

1. (a) Recall Describe the geographic setting and major landforms of ancient Greece.

(b) Predict What effect do you think the geography of Greece had on the kind of communities that developed there?

2. (a) Recall Describe two important early Greek civilizations.

(b) Make Generalizations Why were poems and myths important to the ancient Greeks?

3. (a) Identify What were the three kinds of governments that developed in the Greek city-states after Greece's Dark Ages?

(b) Cause and Effect How did the rise of the middle class help the government of ancient Greece become more democratic?

Writing Activity

Write a description of the conditions in Greece during the period between the 1100s B.C. and the 700s B.C. Why are these years referred to as Greece's Dark Ages?

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