

Aim: Who were the earliest Greeks?

I. Geography

- a) Located in the Balkan Peninsula near the Aegean Sea
- b) Good harbors, irregular coastline, & seafaring peoples
- c) Separated by mountains which created individual communities
- d) Created rivalries in Greece

II. Early civilizations

1. Archaic Greece: 3000-1600 BCE
2. 2800 BCE the Minoans land on the island of Crete
3. The Minoans traded with Egypt
4. Rich culture and used bronze
5. In ca.1500 BCE civilization declines

III. Mycenae

- i. 1600-1100 BCE
- ii. gov't was a monarchy
- iii. They were strong warriors
- iv. Wealthy city
- v. constant fighting and natural disasters led to its decline

IV. Dark Ages

- a) 1200-800 BCE
- b) The Dorian Invasions caused Greece to fall into decline
- c) No writing and little info on this period
- d) Ca. 800-600 BCE "Greek Renaissance"
- e) New spirit of adventure and optimism
- f) Adopted the Phoenician alphabet
- g) Homer's Iliad & Odyssey were written during the Greek Renaissance

V. Greek City-State

- A. Polis: ancient city-state in Greece (city & surrounding area)
- B. basis of government and the center of Greek life
- C. Ruled by aristocrats
- D. Acropolis: located on the top of a hill, was a fortified area
- E. Agora: Greek market place

VI. Military

- a) 700 BCE Hoplites: Greek foot soldiers
- b) Used 9ft long spears
- c) Phalanx: a body of heavily armed infantry that was formed close ranks
- d) Rise of Greek tyrants, they got rid of aristocrats
- e) Two main Polis: Athens & Sparta