Cultures of the Mountains and the Sea

**MAIN IDEA**

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

**WHY IT MATTERS NOW**

The seeds of much of Western cultural heritage were planted during this time period.

**TERMS & NAMES**

- Mycenaean
- Trojan War
- Dorian
- Homer
- epic
- myth
In ancient times, Greece was not a united country. It was a collection of separate lands where Greek-speaking people lived. By 3000-B.C., the Minoans lived on the large Greek island of Crete. The Minoans created an elegant civilization that had great power in the Mediterranean world. At the same time, people from the plains along the Black Sea and Anatolia migrated and settled in mainland Greece.
Classical Greece, 2000 B.C.–300 B.C.

Previewing Main Ideas

In the Greek city-state of Athens, a new form of government developed—democracy—in which citizens exercised power.

Geography

What geographic factors might have confined democracy largely to Athens?

Alexander the Great spread Greek culture throughout much of Asia. Greek, Egyptian, and Asian cultures then blended to create Hellenistic culture.

Geography

Why might the sea have been important to the spread of Greek culture?

Athens assumed control of a defense league and eventually built it into an empire. Later, Alexander conquered the Persian Empire and beyond to create a vast new empire of his own.

Geography

What geographic features might have strengthened the Macedonian desire to build an empire to the south and east?

EMPIRE BUILDING

CULTURAL INTERACTION

POWER AND AUTHORITY

• Interactive Maps
• Interactive Visuals
• Interactive Primary Sources

INTERNET RESOURCES

Go to classzone.com for:
• Research Links
• Maps
• Internet Activities
• Test Practice
• Primary Sources
• Current Events
• Chapter Quiz
Geography Shapes Greek Life

The Sea surrounded the Greeks
- Provided
  - Transportation
    - Contributed
      - Trading
        - Because
          - Greece lacked natural resources

The mountainous land
- Created
- Made
- Provided
  - Communications difficult
    - Caused
      - It was difficult to travel
        - Because
          - Greeks were loyal to their communities

Little farmland
- Yielded
  - Small populations

The Climate
- Consisted
  - Moderate temperatures
    - Outdoor life

Different regions
- Caused
  - Political divisions
    - Contributed
      - Greek life
Mycenaean Greece, c. 1250 B.C.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

1. Location Where was the center of the Mycenaean Civilization located?
2. Movement Based on the map, how did Mycenaean traders conduct most of their trade?

The Climate
Climate was the third important environmental influence on Greek civilization. Greece has a varied climate, with temperatures averaging 48 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter and 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer. In ancient times, these moderate temperatures supported an outdoor life for many Greek citizens. Men spent much of their leisure time at outdoor public events. They met often to discuss public issues, exchange news, and take an active part in civic life.

Mycenaean Civilization Develops
As Chapter 3 explained, a large wave of Indo-Europeans migrated from the Eurasian steppes to Europe, India, and Southwest Asia. Some of the people who settled on the Greek mainland around 2000 B.C. were later known as Mycenaeans. The name came from their leading city, Mycenae (my•SEE•nee). Mycenae was located in southern Greece on a steep, rocky ridge and surrounded by a protective wall more than 20 feet thick. The fortified city of Mycenae could withstand almost any attack. From Mycenae, a warrior-king ruled the surrounding villages and farms. Strong rulers controlled the areas around other Mycenaean cities, such as Tiryns and Athens. These kings dominated Greece from about 1600 to 1100 B.C.
Mycenaean Civilization

Settled

Greek mainland around 2000 B.C.

Had contact

Fought

Minoan civilization

Learned

Value of trading

Adopted

Minoan writing system

Incorporated

Minoan designs

Formed

Core of Greek culture

Contributed

Roots of Western civilization

The 12 year Trojan War

Believed

To be fiction

Discovered

By Schliemann
After the Trojan War Mycenaean civilization collapsed

Dorians moved in

Lost

Far less advanced

The art of writing

Learned

Through the Spoken word

Famous

Storytellers

Composed

Epics and Myths

Homer the blind poet

Wrote

The Iliad

Source

Greek Mythology

Source

Hesiod

Wrote

Theogony

Explains

The Nature and the power of human passions.