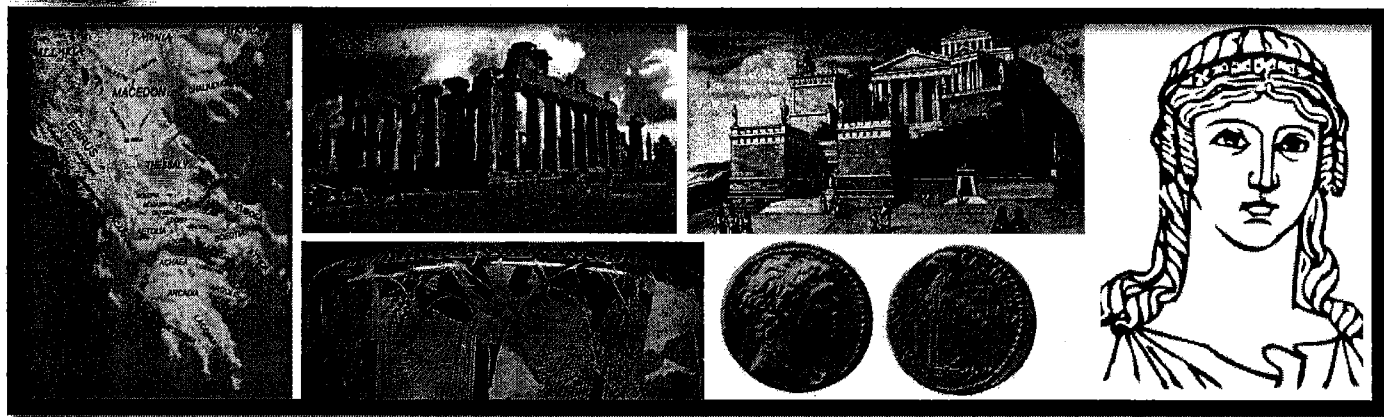




HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

AN ANCIENT GREECE CLOSE READING INVESTIGATION



GREECE IN THE BEGINNING

Ellada or *Hellas* is Greek for Greece, which has a mainland, the Balkan Peninsula, with an archipelago (ark-a-pel-a-go) in the Aegean Sea.

These numerous islands are known as Cyclades, which form an approximate circle, and the Dodecanese Islands stretch over 1,048 square miles. The peninsula mainland is surrounded on three sides by the Aegean Sea in the East, the Ionian Sea in the West, and the Mediterranean Sea in the South.

Mountains cover 80% of Greece with tiny rivers for drainage leaving little room for agriculture. Therefore, the Greeks took to the sea for their income and nourishment. Because they developed seafaring expertise (really good at something), they settled on the surrounding islands. They had an abundance (good amount) of stone and raw materials for construction, and they developed architecture expertise. They raised animals that didn't need a lot of land to live such as pigs, sheep, and goats. The plants they raised such as olive

trees, barley, wheat, and grapes needed little water.

Evidence of early settlers date back to 6000 BCE in northern Greece where the land was better for farming. They lived in one-room stone homes that had roofs made of wood and clay filled the cracks between the timber.

Around 3200 BCE people had migrated to the Cycladic Islands to settle. This civilization flourished through 1100 BCE. Some traded olive oil, wine, and ceramics while others fished as livelihoods. From 2700-1500 BCE the Minoan Civilization, named for **King Minos**, on the island of Crete, was the foremost sea power of the region. The Minoans developed better ways to build ships making them the powerhouse of the sea. They made advances in art, architecture, ceramics, and the sciences. These advances stabilized the economy and increased commerce (trade). They also developed writing known as Linear A, which has not been decoded. Scientists have found evidence that the Minoan civilization fell

mostly because of the eruption of a volcano on a nearby island and the tsunami (tidal wave) that the eruption caused.

GREEK CULTURE AND ADVANCES

The Mycenaean (my-sin-ee-un) Civilization from about 1900 to 1100 BCE. It is credited with the beginning of Greek culture. These people made great advances in architecture, organized religion, and writing (Linear B, which today's Greek comes from). They worshiped sky gods and earth goddesses. The only road in Greece during this time that was not an animal path was the Sacred Way that ran between Athens and Eleusis. No written history of this age has been discovered; the only written records are of trade bills and lists of goods in stock.

Athens moved toward *democratic rule* (people elected government) rather than a monarchy (king rule) beginning about 600 BCE, and it became a city-state or *polis* (several villages and small cities that would band together for protection and trade). The word democracy comes from two Greek words. *Demos* (people) and *kratos* (power), thus power of the people. All male citizens 20 years old and older had a say in government. Great change blossomed in Greece. An organized law system was established by **Draco**, pottery and sculpture became distinctively Greek, the first coins were minted, which led into the Classical Greek period.

CLASSICAL PERIOD

In 480 BCE, Athens defeated Darius, the Persian king, in a great sea battle at Salamis. This led to great peace and

prosperity that led to great advances in culture, art, and philosophy (study of wisdom and values). These advances led the philosophers of the day to abandon religious models for science and scientific methods for studying where life came from and what caused the universe to come into being.

Greek artists of this period began to depict art realistic rather than idealistic. They depicted actual human bodies with true emotions, accomplishments, and beauty.

After the defeat of Persia, Athens tried to unite several city-states for greater protection against further Persian hostilities. Sparta was suspicious so she formed her own league of city-states. The mutual distrust led to two wars between them. The second war left Athens in ruins and Sparta broke. **Philip II** of Macedon filled the leadership vacuum after that second war, and united Greece in 338 BCE. He was assassinated in 336 BCE, and his son **Alexander the Great** stepped on to the throne.

Alexander not only defeated Persia, but went on to conquer Egypt, across Asia Minor all the way to India. He was tutored by a great philosopher, Plato's student Aristotle (a-riss-tot-tul), while growing up, therefore he spread the Greek language, Greek culture, philosophy, and art around the known world. Greek became the common language of the people. Easier communication made trading, commerce, and knowledge spread quickly around the world.

PHILOSOPHY INFLUENCE

From about 600 BCE through 31 BCE many

philosophers, too many to name here, influenced thinking of their day. They doubted gods controlled events in nature. *Zeus* did not command thunder and lightening, *Hera* was not the goddess of marriage and childbirth, and *Poseidon* did not rule the sea. Socrates (sock-ra-teez), one of the greatest Greek philosophers, was born in the 5th century BCE. He is credited with being the first to bring study of wisdom and values to the common people in order to recognize morals and differences between good and evil. He used a question and answer method of study that is still used today. Because it became a crime to investigate and teach these things, Socrates was charged, convicted, and forced to drink poison for this "crime." Plato was a student of Socrates and opened an academy to teach law, philosophy, and science. Plato's student Aristotle studied astronomy, law, economics, zoology and botany.

Hippocrates (hip-ah-kra-teez), one of the greatest physicians, was born in 460 BCE, and contributed much to medicine. He was the first to teach illness had natural causes, and was not a punishment from the gods.

ANCIENT GREEK SOCIETY

Solon (594 BCE) attempted to balance power between rich and poor by ranking classes by income. Only free men could vote. Women, even those from rich families, did not have many rights. They married whom their father said to, and then were not allowed in social gatherings. They could not vote, own land, inherit, or choose whom they married. Spartan women were treated differently. They could inherit, own land, drink wine, and do physical training. All children went to

school to master reading, writing, and math. Young men (18-20) had to serve in the military and civil government.

The lower ranking in society were laborers who were wholly dependent upon their employers. At the bottom of society were slaves who were bought and sold. The lucky ones could purchase their freedom.

GREEK TECHNOLOGY

Besides the great strides in architecture, art, and culture, the Greeks made great advancements in technology that are used today. **Philon** invented the first robot in the 3rd century BCE. It was a stone "maid" that poured wine into your cup when you placed it on her palm.

Archimedes, a great inventor of the 2nd Century BCE, built a heat ray that made ships burst into flames in a few seconds. It was a series of mirrors that focused the sun's rays on the ship, similar to a solar furnace. He also engineered a giant screw that removed bilge water from a luxury ship's hull, which is used today to pump liquids and granulated solids. The first odometer measured the distance a cart or wagon traveled, and helped set up milestones on roads.



HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

AN ANCIENT GREEK CLOSE READING INVESTIGATION ANALYSIS

Complete the following questions by using the reading, *Historical Snapshot: Ancient Greece Close Reading Investigation*.

1. List the section subheading(s) where you can find the following key concepts for social science:

Geography: _____ Religion: _____

Achievements: _____

Economy: _____

Leadership: _____

2. **Achievements:** Write an excerpt from the reading that explains why Alexander the Great conquering the world was so important. _____

3. **Achievements:** Sketch four important inventions developed by Greek culture.

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4. **Vocabulary:** What is the meaning of the word "archipelago" in the following? [Greece has] an archipelago (ark-a-pel-a-go) in the Aegean Sea. These numerous islands are known as Cyclades, which form an approximate circle, and the Dodecanese Islands... _____

5. **Geography:** Why did the Greeks raise crops and animals that did not need a lot of water and land?

6. **Religion:** Name three Greek gods and what the Greeks believed they controlled?

7. **Achievements:** Why is Socrates credited with being the greatest philosopher?

8. **Achievements:** Who was Hippocrates, and why was he so important?

9. **Economy:** What did the Minoan Civilization contribute to Greek economy?

10. **Leadership:** What did Philip II do? What happened to him, and who took his place?



HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

AN ANCIENT GREEK CLOSE READING INVESTIGATION ANALYSIS

Complete the following questions by using the reading, *Historical Snapshot: Ancient Greece Close Reading Investigation*.

1. List the section subheading(s) where you can find the following key concepts for social science:

Geography: Greece in the Beginning

Religion: Greek Culture and Advances, Classical Period,

Achievements: Greece in the Beginning, Greek Culture and Advances, Classical Period, Philosophy Influence, Greek Technology

Economy: Greece in the Beginning, Greek Culture and Advances, Classical Period, Greek Technology

Leadership: Greece in the Beginning, Greek Culture and Advances, Classical Period, Philosophy Influence

2. Achievements: Write an excerpt from the reading that explains why Alexander the Great conquering the world was so important.

He spread the Greek language, Greek culture, philosophy, and art around the known world. Greek became the common language of the people. Easier communication made trading, commerce, and knowledge spread quickly around the world.

3. Achievements: Sketch four important inventions developed by Greek culture.

- Answers include: Stone house w/wood roof, Temple, ceramic bowl/jar, stone robot pouring wine, screw pumping water, odometer

4. Vocabulary: What is the meaning of the word "archipelago" in the following? [Greece has] an archipelago (ark-a-pel-a-go) in the Aegean Sea. These numerous islands are known as Cyclades, which form an approximate circle, and the Dodecanese Islands...

Group of islands

5. Geography: Why did the Greeks raise crops and animals that did not need a lot of water and land?

Mountains covered 80% of the land.

6. Religion: Name three Greek gods and what the Greeks believed they controlled.

Zeus commanded thunder and lightening, *Hera* was the goddess of marriage and childbirth, and *Poseidon* ruled the sea. .

7. Achievements: Why is Socrates credited with being the greatest philosopher?

He is credited with being the first to bring study of wisdom and values to the common people in order to recognize morals and differences between good and evil.

8. Achievements: Who was Hippocrates, and why was he so important?

One of the greatest physicians, contributed much to medicine. He was the first to teach illness had natural causes, and was not a punishment from the gods.

9. Economy: What did the Minoan Civilization contribute to Greek economy?

The Minoans developed better ways to build ships making them the powerhouse of the sea. They made advances in art, architecture, ceramics, and the sciences. These advances stabilized the economy and increased commerce (trade).

10. Leadership: What did Philip II do? What happened to him, and who took his place?

He united all the Greek city-states after the two wars. He was assassinated, and