

Seafaring Traders



The Minoan Civilization
&
The Phoenician Civilization

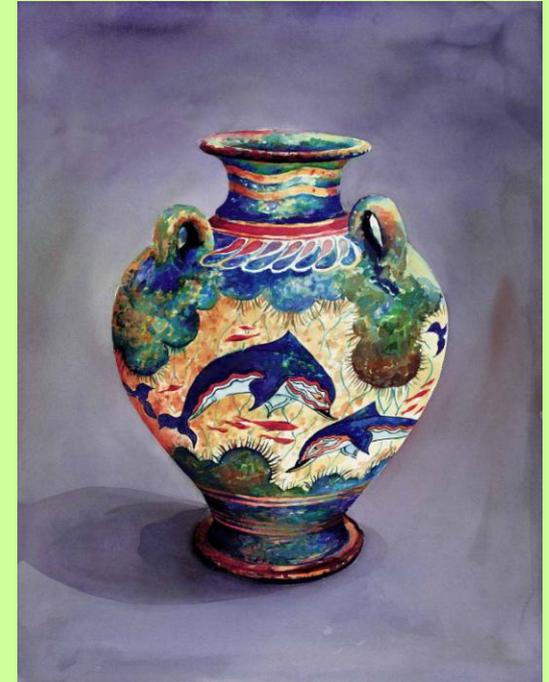
Crete -- the Island of King Minos



"There is a land called Crete, in the middle of The Wine-dark sea, Beautiful and fertile, surrounded by water, and in it there are many people, countless, and ninety cities and among them is Knossos, the great city where Minos was king." *The Odyssey*

The Minoan Civilization

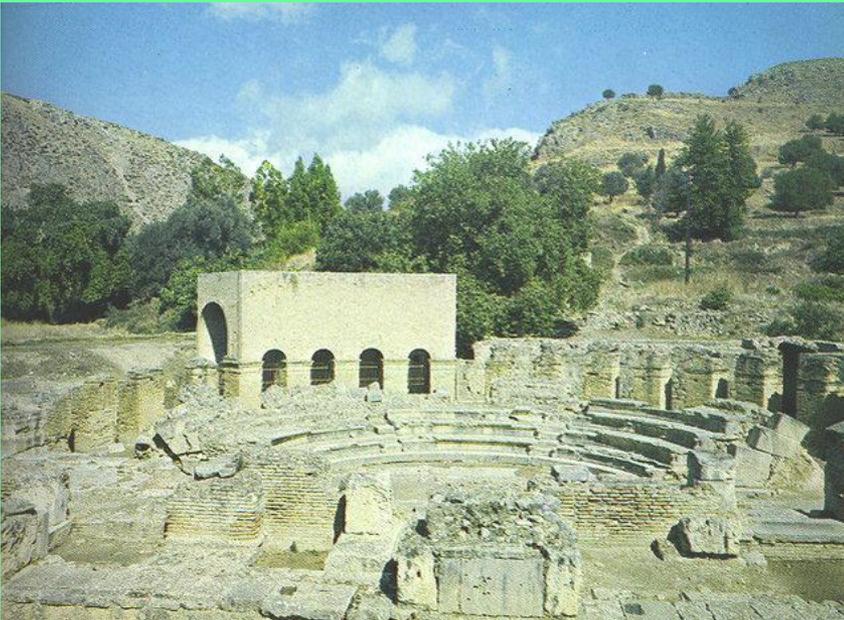
- The Minoans were in Crete, an island on the southern tip of the Aegean Sea
- They produced some of the finest pottery, swords, figurines, and vessels
- They traded their finely produced goods with other traders from far away



Influence of Crete on Greece



- The Minoans also exported their art



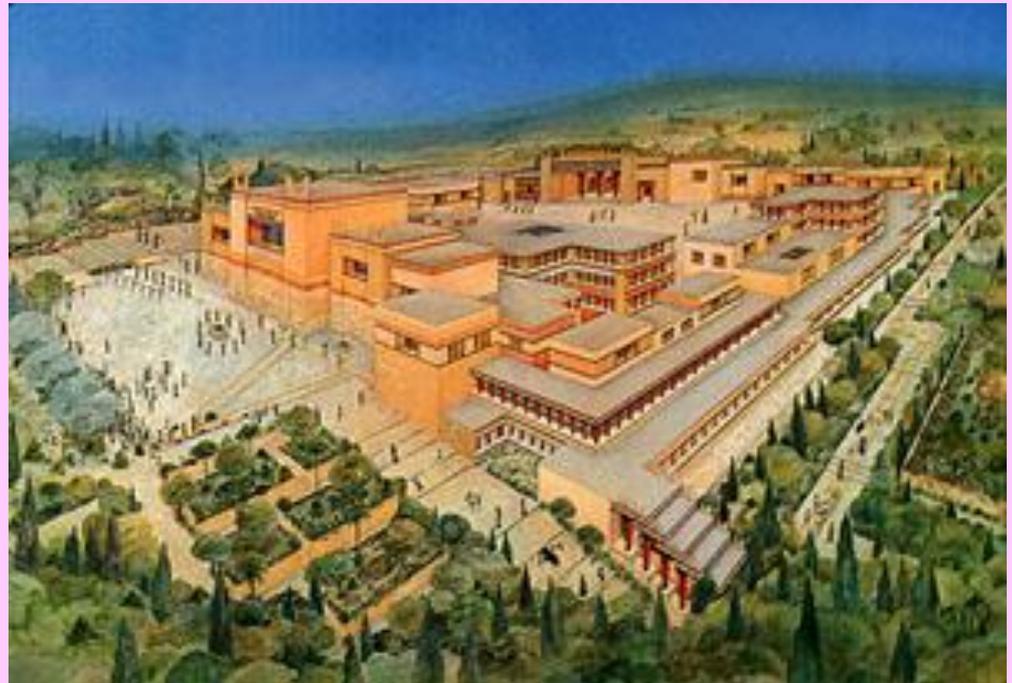
- Their style of architecture, burial rituals and religion was adopted by the Greek

Knossos -- A Brilliant Civilization

- Archaeologists uncovered a city in Crete named Knossos

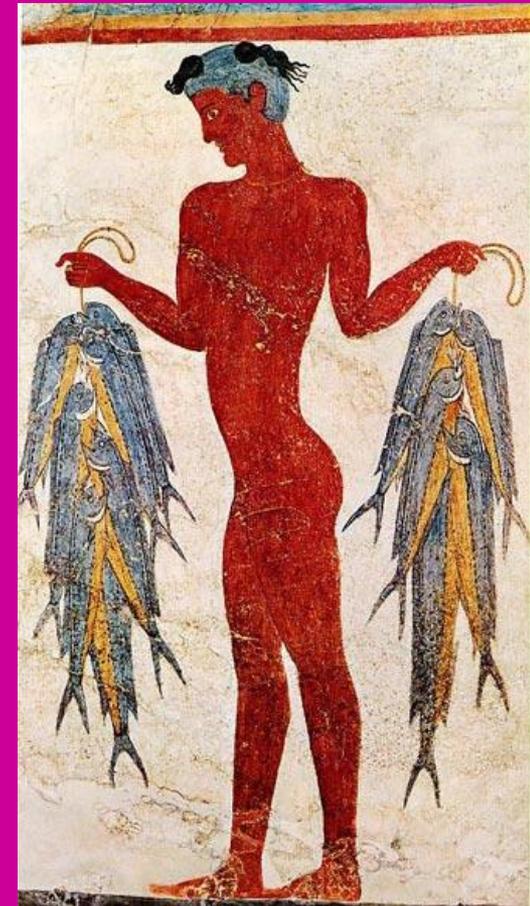
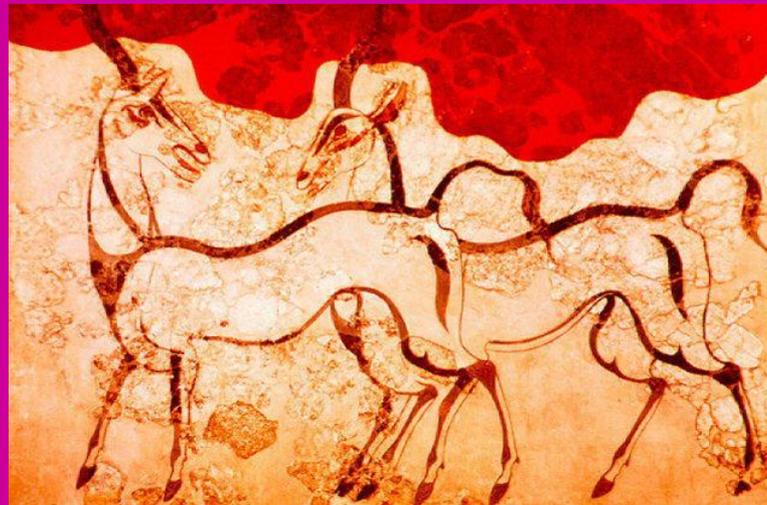
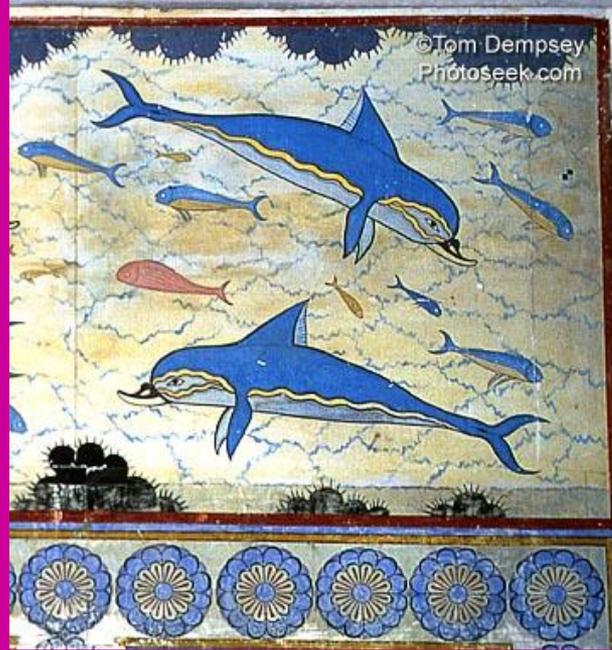


- Knossos was the center of a peaceful civilization where people did not fear invasion – there were no fortifications surrounding the city.



Minoan Art

- There were no depictions of war or battles in their art.
- They were graceful, athletic people who loved nature and aesthetics.

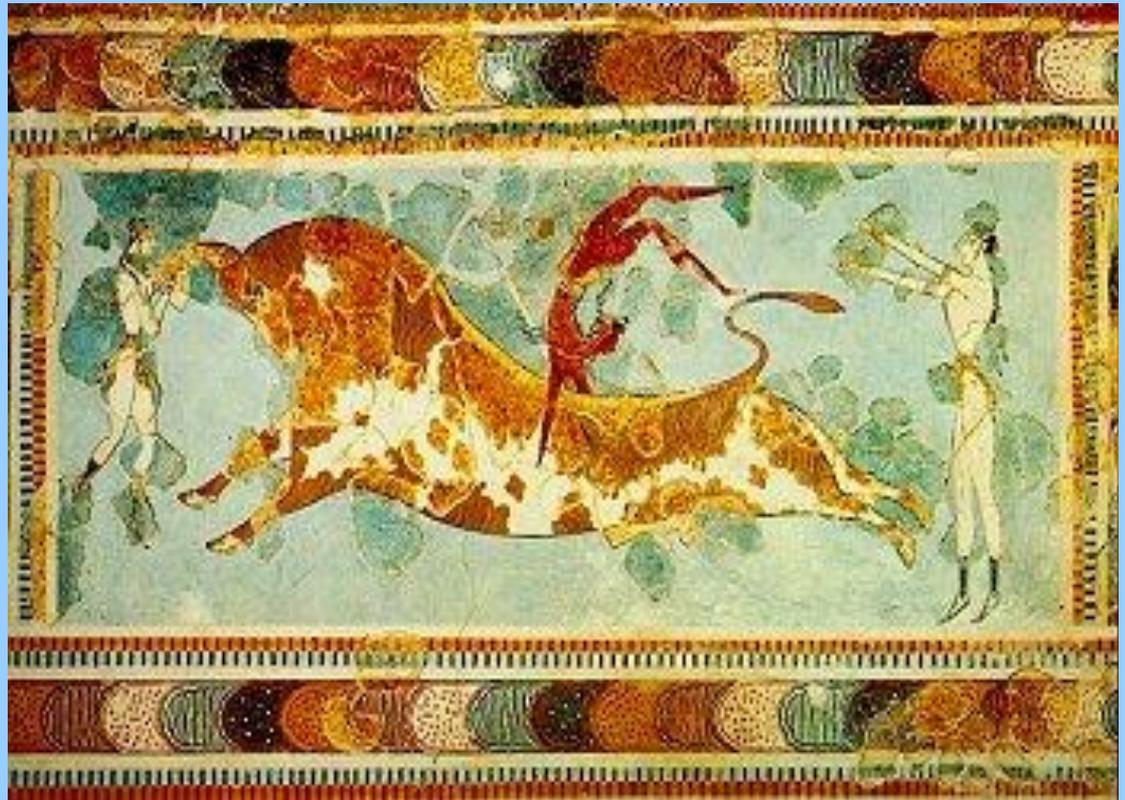


Minoan Athletics

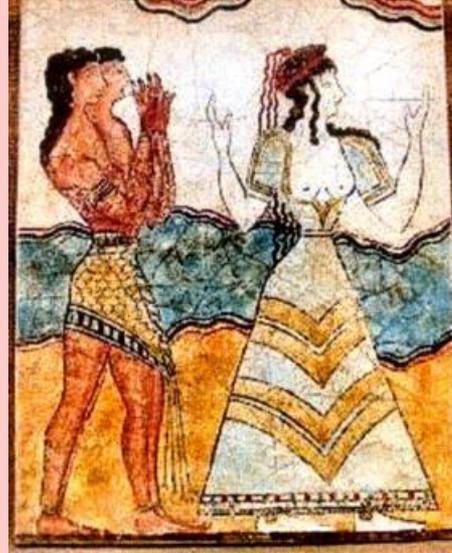
- They enjoyed sports such as boxing, wrestling, and bull leaping



- Many works of art depict young men leaping over the horns of bulls



Sacrifice and Religion



- Minoans sacrificed animals to their gods
- Sometimes, people would be sacrificed
- Women had major roles in religious ceremonies
- Although a “mother goddess” seems to have ruled over all other deities, there were other goddesses that would protect animals, the harvest, and the underworld.



A Mysterious End to the Minoans

- The civilization ended in about 1200 B.C.E.
- Archaeologists believe that it might have been a series of earthquakes that destroyed Minoan cities and towns
- Some even believe that the earthquakes were followed by volcanic eruptions



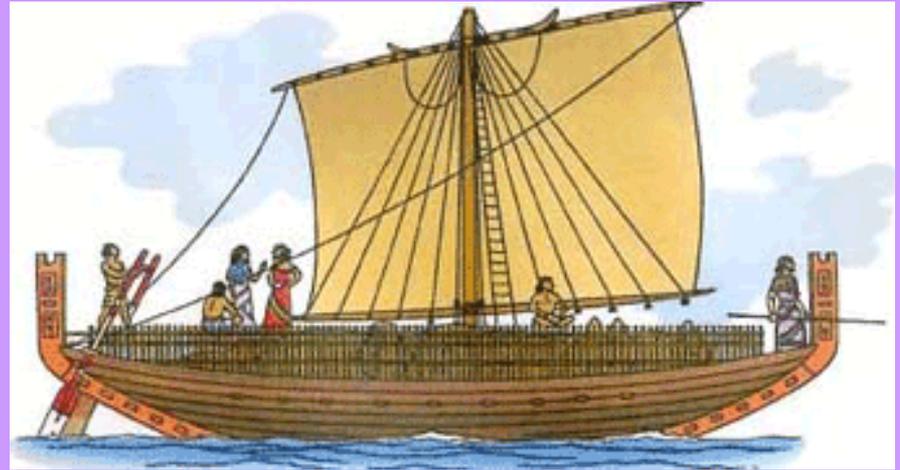
The Phoenicians



- After the Minoan civilization declined, the strongest traders in the Mediterranean were the Phoenicians.
- Phoenicians were located where Lebanon is today.
- They were never one united country, instead, they consisted of several city-states around the Mediterranean.

Remarkable Sea People

- The Phoenicians built technologically advanced ships and were excellent navigators
- Some archaeologists believe that they reached England, while others say they sailed all the way around Africa



Important Cities and Outposts



- Sidon, Tyre and Byblos were three very important trading centers



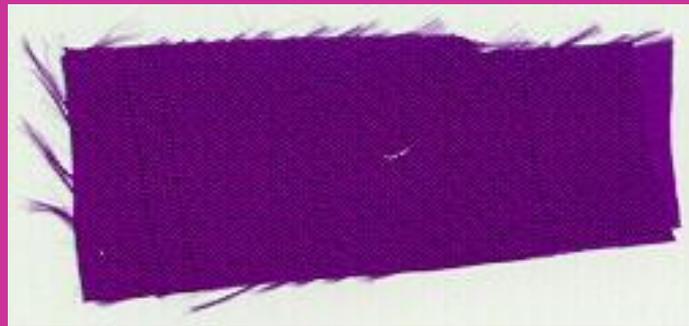
- They produced and traded papyrus, red-purple dye, cedar, and amphorae (pottery jars with pointed bottoms).

The Red-Purple Dye

- The Phoenicians traded reddish-purple dye, which was so expensive only royalty could afford it



- The dye came from murex, a kind of snail that when rotted, would produce just a drop or two



Phoenicia's Greatest Legacy

- The Phoenician merchants needed a way to record transactions quickly and efficiently--they developed a writing system that used symbols to represent sounds
- Their alphabet was phonetic (one sign for one sound)
- The Greeks then adopted their system but changed the form of some letters

𐤀 𐤁	𐤂	𐤃	𐤄 𐤅	𐤆	𐤇 𐤈	𐤉 𐤊	𐤋	𐤌 𐤍
aleph	beth	gimel	daleth	he	waw	zayin	heth	teth
'	b	g	d	h	w	z	h	t
𐤎 𐤏	𐤐 𐤑 𐤒	𐤓 𐤔	𐤕 𐤖	𐤗 𐤘 𐤙 𐤚	𐤛	𐤜 𐤝		
yod	kaph	lamed	mem	nun	samekh			
y	k	l	m	n	s			
𐤞 𐤟	𐤠	𐤡 𐤢	𐤣 𐤤	𐤥	𐤦 𐤧 𐤨	𐤩 𐤪 𐤫		
ayin	pe	sade	qoph	resh	shin	taw		
'	p	s	q	r	sh/s	t		

The Demise of Phoenician Civilizations

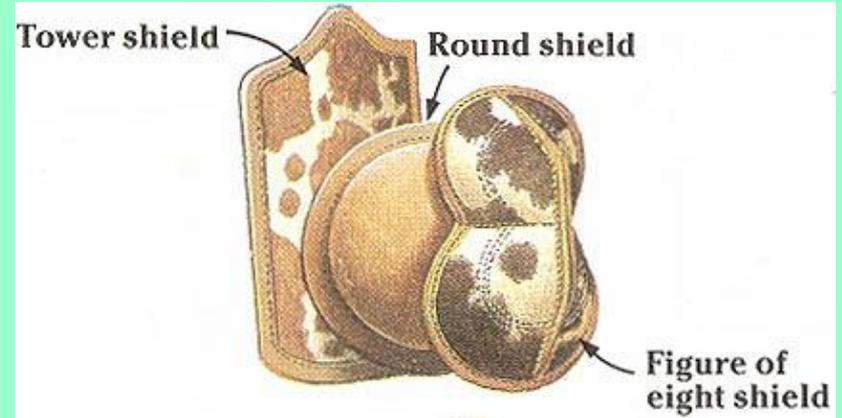
- Eastern cities of Phoenicia were captured by neighboring Assyrians
- Exiles from Phoenician cities would travel to other places, like Africa, and set up city-states there



In Summary...

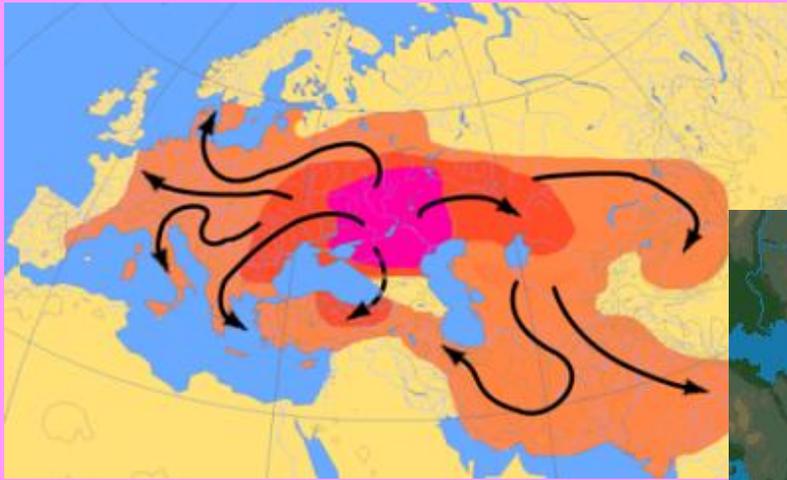
- Trading in the ancient Mediterranean was very important to spreading culture, language, writing systems, and art.
- The Minoans and Phoenicians were successful in influencing the civilizations around them by being experts in commerce and trade.
- Because the civilizations needed to use the seas around them for trade, their seafaring crafts became technologically advanced.

Seafaring Warriors

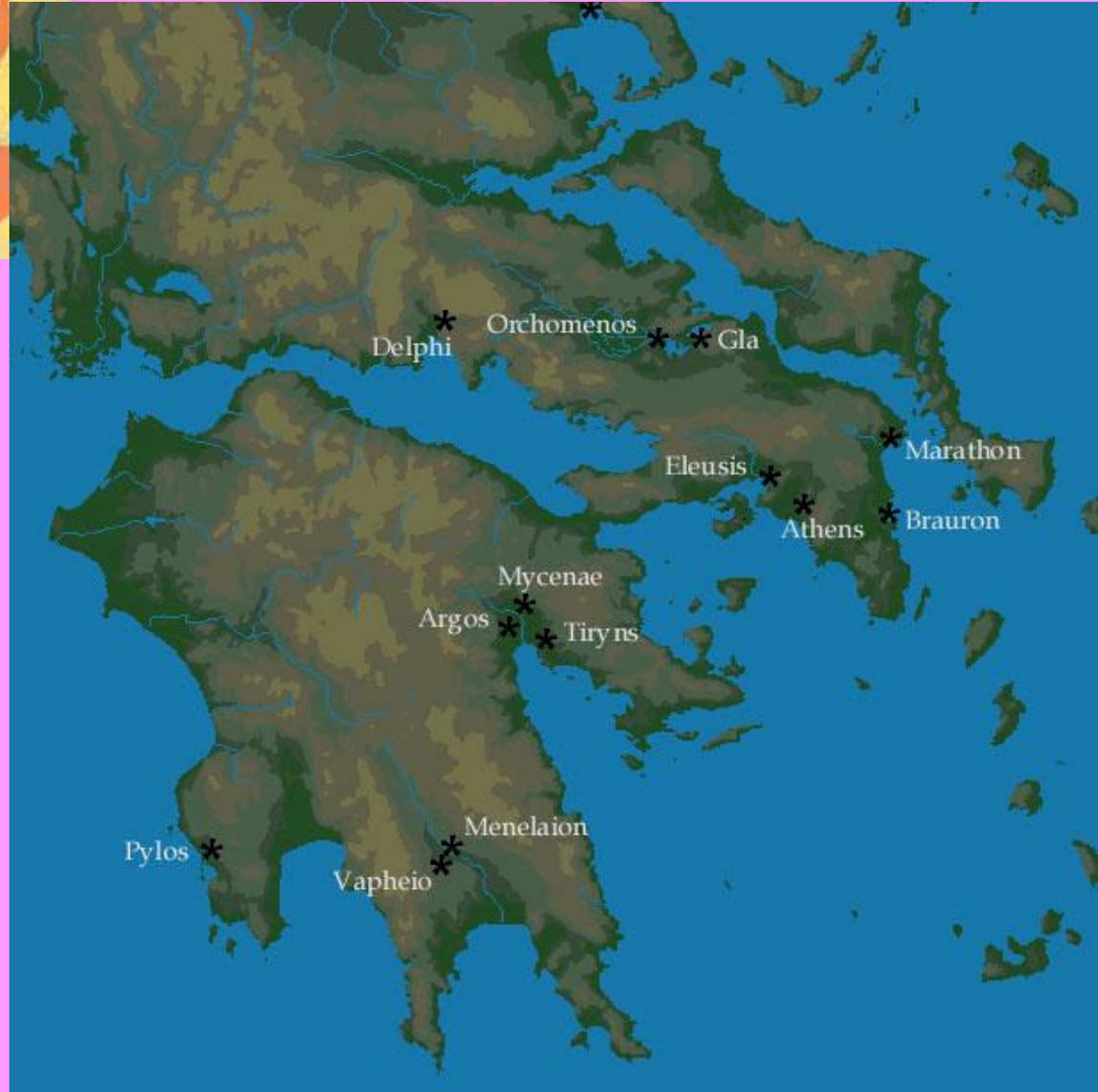


The Mycenaeans

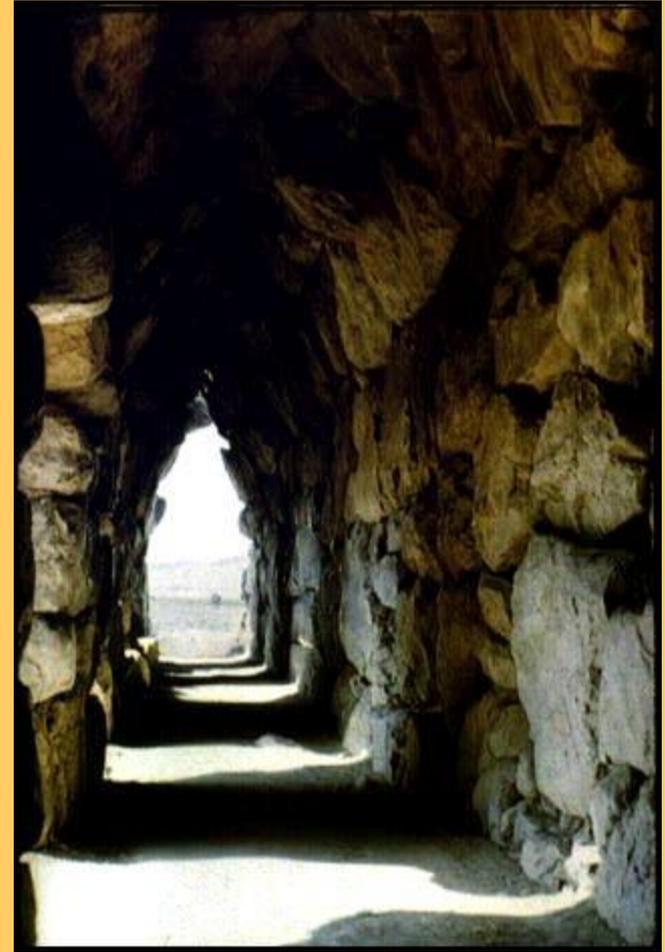
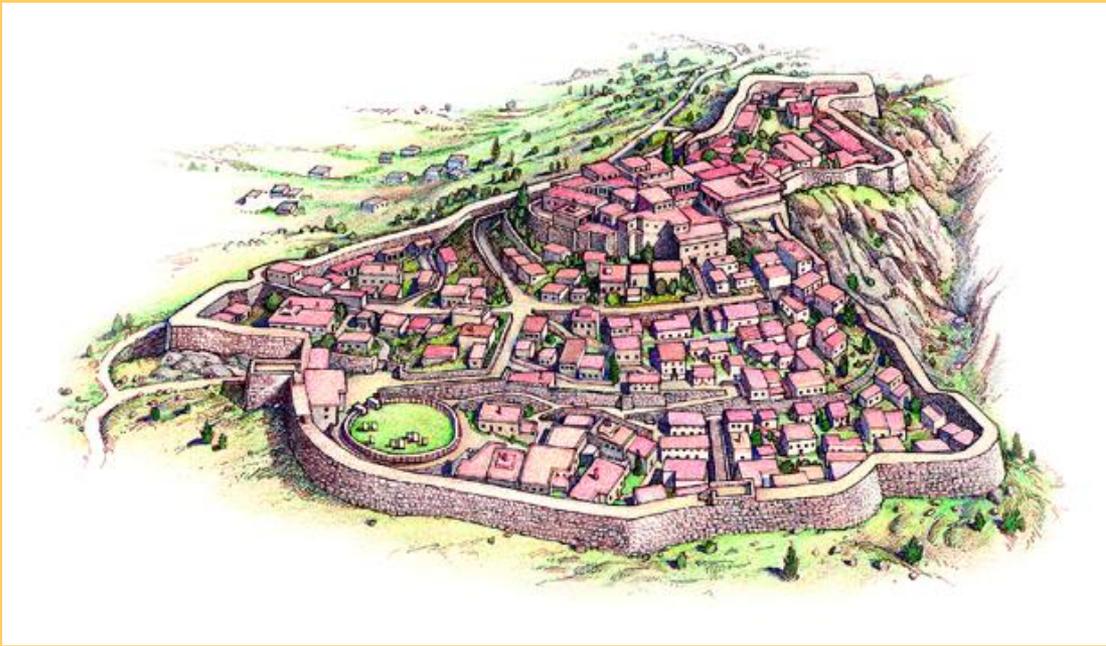
Mycenaean Migration & Settlement



- Around 2000 BCE a wave of Indo-Europeans migrated to the Greek mainland, and built cities throughout the region.



Mycenaean fortifications



Lion's Gate,
Citadel of
Mycenae

- The Mycenaean civilization was made up of fortified, walled cities ruled by warrior-kings.



- Horsepower and riding skill, as well as the use of chariots, became strengths of the Mycenaean aristocracy.

Minoan Influence

- The Mycenaeans adopted the Minoan form of writing, Linear A, and adapted it.
- The Mycenaean-era script is called Linear B.



Example of Linear B script

- The Mycenaeans also adopted Minoan artistic designs and traditions.



fresco showing
figure-eight shield



“Lady of Mycenae” fresco



Fresco fragment
with hunting scene

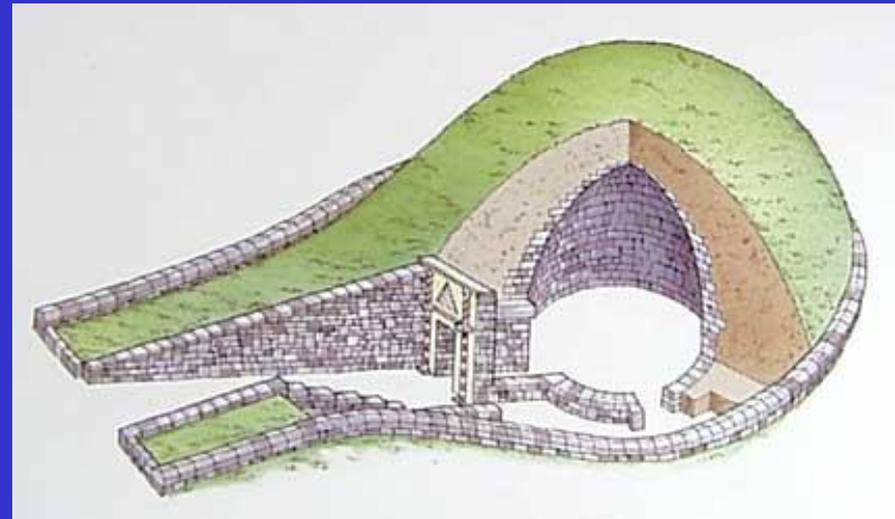
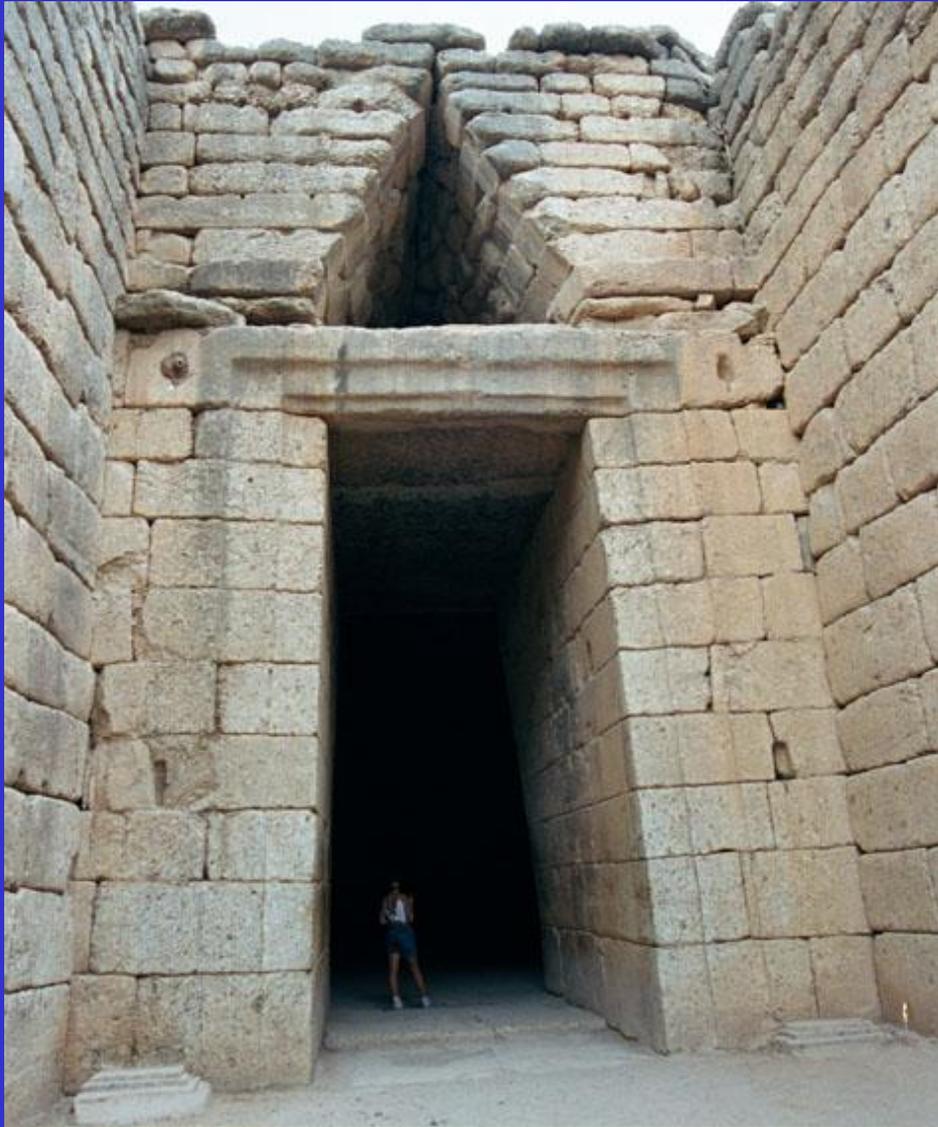
- In a change from the Minoan's delight in the life of animals, the Mycenaeans depicted animals only in their relation to man, or as victims of the hunt.



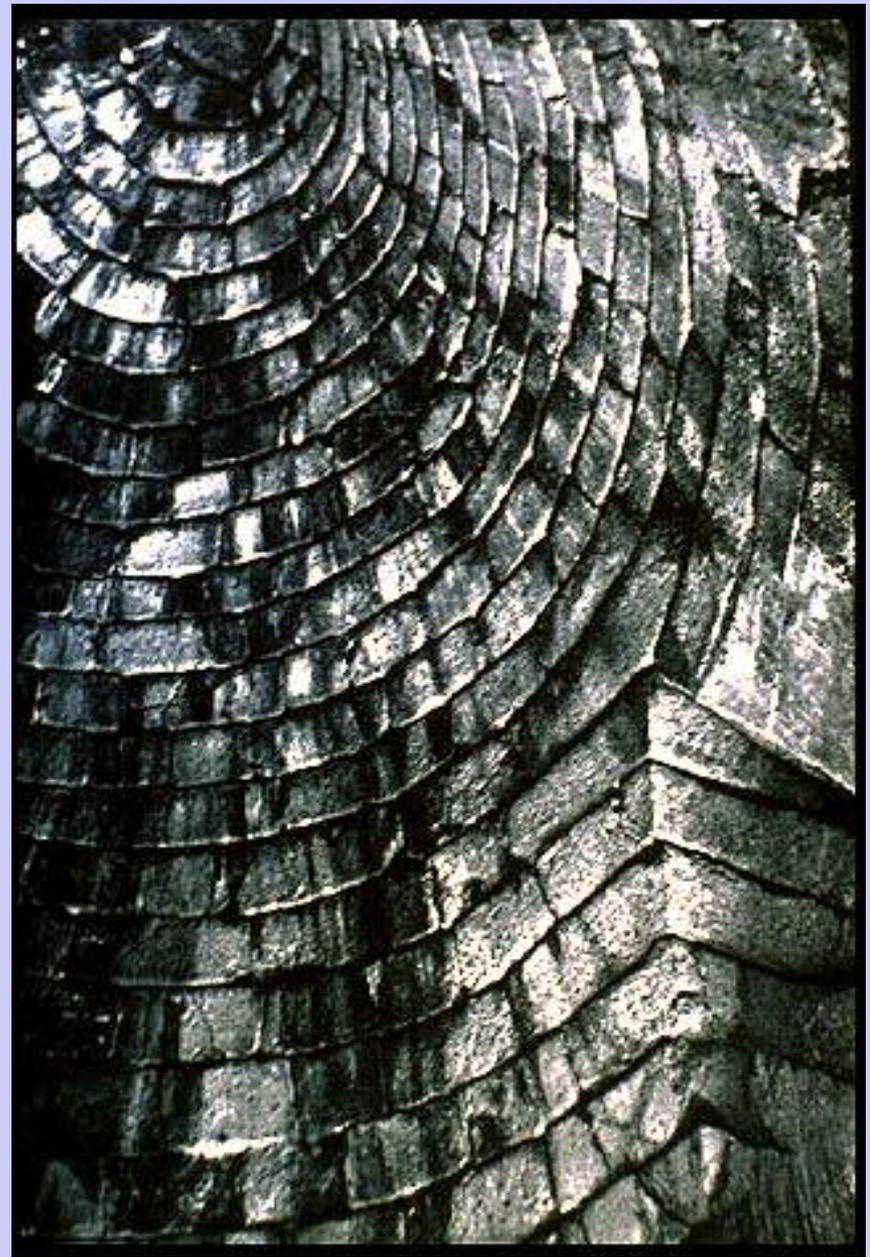
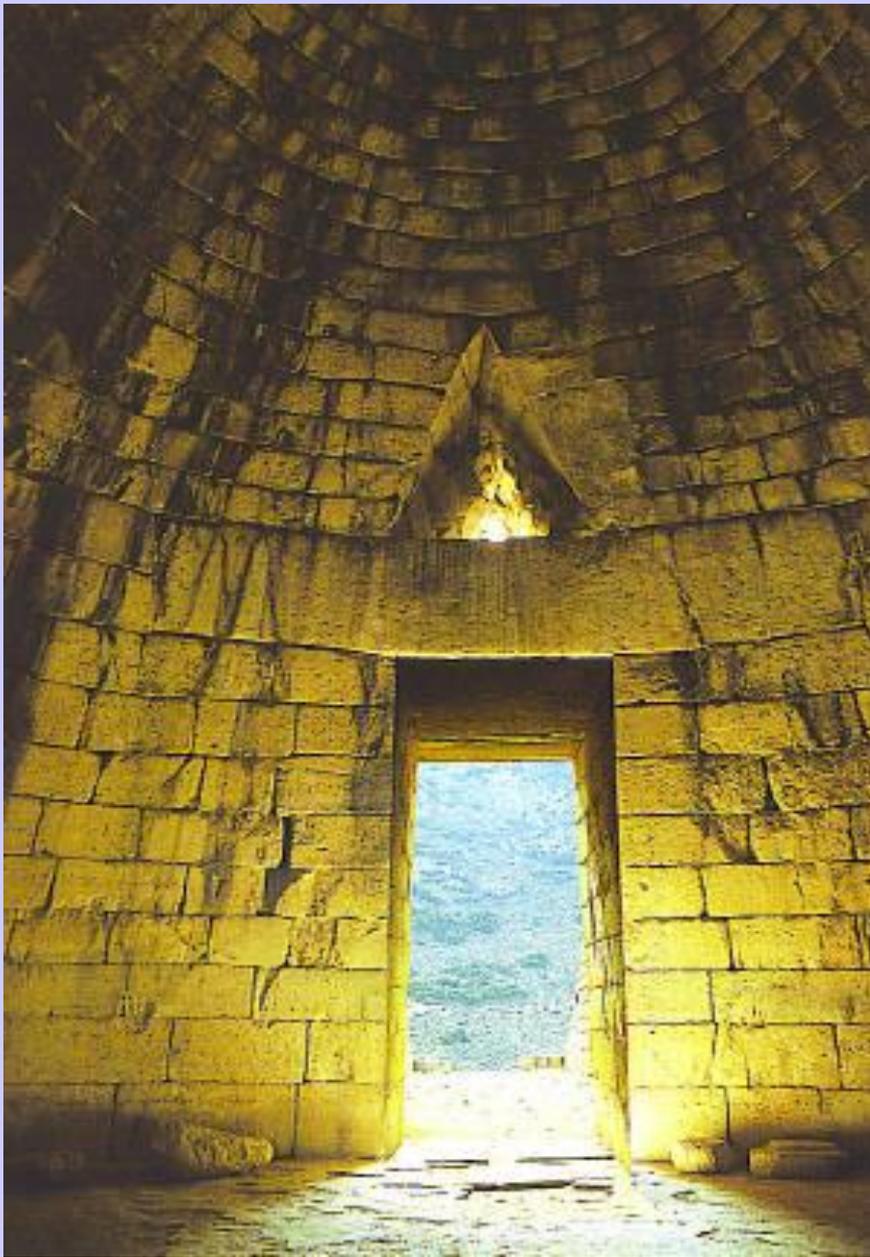
Mycenaean Warrior vase

Mycenaean Burial Practices

- The Mycenaeans buried their nobles in beehive tombs, large circular burial chambers with a high vaulted roof and a straight entry passage lined with stone.

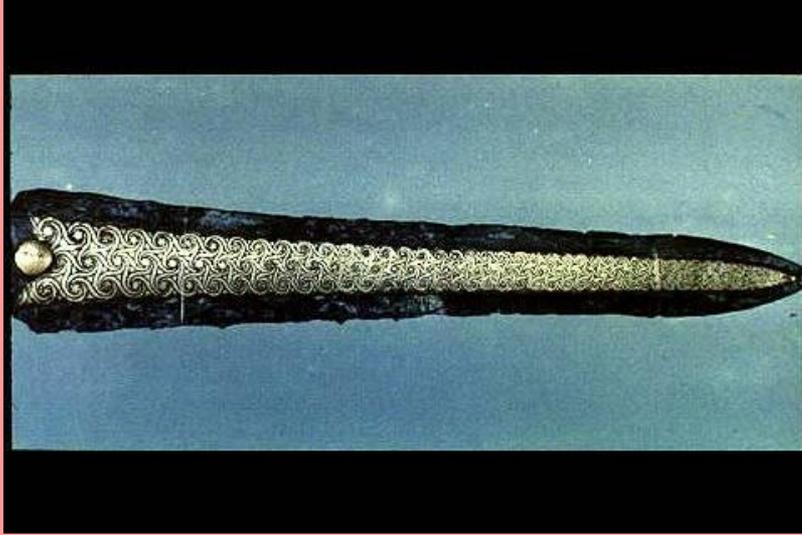


'Treasury of Atreus', a Tholos tomb



Inside the tomb, showing its beehive-like structure. It is 44 feet high.

- The nobility were frequently buried with gold masks, tiaras, armor, and jeweled weapons.



A bronze, inlaid dagger blade from a tomb near Pylos. It belonged to a woman.

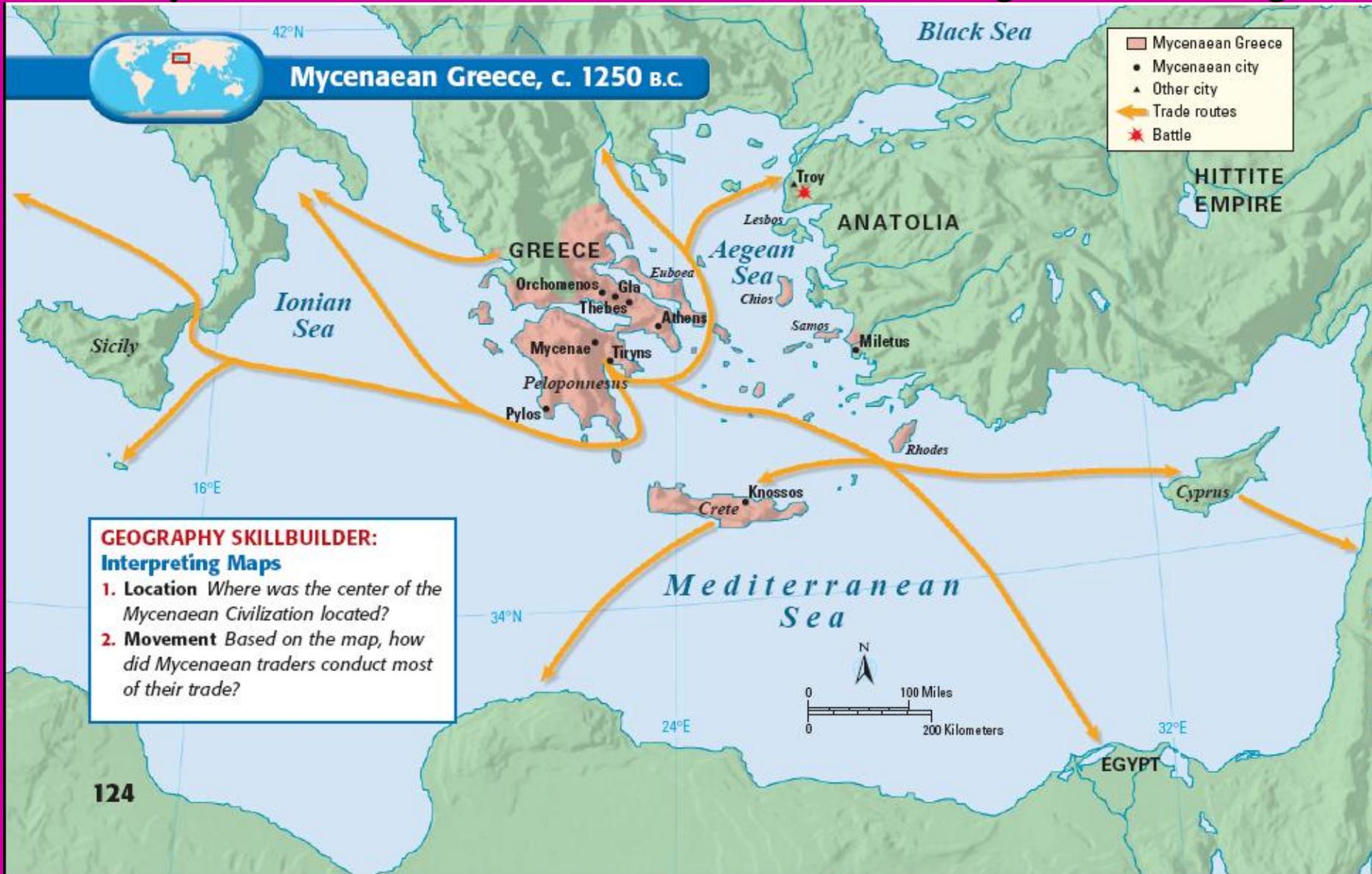


A gold burial mask

A gold tiara, found with the remains of a young woman.

Mycenaean Control

- The Mycenaeans extended their control throughout the Aegean.

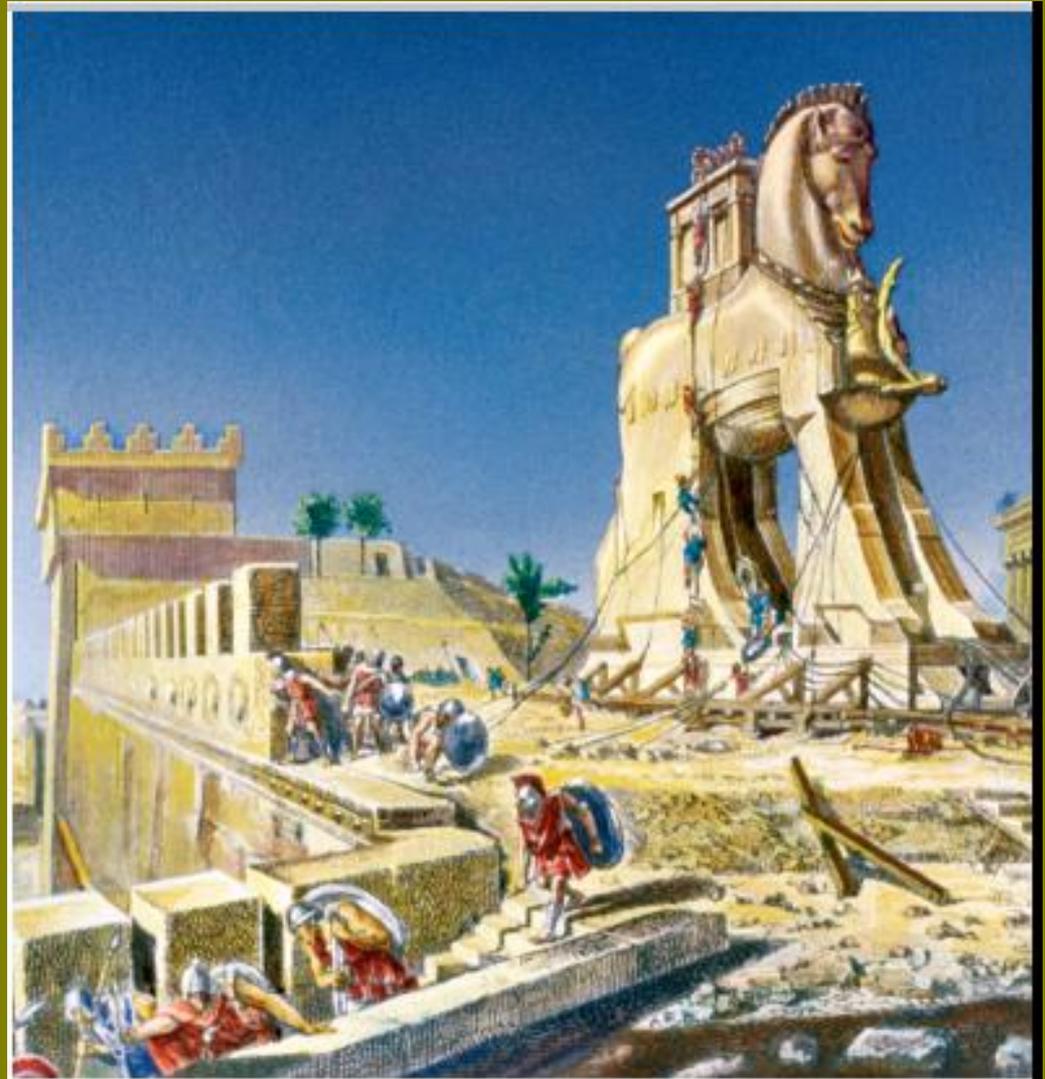


GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER:

Interpreting Maps

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

- According to legend, they defeated Troy, a powerful rival city-state.
- Because the only evidence for them is the Iliad of Homer, historians thought the existence of Troy and the Trojan War were fictional.



Depiction of the Trojan Horse – Trojan War between the Greeks and Troy



- In 1876, the German archeologist Heinrich Schliemann uncovered ruins in Asia Minor that he claimed were those of Troy.

- Subsequent findings suggest the stories of the Trojan War may have been based on real cities, peoples, and events.



Decline of the Mycenaeans

- Around 1100 BCE, the Mycenaean civilization collapsed. Numerous cities were sacked.

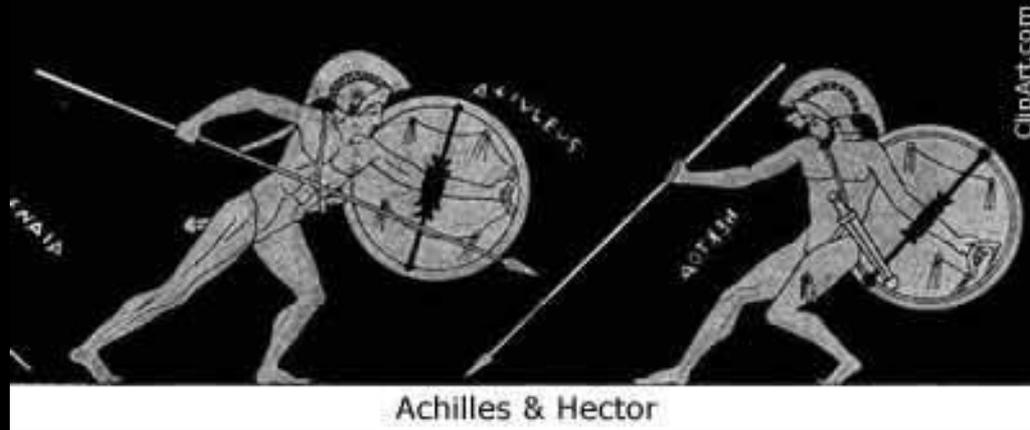


Ruins of Mycenae

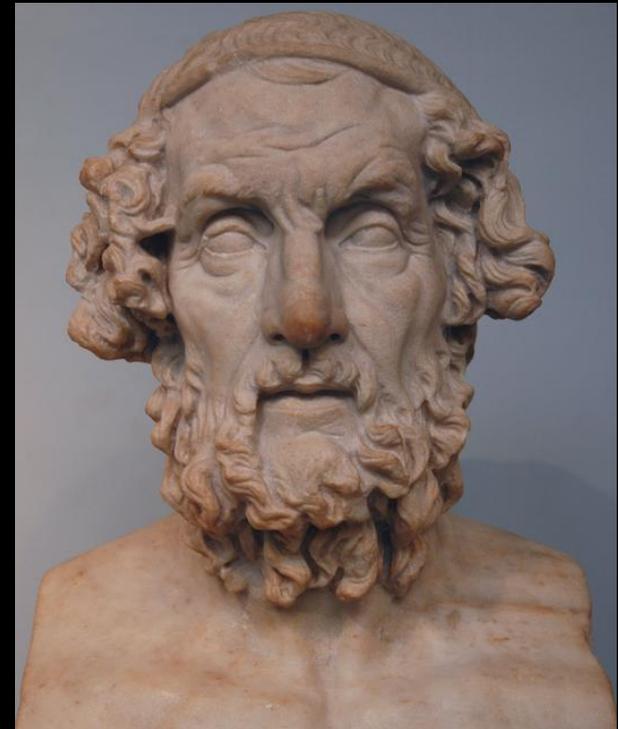
- The region entered what historians see as the....

Greek Dark Ages

- decreasing population
 - economic collapse
 - halt of trade
 - no written records
-
- What we know of this period comes from oral traditions, including the epics of Homer.



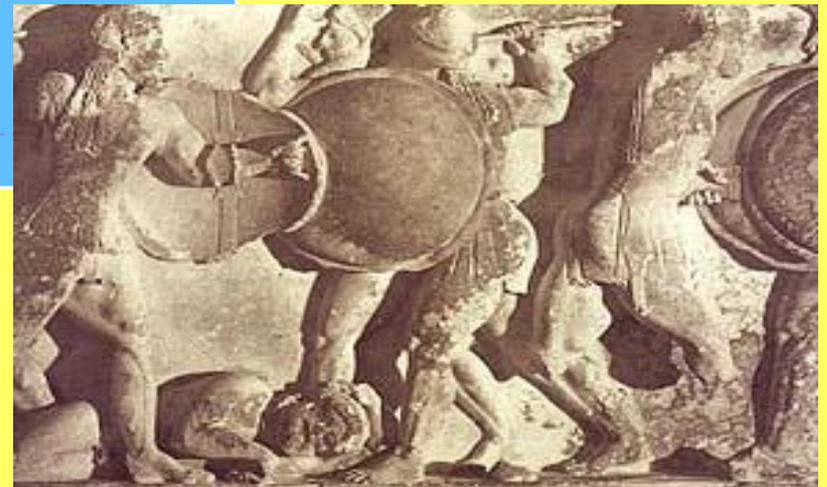
The Illiad & the Odyssey



Homer



- Historians have blamed this decline on an invasion or uprising by another wave of Greek people, the Dorians, who may have been a subjugated local people.



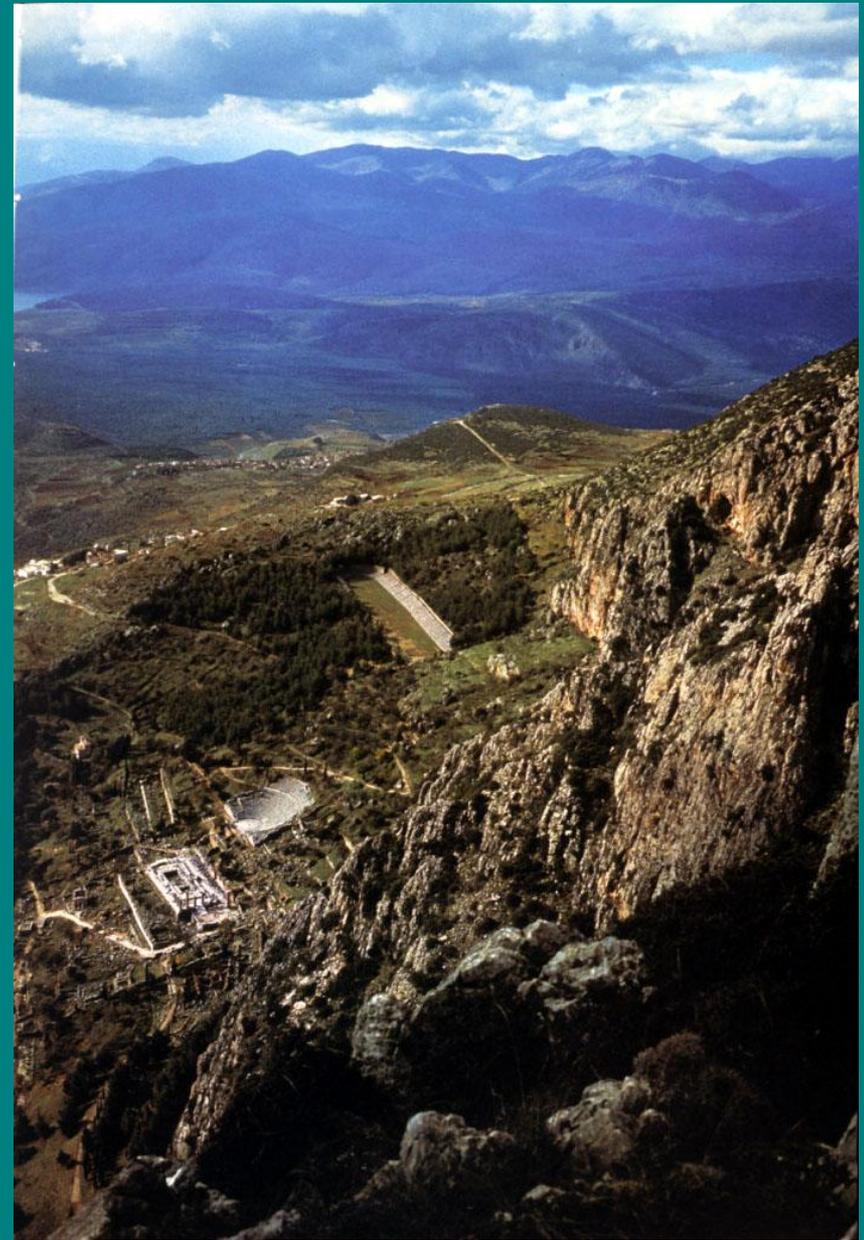
Physical Characteristics of Greece

- Nearness to sea
- Many peninsulas and islands
- Rugged mountains
- Little fertile farmland (25% of land)
- Moderate climate





The Greek mainland was cut up by many short mountain ranges and had no major rivers. Greek soil was fertile but rocky.





The coast was steep, while there were some flat plains areas inland.



The Greek mainland and islands had easy access to the sea – the long coastline brought every part of the mainland close to the sea. There were many good harbors

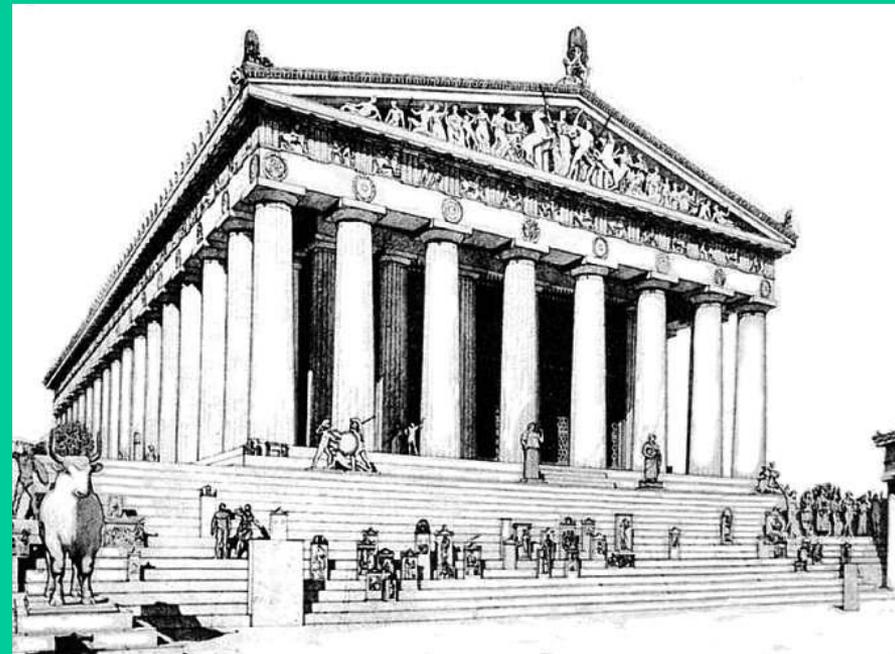


Influence of Geography

- The geography nourished small independent communities, and the moderate climate allowed for frequent outdoor meetings and discussions.



Greek agora (marketplace)



Greek agora (marketplace)



Greek theater



People began to identify less with the culture of their ancestors and more with the local area where they lived.



The method of governing changed from tribal or clan control to more formal governments – the city-states.