

Minoan Civilization

The Minoan civilization was found on the island of Crete southeast from mainland Greece. The name "Minoan" derives from King Minos, legendary King whose palace was in Knossos on the island of Crete. It existed between 2000-1450 BCE as is the is the earliest civilization associated with Greece. They were in fact the first Europeans that met all the requirements of civilizations.

The island of Crete is 200km in length. It enjoyed a semi-tropical climate. It was characterized by tall mountain ranges and fertile areas that separated the island into segments. Grains, sheep and goat, hunting and fishing was what was produced to feed their civilization.

Crete acted as a stepping stone between civilizations due to it close physical association between Egypt and the near east. This is due to the seafaring lifestyle developed due to the close association to the sea.

Technological advances that Minoan society had were include plumbing, use of shafts of lighting in building, linear A writing. Along with their writing system they met the other "civilization" requirement by having a had palace based social organization, advanced metal working, and highly skilled forms of art.

The Minoan Civilization

- named after a legendary ruler, King Minos, the Minoan civilization flourished on the island of Crete
- much of the information of this civilization came from the writing of Thucydides (a Greek Historian)
- in 1900 the palace of King Minos was discovered providing more insight into Greek culture
- the palace was like a huge maze with over 800 rooms grouped around a large courtyard rooms had various purposes; gov. centre, royal residence, temple, huge jars → olive oil, wine grain → taxes? Skinkhouse.
- built light shafts into rooms to create a brighter atmosphere
- piped water into the palace and incorporated flush toilets, and baths with a drainage system - this plumbing did not become common again for 3600 years
- on the interior walls were colourful paintings - frescoes *nature Minoan life*
- historians believed the Minoans were a peaceful people - more preoccupied with nature and life rather than with war
- two clay tablets bearing different scripts were also discovered (Linear A and Linear B)
- Linear B was decoded in 1952 likely replaced Linear A which remains a mystery

Linear B also found on the mainland → Mycenaeans dominated

Knossos → most important centre on Crete

1450 BC → most palace centres destroyed
Volcano? lost city of Atlantis
invaders from Greek mainland

The Mycenaeans (1600 BCE - 1100 BCE)

- these people lived on the Greek mainland and lived in small farming communities
- waves of invaders from the north hindered their development
- some of the early invaders spoke a language called Achaean, which became the basis of Modern Greek
- the Mycenaean kings gained much of their wealth through trade and piracy Trojan War
- minstrels passed down treasured songs and stories from generation to generation
- the poet Homer, wove many of these songs together into two epics, called the Iliad and the Odyssey - archaeological discoveries have been made from the information provided in these two epics
- according to Homer, each Mycenaean city had its own king, but the king of Mycenae itself was Agamemnon (the most important)
- archaeologist found King Agamemnon's palace - here they discovered two distinct differences between the Mycenaeans and the Minoans 1) the frescoes depicted scenes of war and fighting 2) beehive shaped vaults called *tholos* tombs cut into the hillsides
- by the beginning of the 12th century BCE the Mycenaean empire was in decline, many factors may have led to this including: civil wars, outside invasions, drought/famine or disease
- all Mycenaean centers fell, except for Athens (1100 BCE)

The Age of the Persian Wars 550 BCE - 480 BCE

- Greek city states faced the serious threat of invasion by the powerful eastern power Persia
- Persia was ruled by a powerful general - Cyrus the Great
- in comparison - Greek city states were scattered and weakened by fighting one another
- in 546 BCE Cyrus defeated the Greeks at Sardis, making the Persians masters of the Greeks in Asia Minor *→ Persia 144*
- in 490 BCE Athenians strategically defeated the Persians at Marathon - the Athenians ^{Saw} ~~may~~ their victory as a glorious event *250 km* *read pg 19*
- 480 BCE the Persians lead by Xerxes defeated the Spartans at Thermopylae with the help of a traitor *Athenians evacuated, fled to Salamis*
- 480 BCE the Athenians defeat the Persian forces led by Xerxes on the water at the Battle of Salamis (according to legend, Xerxes was so confident his ships would win that he sat watching the battle on a throne placed on a hill overlooking the water) *confident in knowledge of coastline*

Classical Greece 480 BCE - 338 BCE

- the end of the Persian Wars marked the liberation of the majority of Greek city-states
- from 480 BCE to 380 BCE saw a rush of achievements in the ancient Greek states

Hellenistic Age (338 BCE - 27 BCE)

- Macedonians are united under one power in the fourth century
- they are transformed into a great military power
 - i) Phalanx Formation
 - densely packed lines of foot soldiers that carry 4.5 m long lances
 - those in the front extended their lances forward, while those in the back held theirs upright to deflect missiles
 - a soldier's shield protected their left side and the right side of the next soldier

See Figure
pg 149

ii) Well trained cavalry

- the Macedonian and Greek power stretched from Greece to India
- this was accomplished by the conquests of Alexander the Great

Alexander the Great (356 BCE - 323 BCE)

- become emperor of the Macedonian Empire when he was 20 years old (father, Philip II was assassinated at daughter's wedding)
- ruthless leader (had possible rivals murdered)
example, state of Thebes tried to revolt, Alexander ordered all of Thebes destroyed, 6000 citizens executed and the remainder sold into slavery

Ancient Greece The Arts

1. Sculpture

- excelled in representing the human form
- carved many of their sculptures out of stone as well as bronze

Classical Greece -Idealism

- sculptors created representations of the ideal human form
- they paid attention to natural movement and details of appearance
- the male nude was the principal theme as well as the gods
- the artists would sculpt the female form to represent various goddesses

Hellenistic Period -Realism

- during this period the focus shifted from idealism to realism
- the human faces on these sculptures displayed much greater emotion than those on earlier figures

2. Architecture

- in Classical Greece the architecture was concerned with harmony and unity - sense of wholeness
- some of the most remarkable buildings constructed were the temples
- these consisted of a long hall with rows of columns on the outside supporting a low-peaked roof, a triangle piece was set in at the front and back above the columns (post-and lintel construction)
- the Greeks did not use an arch in their buildings
- symmetry and proportion were key principles in Greek architectural design (if you divided a symmetrical design in half with an imaginary line, each half would appear to be the same as the other)

3. Literature

- the poet Homer was a great influence - the Iliad and the Odyssey written during the Dark Ages, helped to create a "national literature" for the ancient Greeks
- they were used as part of every Greek boy's education, thus became a unifying force in Greek culture
- epics were long poems telling stories of heroic deeds that often affected the fate of many people
- lyric poems were also used - they are shorter and more personal than epics, expressing feelings such as love
- fables are also associated with ancient Greece - these are short concise tales that use animal characters to convey a moral message - Aesop created many fables which children still read today

4. Theatre

- productions of Greek tragedies and comedies attracted thousands of spectators
- theatre was an outdoor event
- the site chosen for the construction of a theatre offered a sloping area where a natural auditorium could be built
- the circular area in the centre of the theatre was called the orchestra (Greek word meaning dancing place) - only men took part here
- behind this area was the stage which represented wither a temple or a palace
- during the performance the backdrop never changed and usually only one prop was used - in Greek drama, what was said was considered far more important than what was seen

3. Medicine

- Greek doctors gained much of their earlier knowledge from the Egyptians
- their practice of medicine included a great deal of spirituality
- after the fifth century BCE, approaches to medicine became much more scientific - they learned more about the use of herbs, drugs, and ointments
- doctors were not required to obtain a medical degree - they were judged by their successes and failures
- Hippocrates (born on the island of Cos) has been called the father of medicine - he made important contributions to the diagnosis of illnesses - his is even more famous for his ideas about scientific methods and medical ethics - today, the Hippocratic oath still serves as a code of conduct for medical graduates

4. Astronomy

- made significant advances in the field of astronomy and the measurement of time
- ancient Greeks discovered that the world was round and that the moon travelled around it
- it was a Greek astronomer who formulated the view that the sun was the centre of the universe and that the earth travelled around it
- by closely watching the length of the solar year, they calculated it to be 365 days, 5 hours, and 12 seconds (only 6 minutes and 26 seconds longer than the true length)

The Peloponnesian War 431 BCE - 404 BCE

- Athens vs. Sparta
- Athens has a powerful navy and lots of money to spend on warfare
- Sparta has a powerful land army of disciplined professional soldiers
- Pericles, the Athenian leader, orders:
 - i) all Athenian citizens inside the walls of the city for protection
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- too many people in a confined area led to disease - the plague struck the Athenians killing 1/3 of the population including Pericles (this was a heavy blow to Athens)
- the war dragged on and each side suffered defeats
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 - i) formed an alliance with the Sicilians and Persians
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allies wanted to destroy Athens, sell citizens into slavery, instead forced to surrender fleet (except 12 galleys), tore down walls, left island of Pece in recognition of success during Persian Wars.

A COMPARISON OF THE CITY-STATES OF ATHENS AND SPARTA

What It Was Like To Be a Spartan

Sparta was a city-state located on the southern part of the Greek peninsula. From the kind of life that developed in this city-state comes the word *spartan*. A spartan life is hard. It is one that denies many of the comforts of life. Self-denial and military discipline were Spartan ideals. During most of its history, Sparta was a military dictatorship. The entire economy and life of the city-state were geared to war.

Lycurgus [lī kēr'gəs] of Sparta was responsible for establishing the Spartan form of government. It was his main concern that Sparta be strong enough to defeat all its enemies. Spartan government was unusual in that it was headed by two hereditary kings. Although some kings were able, they had little real power. Political power in Sparta was held by the *Senate*. The Senate was made up of thirty elders. They were usually men above sixty years of age. All male citizens of thirty or above were members of the *Assembly*. Important matters were discussed and voted on in the Assembly. It is important to remember that in Sparta citizenship was limited to landowners.

Out of a population of about 375,000, only 10,000 males were citizens.

Real power in Sparta was held by five men called *ephors* [ef'ōrz], who were usually elderly men. These men were responsible for the day-to-day administration of the city. The ephors, in time, became more powerful than the kings. They commanded armies. They decided questions of law. They conducted affairs with other countries.

Sparta trained its sons and daughters to do without luxury. It expected them to live a tough and active life. Every healthy male citizen had to serve as a soldier. The highest form of devotion a Spartan could show was to fight his city's wars and to "return with his shield or on it."

Spartan youths were trained under a strict military system. From the age of seven they lived away from home. They were not under the influence of their parents. By the age of twenty they were fully trained soldiers. By age thirty they were eligible to take part in the government of Sparta.

The *helots* [hel'ots] were descendants of settlers who had been conquered by the Spartans. This group made up most of the Spartan population. They were serfs who tilled the land and produced the food for the Spartans. The rugged Spartans themselves were only a small part of the population.

Spartan women were educated mainly in the home. However, their lives were carefully regulated by the city-state. Education for Spartan women stressed the importance of motherhood. Spartan women were expected to take part in vigorous games and exercise. They were to prepare their bodies to give birth to healthy children. Men were expected to marry at age thirty and women at age twenty. It was a serious disgrace for men or women to be unmarried and not to have children.

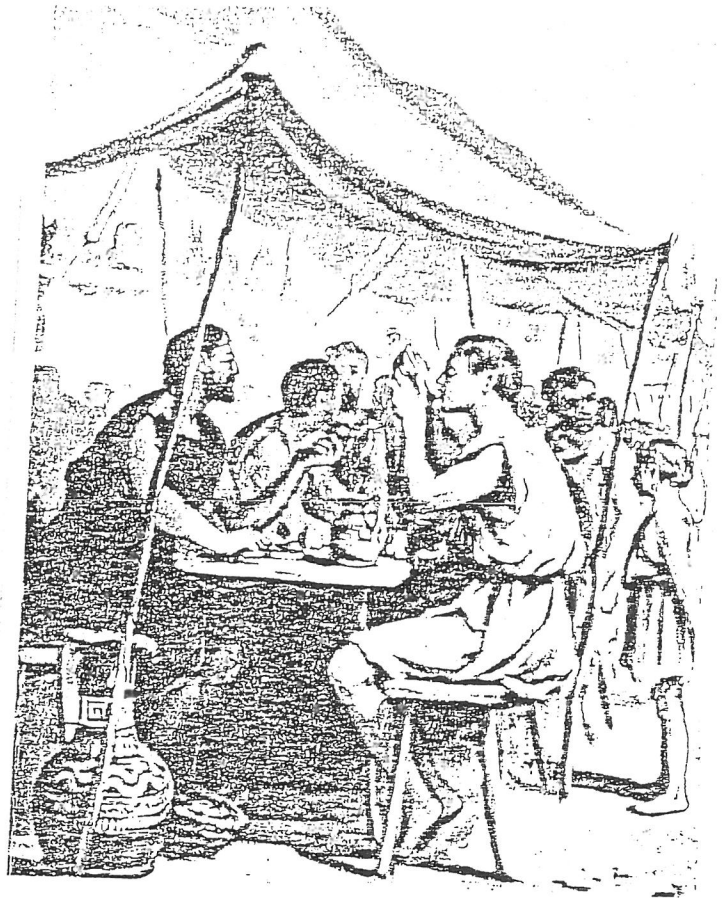
The position of women was higher in Sparta than it was in any other city-state of ancient Greece. Spartan women could inherit property. They could pass it on to their children. Women did not engage directly in warfare. However, they encouraged the men to go off to battle and to perform heroically in war. Spartan women were able to achieve power and

Athenian Democracy

Being a citizen in Athens meant more than voting. It also meant acting as a juror and holding office. Every citizen was expected to do his share as an officer. Since the term of officeholding was usually one year, many citizens were given a chance to serve their state.

Athenian democracy was not perfect. It was weak in many ways. The right to vote and to participate in the affairs of state was limited to citizens. The Athenian idea of citizenship was not the same as in the United States today. Anyone born in the United States is a citizen. Foreigners may become citizens. It was not that easy to gain citizenship in ancient Athens.

Citizenship in Athens was limited to men. Women and slaves could not become citizens. It was difficult and often impossible for foreigners to become citizens. Only a little more than half the adult male population were citizens. Taking part in government was limited to this small group. Slavery existed in ancient Athens. There was little opportunity for free speech. Democracy as we understand it in the United States today not exist in Athens.



Spartans ate simple meals at public tables. No one was allowed to eat in private or at home.

SPARTA			ATHENS		
Totalitarian (Rulers had total control) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Money forbidden ➤ Travel limited ➤ Foreigners restricted ➤ Infanticide 			Democracy - Everyone participates, votes to elect leader (Demos=people) (Kratia =rule) Assembly 40x/year Council of 500 only 1x lifetime=all chance Rope dipped in red paint Ostraka = 10 years (banished/ostracized)		
Education – focus on military training.			Education – Read, write, music, oratory, drama, art, etc.		
Single minded, stubborn			Open minded		
Known for strength, physical prowess, ability to fight.			Known for pottery, art, sophisticated architecture, beautiful statues, theatre.		
Lie, cheat, steal → win!!!			Honesty..		
<h3>SOCIAL CLASSES</h3>			<h3>SOCIAL CLASSES</h3>		
Spartiates	Perioeki	Helots	Citizens	Metics	Slaves
Citizens	Free People	Slaves	Males over 18 both parents citizens	Merchants	Usually treated fairly
Military	Merchants	Controlled by “ Kryptea ” (secret police)		Artisans	
Wealthy	No political rights or power		Could vote	Free but	
Power			Government	No vote	
Strong militaristic state with rigid social classes			Free, democratic state with an emphasis on trade, politics, education & culture.		
MILITARY SCHOOL : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6-20 years old ➤ Little food ➤ Public beatings ➤ Few supplies ➤ Encouraged to kill slaves as practice ➤ Walk in silence, eyes down, short phrases ➤ “War = vacation!” ➤ Fight hard ➤ Follow orders without question ➤ Never retreat or surrender ➤ <u>“Spartans always return from war with their shields on, or on them”</u> 			ARCHITECTURE & PEOPLE Acropolis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parthenon ➤ Statues ➤ Temples of Athena/Nike ➤ Amphitheatre People: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Socrates (Philosopher, Q&A) ➤ Pericles (Famous ruler 15yrs) ➤ Hippocrates (1st modern dr) ➤ Draco (Draconian laws=harsh) ➤ Thucydides (historian) ➤ Pythagoras (mathematician) ➤ Archimides (scientist) ➤ Hypathia (1st female scientist) ?(Limited Democracy)?		

GOVERNMENT TYPES

Government types.doc

DEMOCRACY	OLIGARCHY	TOTALITARIANISM
Everyone can participate. Anyone can rule. People vote and decide. “Demos” = Greek word for “people” Example: Athens	Only a few in control. (Sometimes a few friends or a family) Often manipulate power to maintain control. Example: Corinth	One ruler with total control, making all rules and decisions. Controlled media, government, military, spending. Usually obtains control by force. Elections and voting not allowed. Example: Sparta

WHAT IS A FULL DEMOCRACY?
WHAT IS A LIMITED DEMOCRACY?

The earliest center of civilization associated with Greece was located on the island of Crete. Here, a Bronze Age society flourished for over a thousand years. This was the Minoan civilization, named after a legendary ruler, King Minos. Much of the information of this civilization came from the writing of Thucydides (a Greek Historian).

In 1900, a British archaeologist discovered the palace of King Minos, providing more insight into the Greek society. The palace was like a huge maze, with over 800 interconnecting rooms grouped around the large central courtyard. Rooms seem to have various purposes such as a government center, royal residence, temple and storehouse. The Minoans built light wells or shafts in some of the rooms to create a brighter more open atmosphere. They piped water into the palace, incorporated flush toilets and baths in the living quarters and constructed an advanced

drainage system. Indoor plumbing such as this did not become common again for 3600 years.

On the interior walls were colorful painting (called frescoes) that depicted scenes of nature and Minoan life. Many pictures have a bull, which seems to have been sacred to the Minoans, and a bull leaping may have begun as a religious ritual. Other finding suggested that the Minoans worshipped a mother goddess or goddess of fertility, who often appeared with snakes. Historians believe the Minoans were a peaceful people, more preoccupied with nature and life than with war.

Two clay tablets bearing two different scripts were also discovered. They were named Linear A and Linear B. Linear B was decoded in 1952 and probably replaced Linear A, which still remains a mystery.

Historians are unclear how the palace centers were destroyed. Some believe it was caused by a

epics, called the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. From these poems and archaeological discoveries, we gained much of our knowledge of the Mycenaean age.

According to Homer, each Mycenaean City had its own king, but the king of Mycenae itself, Agamemnon, was the most important. His palace was built around a central hall or megaron. A large circular hearth occupied the center of the hall and four pillars to support the roof surrounded it. A hole in the roof allowed the smoke to escape. The domestic quarters were located at the sides, while storage rooms and workshops were located in back. The interior walls were decorated with frescoes, many of which depicted scenes of war or hunting.

One of the most remarkable discoveries was the vertical burial shafts. They were deep in the ground and grouped inside a circular wall at the edge of the fortress. Inside these shaft graves and along

the bodies lay object of gold, silver, ivory and pottery, including a death mask. After the 16th century BCE, they seemed to abandon the shaft graves in favor of beehive shaped vaults called *tholos* tombs. These tombs were massive chambers cut into the hillsides with walls constructed of fine stone blocks carefully laid in rows, each row narrower than the one below it. Unfortunately these tombs were very visible, unlike the shaft tombs and grave robbers stole almost all the artifacts inside them.

The Mycenaeans adopted the Minoans' art of wall painting, their vase designs, style of dress and form of writing. By the beginning of the 12th century BCE, many of the fortresses were destroyed and settlements were abandoned. Several factors may have led to the decline of this civilization: civil wars, outside invasions, drought and famine or disease. All of the Mycenaean centers fell, except for Athens.

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The Age of the Persian Wars 550 BCE - 480 BCE

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- Persia was ruled by a powerful general - Cyrus the Great
- in comparison - Greek city states were scattered and weakened by fighting one another
- in 546 BCE Cyrus defeated the Greeks at Sardis, making the Persians masters of the Greeks in Asia Minor
- in 490 BCE Athenians strategically defeated the Persians at Marathon - the Athenians ~~was~~ **saw** their victory as a glorious event
- 480 BCE the Persians lead by Xerxes defeated the Spartans at Thermopylae with the help of a traitor
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Classical Greece 480 BCE - 338 BCE

- the end of the Persian Wars marked the liberation of the majority of Greek city-states
- from 480 BCE to 380 BCE saw a rush of achievements in the ancient Greek states

1. Contacts with the Persians and Egyptians inspired a blossoming in the arts and sciences.
 2. Returning from the east, Greek travellers and merchants told of great temples, colourful wall paintings, and stone statues.
 3. Brought back techniques for fine metal work and glass making.
 4. This was a time of Greek thinkers, poets, and artists.
- during this time Athens became a prosperous commercial city and great cultural center - it was also ruled democratically
 - The Delian League was formed in 478 BCE to provide protection against any further attacks from the Persians (took in 150 city-states at its peak). The members had to contribute men, ships or money to a common defence fund.
 - another great city-state was Sparta (and enemy of Athens)
 1. The only unwalled city in Greece.
 2. The first polis to keep a standing army of professional soldiers - became a highly militaristic state.
 3. This polis was ruled by a small group of powerful aristocrats.
 4. Remained an agricultural state - no commercial ventures.
 - tensions between the two rival city-states increased when Athens tried to expand its empire in central Greece - this threatened Sparta's power base
 - Athens also blocked the trading of some cities - these cities went to Sparta for some help - the result was the Peloponnesian War.

Hellenistic Age (338 BCE - 27 BCE)

- Macedonians are united under one power in the fourth century
- they are transformed into a great military power
 - i) Phalanx Formation
 - densely packed lines of foot soldiers that carry 4.5 m long lances
 - those in the front extended their lances forward, while those in the back held theirs upright to deflect missiles
 - a soldier's shield protected their left side and the right side of the next soldier
 - ii) Well trained cavalry
- the Macedonian and Greek power stretched from Greece to India
- this was accomplished by the conquests of Alexander the Great

Alexander the Great (356 BCE - 323 BCE)

- become emperor of the Macedonian Empire when he was 20 years old
 - ruthless leader
- example, state of Thebes tried to revolt, Alexander ordered all of Thebes destroyed, 6000 citizens executed and the remainder sold into slavery

- great military leader
- expanded empire, took armies into Egypt, Persia, Mesopotamia and India
- conquered the powerful Indian army which included elephants - using the phalanx.
- very smart politically, wanted to make Greek culture and language a unifying force in the empire but he also respected the customs and laws of others - this would make Alexander popular with his citizens and those of the conquered states
- Alexander died at the age of 33, returning home from the campaign in India

- after Alexander's death in 323 BCE, his empire was fought over as there was no heir
- the lives of the citizens was again in turmoil as peace was not restored until Rome conquered Greece in 27 BCE.

Ancient Greece The Arts

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Ancient Greece

The Sciences

1. Philosophy

- "The Love of Wisdom"
- there was a great deal of debate over issues relating to personal conduct and morality
- those who debated these issues are considered philosophers - the most important Greek philosophers were Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle
- Socrates believed in an inner being or soul - a person's moral and intellectual character - and believed that the soul would strive for good - as a result he questioned many of the stories of the Greek gods - this got him into a lot of trouble
- Plato was a student of Socrates - his main concern was that of politics - his book *The Republic*, explores the ideal state or government and was the first book ever written on political science
- Aristotle was a pupil of Plato - he served under Alexander the Great - created his own school - concerned with biology

2. Mathematics

- math was widely studied and taught in ancient Greece
- the most famous Greek mathematician was Pythagoras - he studied the pattern of numbers working out different mathematical principals - his most famous theorem concerns the right-angled triangle (ACB is a right angle, then $AB^2 = AC^2 + CB^2$)