

Where were Greek civilizations located?

Objective:

- **Describe** the location of the Greek civilizations and how geography impact the Ancient Greeks.



Think Like a Geographer

Introduction: Where was the Greek empire located?

➔ **Directions:** Examine the maps below and answer the questions that follow.



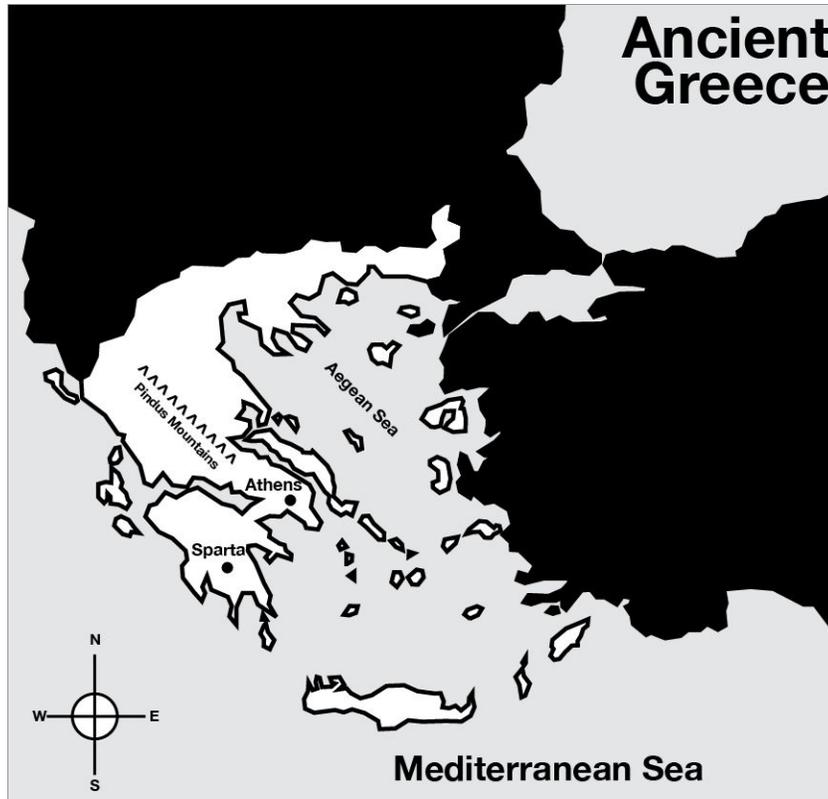
1. Which **continent** was Greek civilization located on?

2. Which sea is to the east of Greek civilization?

3. Which sea is south of the Greek civilization?

4. What do you know about the area of the world where Ancient Greece was located? Identify any historical or modern-day civilizations or countries in that region or events that have taken place.

Greek civilization began in 1750 BC north of the Mediterranean Sea in Europe.



Greece is in southeastern Europe and consists of a mainland and an **archipelago** [chain of islands]. Mainland Greece is a large peninsula surrounded on three sides by the **Mediterranean Sea** (branching into the Ionian Sea in the west and the **Aegean Sea** in the east).

The geography of Greece greatly influenced the culture in that, with **few natural resources** and **surrounded by water**, the people eventually took to **the sea** for their livelihood. **Mountains** cover eighty percent of Greece which provides little opportunity for **agriculture**. As a result, the early Greeks colonized neighboring islands and founded settlements along the coast of **Anatolia** (also known as **Asia Minor**, modern day **Turkey**). The Greeks became skilled ship builders, sailors, and **traders** to acquire resources they did not have. One benefit of Greece's trade with other nations was that they encountered the Phoenician alphabet, which they adapted and became the basis for Latin and many other languages including English.

The mountains that covered Greece and the seas between islands also **isolated** the people of Greece. As a result, Greeks developed individual **polis**, also known as **city-states**. City-states were cities with surrounding land and villages. Each city-state was **independent** and located in an **isolated valley**. While the Greeks spoke the same language, they had different cultures and government and social structures because they were divided. The mountains separating the city-states were **barriers to cultural diffusion and unity**. In addition, a lack of resources and differences between the city-states led to **rivalry** and **antagonism** that led to wars. The two most well-known city-states were **Sparta** and **Athens**.

Source: "Ancient Greece." Ancient History Encyclopedia. <http://www.ancient.eu/greece/>

1. Identify two geographic features that separated the Greek city-states.

2. Describe two ways that mountains in Greece affected the Ancient Greeks.

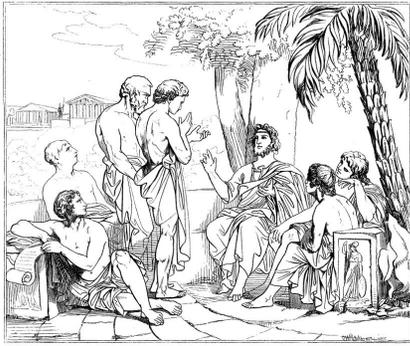
3. Describe two ways that water surrounding Greece affected the Ancient Greeks.

How did Greek city-states differ?

Objective:

- **Describe** the differences between the city-states of Sparta and Athens.

ATHENS



VS.

SPARTA



The rivalry between Athens and Sparta, two of the Greek city-states greatly affected Ancient Greece and has now become legendary. **Feuding** between Sparta and Athens eventually led to a twenty-seven year long **civil war** called the **Peloponnesian War** in 431 BC which led to the decline of Greece. Historians use **primary sources** and **secondary sources** to identify **causes** for the **rivalry** between Sparta and Athens.



Contextualize



How did daily life differ between Athens and Sparta?

[Watch this video on Athens and Sparta.](#) then describe what life was like for Athenians and Spartans below.

Life in Athens

Life in Sparta



Contextualize

How did the core values differ between Athens and Sparta?

➡ Directions: Read the excerpts below, then respond to the questions.

Athens

If we look to the laws, they afford equal justice to all despite their differences. If a man is able to serve the state, he is not hindered by his condition. The freedom we enjoy in our government extends to our ordinary life. There...we do not feel called upon to be angry with our neighbor for doing what he likes...

Advancement in politics is about potential, social class is not allowed to determine merit. Our ordinary citizens, though occupied with personal business, are still fair judges of public issues. At Athens we live exactly as we please, and yet are just as ready to encounter every legitimate danger.

To be happy means to be free. We throw open our city to the world, and never...exclude foreigners from any opportunity of learning or observing.

-Pericles, Funeral Oration

Source: <http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/pericles-funeralspeech.asp>

Based on Pericles' speech, describe what Athenians valued most.

Sparta

"Instead of softening their feet with shoe or sandal, his [king of Sparta] rule was to make them hardy through going barefoot. He believed this would allow them to climb hills and run. In fact, with his feet so trained the young Spartan would leap and spring and run faster without shoes than another in the ordinary way. Instead of making them effeminate (ladylike) and spoiled with a variety of clothes, the rule was to give them one piece of clothing the entire year. They would wear the same piece of clothing whether it was hot or cold. This taught them to be brave in all weather. With regards to food, young boys received small amounts of food. It was believed that young boys needed to know the pains of starvation."

- Xenophon, *Constitution of the Lacedaemonians*

Source: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/xeno-sparta1.asp>

Based on the text above, describe what Spartans valued most.



Contextualize

How did the treatment of women differ between Athens and Sparta?

➡ **Directions:** Read the excerpts below, then respond to the questions.

Athens

Female citizens had few rights in comparison to male citizens. Unable to vote, own land, or inherit, a woman's place was in the home and her purpose in life was the rearing of children. Contact with non-family males was discouraged and women occupied their time with indoor activities such as wool-work and weaving. Girls too were educated in a similar manner to boys but with a greater emphasis on dancing, gymnastics, and musical accomplishment which could be shown off in musical competitions and at religious festivals and ceremonies. The ultimate goal of a girl's education was to prepare her for her role in rearing a family.

Source: <http://www.ancient.eu/article/483/>

Based on the text, what was life like for women in Athens?

Sparta

...The truth is, he [king of Sparta] took in their [women] case, also, all the care that was possible; he ordered the maidens to exercise themselves with wrestling, running, throwing, the quoit [a ring thrown toward a peg in the ground], and casting the dart, to the end that the fruit they conceived might, in strong and healthy bodies, take firmer root and find better growth, and withal that they, with this greater vigor, might be the more able to undergo the pains of childbearing. And to the end he might take away their over great tenderness and fear of exposure to the air, and all acquired womanishness, he ordered that the young women should go naked in the processions, as well as the young men, and dance, too, in that condition, at certain solemn feasts, singing certain songs, whilst the young men stood around, seeing and hearing them.

From Lycurgus by Plutarch written 75 C.E. Translated by John Dryden

Source: <http://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/lycurgus.html>

Based on this observation by Lycurgus, what was life like for women in Sparta?

If you were a woman, in which city-state would you prefer to live? Explain.



Regents Multiple Choice Check for Understanding

Directions: Circle the choice that answers each question or complete the sentences below.

1. What was one cause of the development of many small independent city-states in ancient Greece?

- (1) Greece and Rome were often at war.
- (2) The mountainous terrain of Greece resulted in widely scattered settlements.
- (3) Military leaders found small Greek settlements easy to control.
- (4) The Greek people had many different languages and religions.

4. How did geography influence the development of ancient Greece?

- (1) Rich farmland led to dependence on agriculture.
- (2) Excellent harbors encouraged seafaring trade.
- (3) Flat plains made centralized rule possible.
- (4) Tropical climate discouraged urban development

7. In a comparison of the ancient cities of Athens and Sparta, Sparta placed more emphasis on

- (1) education
- (2) military service
- (3) family order
- (4) human right

2. What effect did the geography of ancient Greece have on its early development?

- (1) The mountainous terrain led to the creation of independent city-states.
- (2) A lack of natural seaports limited communication.
- (3) An inland location hindered trade and colonization.
- (4) Abundant natural resources encouraged self-sufficiency.

5. An important factor that prevented the ancient Greek city-states from uniting to form a single nation was the

- (1) lack of a common language
- (2) size of the desert regions
- (3) mountainous topography of the region
- (4) cold, hostile climate

8. Which statement most likely represents the view of a citizen of ancient Athens visiting Sparta?

- (1) "The government and society in Sparta are so strict. The people have little voice in government."
- (2) "I feel as though I have never left home. Everything here is the same as it is in Athens."
- (3) "This society allows for more freedom of expression than I have ever experienced in Athens."
- (4) "I have never heard of a society like Sparta that believes in only one God."

3. One effect of rugged, mountainous geography on the civilization of ancient Greece was the development of

- (1) absolute monarchies
- (2) separate, independent city-states
- (3) extensive trade with the Persians
- (4) belief in one God

6. Why did the ancient city-states of Athens and Sparta develop different political systems?

- (1) The Byzantine Empire dictated government policies.
- (2) Foreign travelers introduced new philosophies.
- (3) The mountainous topography resulted in the isolation of these city-states.
- (4) For over three centuries, civil wars raged in these city-states.

