ANCIENT GREECE

Section 1

MAIN IDEAS
1. Geography helped shape early Greek civilization.
2. Trading cultures developed in the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations.
3. The Greeks created city-states for protection and security.

Key Terms and People
polis Greek word for city-state
classical filled with great achievements
acropolis a fortress atop a tall hill in the center of the city-states

Section Summary
GEOGRAPHY SHAPES GREEK CIVILIZATION
The Greeks lived on rocky, mountainous lands, located on a peninsula surrounded by the Mediterranean, Ionian, and Aegean Seas. The peninsula has an irregular shape. Many islands float off the mainland. This area was the home of one of the world’s greatest civilizations.

The few small valleys and plains of Greece provided farmland and that is where people settled. These communities were separated by steep mountains, so there was little contact between groups. The villages created separate governments.

Because they were surrounded by water the Greeks became skilled shipbuilders and sailors. The Greeks were exposed to other cultures when they sailed to other lands.

TRADING CULTURES DEVELOP
Of the many cultures that settled and grew in early Greece, the earliest and most influential were the Minoans and the Mycenaens. By 2000 BC these two cultures had built advanced societies on the

Underline the names of the three seas that ringed the Greek peninsula.

Why did separate governments develop in ancient Greece?

_______________________

_______________________

_______________________

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island of Crete. The Minoans were known as the best shipbuilders of their time. They used ships mainly for trading purposes. A volcano that erupted in the 1600s BC may have led to the end of the Minoan civilization.

The Mycenaeans spoke the language that became Greek. While the Minoans were sailing, the Mycenaeans were building fortresses on the Greek mainland. The Mycenaeans eventually took over the trade routes once sailed by the Minoans. The Mycenaeans set up a powerful trading network on the Mediterranean and Black seas. But Mycenaean culture also fell prey to earthquakes and invaders. Greece entered a dark period.

**Greeks Create City-States**

After 300 years of war and disorder communities began to band together for stability and protection. They created the polis, or city-state. This marked the beginning of the Greek classical age, a time filled with great achievements.

A city-state often was built around a fortress perched atop a high hill called an acropolis. Walls surrounded many of these cities. Much of daily life centered around the agora, or marketplace, where politics and shopping shared the stage. As stability returned some of the Greek city-states formed colonies in foreign lands. Early colonies included modern-day Istanbul in Turkey, Marseilles in France, and Naples in Italy. This created further independence for these city-states, and some city-states became great trading centers.

**Challenge Activity**

**Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences** You are a leader of an ancient Greek polis dealing with all the same problems and circumstances the real city-states of the time faced. Write your own set of laws that would improve both security and quality of life for the citizens who live there.

While the Minoans built ___________________, the Mycenaeans built ___________________.

What features of the polis made it a safe, protected place to live and conduct business?

_______________________

_______________________

_______________________
DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. After the Dark Age, Greeks began to set up city-states and entered a period of great achievements known as Greece’s ______________ age.
   (classical/peninsula)

2. The town around the _______________________ was surrounded by walls for protection. (acropolis/colony)

3. The _______________________ often served as a central place for Greeks to meet and hold assemblies. (acropolis/agora)

4. The mainland of Greece is a _______________________, land surrounded by water on three sides. (peninsula/polis)

5. The Greek _______________________ provided security, stability, and identity to the people who lived there. (acropolis/polis)

DIRECTIONS Write a word that has a similar meaning to the term given.

6. acropolis _________________________________________________________

7. agora ____________________________________________________________

8. polis ____________________________________________________________

DIRECTIONS Write three adjectives or descriptive phrases that describe the term given.

9. classical _________________________________________________________

10. peninsula ______________________________________________________
True/False
1. F; Out of respect for the Torah, the most sacred text of Judaism, readers do not touch it but instead use special pointers to mark their places.
2. F; Historians have learned much about the lives of the ancient Jews by studying the Talmud, which includes prayers, commentaries, letters, and passages from the Hebrew Bible.
3. T
4. T
5. T

Descriptive Phrases
6. belief in one God
7. writings
8. holy day
9. Jewish house of worship
10. fairness

SECTION 3
Summary
(First Page) because they were unhappy with the Roman rule of Jerusalem; Students should underline: religious leaders responsible for teaching Judaism
(Second Page) The Sephardim mixed with their non-Jewish neighbors, while the Ashkenzaim did not; Rosh Hashanah

Challenge Activity
Student letters should describe that the Zealots were unhappy with Roman rule of Jerusalem and finally rebelled.

Vocabulary Terms
Answers will vary. Sample answers:
1. Zealots; Jews unhappy with Roman rule
2. Passover; when Jews remember the Exodus
3. rabbis; teachers of Judaism
4. Rosh Hashanah; Jewish New Year

Ancient Greece
SECTION 1
Summary
(First Page) Students should underline: Mediterranean, Ionian, Aegean; because communities were separated by steep valleys, so there was little contact between groups
(Second Page) ships, fortresses; It had an acropolis and walls

Challenge Activity
Student laws should meet the requirements of increasing safety and quality of life.

Fill in the Blank
1. classical
2. acropolis
3. agora
4. peninsula
5. polis

Vocabulary Terms
Answers will vary. Sample answers:
6. fortress
7. marketplace
8. city-state

Descriptive Phrases
Answers will vary. Sample answers:
9. great achievements
10. land surrounded by water on three sides

SECTION 2
Summary
(First Page) Students should circle: kings, an oligarchy of aristocrats; Peisistratus
(Second Page) Answers will vary. Possible answer: If there were many people it might be difficult to make decisions; representative democracy

Challenge Activity
Answers will vary. Student papers should express their preference and support it with reasons.

True/False
1. T
2. T
3. F; Democracy in Athens reached its height under the rule of a brilliant elected leaders named Pericles.
4. F; Solon's laws enabled all free men living in Athens to become citizens.
5. T