Since I did not post on my website that we were having a quiz today, I will postpone the quiz until Tuesday when we will quiz on both Persia and Greece.

However, please realize that I did announce the quiz in class even if it wasn’t posted and this will not be an excuse in the future.

Please take your notebooks out because I am checking homework.
Geography

- Ancient Greece was located on a peninsula between the waters of the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas.
- Because the land in Greece is mostly mountainous, there wasn't much possibility for agricultural development on the scale of the ancient river valley civilizations.
Geography

- But Greece did have natural harbors and mild weather, and its coastal position aided trade and cultural diffusion by boat, which is precisely how the Greeks conducted most of their commercial activity.
- The Greeks could easily sail to Palestine, Egypt, and Carthage, exchanging wine and olive products for grain.
- Eventually, they replaced the barter system with a money system, and soon Athens became a wealthy city at the center of all this commercial activity.
Geography
Geography

• Greece's limited geographical area also contributed to its dominance.
• Land was tight, so Greece was always looking to establish colonies abroad to ease overcrowding and gain raw materials.
• This meant that the Greeks had to have a powerful military.
• It also meant that they had to develop sophisticated methods of communication, transportations and governance.
Minoan Society

- Minoan society (named after the legendary king Minos) arose on the island of Crete in the late third millennium B.C.E.
Minoan Society

- Between 2200 and 1450 B.C.E., it was the center of Mediterranean commerce
- It received early influences from Phoenicia and Egypt
- Lavish palace complex at Knossos
Minoan Society

– An untranslated form of writing, Linear A, was used to keep detailed records of economic and commercial matters. Linear A was written symbols that stood for syllables rather than words, ideas, vowels or consonants.
Minoan Society

– A series of natural disasters weakened the society after 1700 B.C.E. (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tidal waves)
– By 1100 B.C.E., Crete fell under foreign domination yet their traditions of maritime trade, writing, and construction deeply influenced future Greek culture.
Mycenaean Society

• named after important city, Mycenae
Mycenaean Society

• Indo-European immigrants settled in Greece, 2000 B.C.E.
• They adapted Minoan Linear A into their script (it was known as Linear B)
Mycenaean Society

– Stone fortresses in the Peloponnesus (southern Greece) protected agricultural settlements
– Overpowered Minoan society and expanded to Anatolia, Sicily, and Italy
Chaos

• Chaos in the eastern Mediterranean after Trojan War (1200 B.C.E.) – war between the Mycenaean and the city of Troy which Homer wrote about in the *Iliad*.
  • Invasions and civil disturbances made it impossible to maintain stable governments or even productive agricultural societies. People fled the region and both writing systems disappeared.
Homer’s Writings

• Both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* reflect the chaos of the time. They portray society destroyed by conflict, and they recount innumerable episodes of aggression, treachery, and violence alongside heroic bravery and courage.
The World of the Polis

• Like the other early civilizations, Greece wasn't a country then in the way that it is now. Instead it was a collection of city-states, very much like those of early Mesopotamian civilizations in Sumer or Babylon. Each city-state, known as a polis, shared a common culture and identity. Although each polis was part of a broader civilization and shared a common language and many similar traditions, each was independent from, and often in conflict with, the others.
The two main city-states were Athens and Sparta. Athens was the political, commercial, and cultural center of Greek civilization. Sparta was an agricultural and highly militaristic region. Most citizens in Sparta lived a very austere, highly disciplined existence (which explains where modern-day terms such as "Spartan existence" come from). All the boys, and even some of the girls, received military training, which stressed equality but not individuality.

Each polis was composed of three groups.

- citizens, composed of adult males, often engaged in business or commerce
- free people with no political rights
- noncitizens (slaves, who accounted for nearly 1/3 of the people in Athens, and who had no right)
Among the citizens, civic decisions were made after engaging in debates. All citizens were expected to participate. This practice led to Athens being regarded as the first democracy. But it's important to point out that only adult males could participate, so it was a not a democracy in the modern sense of the word. It was Sparta, not Athens where women held a higher status and were granted greater equality than women of other city-states.
Sparta

- Sparta began to extend control during eighth and seventh centuries B.C.E.
- It was situated in a fertile region of the Peloponnesus.
- Reduced the neighboring peoples to the status of helots, or semi-free servants – their role was to provide agricultural labor and keep Sparta supplied with food. They outnumbered the Spartans 10:1 by the 6th century B.C.E.
- Maintained domination by a powerful military machine
Spartan Society

• Discouraged social distinction, observed austere lifestyle
• Distinction was drawn by prowess, discipline, and military talent (boys went to military training at age 7 – did not leave to start families until about age 30).
Athens

- Athens gradually broadened base of political participation
  - Solon (an aristocrat) sought to negotiate order by democratic principles – relieving the class conflicts that were prevalent
    - Cancelled debt and the slavery associated with it
    - Provided representation for the common classes in the government
  - Citizenship was open to free adult males, not to foreigners, slaves, and women
Athenian Society

- Maritime trade brought about prosperity to Attica, the region of Athens
- Aristocratic landowners were primary beneficiaries
- Class tension became intensified in the sixth century B.C.E. – as stated above, Solon helped to ease those tensions in Attica
Pericles

- Most popular democratic leader of Athens
- Under his leadership, Athens became the most sophisticated of the poleis, with a vibrant community of scientists, philosophers, poets, dramatists, artists and architects.
- The Golden Age of Pericles – an era of peace and prosperity after the Persian Wars
Greece and the Larger World

• As the poleis prospered, Greeks became increasingly prominent in the larger world of the Mediterranean basin. By 700 B.C.E. increasing population strained the resources available in the rocky and mountainous Greek peninsula.
Greece and the Larger World

• To ease population pressures, Greeks founded more than four hundred colonies – most popular were Sicily and Neapolis (modern-day Naples in Italy) and eventually to Massalia (modern Marseilles in France)
  – Facilitated trade and communication among Mediterranean lands and people
  – Spread of Greek language and cultural traditions
  – Stimulated development of surrounding areas
  – Unlike their counterparts in classical Persia, China, and India, the Greeks did not build a centralized imperial state
The Persian Wars

• Greek cities on Ionian coast revolted against Persia, 500 B.C.E.
  • Athenians sent a fleet of ships to support but the rebellion was still put down by 493 B.C.E.
• Battle of Marathon, 490 B.C.E., is decisive victory for Athens when they were greatly outnumbered
The Persian Wars

– Xerxes tried again to seize Athens;
  • They succeeded in capturing and burning Athens but his navy lost the battle of Salamis (480 B.C.E.) and eventually the Persian army retreated back to Anatolia (479 B.C.E.)
– The Greeks and Persians continued to skirmish on and off for more than a century but neither had the resources or desire to challenge each other.
The Delian League

• Military and financial alliance among Greek poleis against Persian threat
• When Persian threat subsided, poleis, other than Athens, no longer wanted to make contributions
• Athens had provided the military force while others contributed financial support
The Peloponnesian War

- Tensions led to two armed camps
- Athens and Sparta, as leaders of their respective alliances, became increasingly fearful and envious of each other’s power
- A trade dispute involving the city of Corinth eventually led to war
- Athens fought a defense war until…
- A great plague killed vast numbers of the population including Pericles
- Athen’s navy suffered a devastating defeat at Syracuse
The Peloponnesian War

- Unconditional surrender of Athens, 404 B.C.E.
- The surrender of Athens, however, did not bring peace but only more conflict among the poleis.
- It was a debilitating and demoralizing war – because of vicious atrocities Athens lost its reputation as the moral and intellectual leader of the Greek people and gained notoriety as an arrogant, insensitive imperialist power.
The Macedonians and the Coming of Empire

- The kingdom of Macedon, a frontier state north of peninsular Greece
- Philip of Macedon (reigned 359-336 B.C.E.) brought Greece under control
  - Built a powerful military and made himself ruler of Macedon
  - Greek poleis were unorganized and easily conquered
  - He respected Greek culture and allowed it to flourish rather than destroying it
  - He was assassinated before he was able to carry out his plan of conquering Persia
The Macedonians and the Coming of Empire

• Alexander of Macedon succeeds Philip at age twenty and begins conquests
  • He was a brilliant strategist and an inspired leader, was taught by Aristotle
  • By 331 B.C.E., controlled Syria, Egypt, Mesopotamia
  • Invaded Persian homeland and burned Persepolis, 331 B.C.E. – established himself as the new emperor of Persia in 330 B.C.E.
The Macedonians and the Coming of Empire

- Crossed Indus River by 327 B.C.E.
- Probably would have continued to conquer India but his army refused to go any farther from home
- Returned to Susa in Mesopotamia where he celebrated with his troops with almost continuous feasting
- After one of the celebrations, he fell ill and died in 323 B.C.E. at the age of thirty-three
- He was a brilliant conqueror but did not live long enough to create a genuine state or develop a system of administration
The Hellenistic Empires

- Hellenistic Empires (the age of Alexander and his successors – his generals): Alexander's realm was divided into Antigonid, Ptolemaic, Seleucid
  - The three Hellenistic Empires helped to integrate the economies and societies of distant regions. They facilitated trade, and they made it possible for beliefs, values, and religions to spread over greater distances than ever before.
The Antigonid empire

- Greece and Macedon
  - Continuous tension between the Antigonid rulers and Greek cities
  - Economy of Athens and Corinth flourished again through trade
The Ptolemaic empire

• Egypt--the wealthiest
  • The rulers did not interfere in Egyptian society; focused on the organization of agriculture, industry and tax collection (royal monopolies over the most lucrative industries)
  • Alexandria, capital at mouth of the Nile; most important port in the Mediterranean
  • Cultural center: the famous Alexandria Museum and Alexandria Library
The Seleucid empire

• Largest, from Bactria to Anatolia
  • Greek and Macedonian colonists flocked to Greek cities of the former Persia
  • Colonists created a Mediterranean-style urban society
• Bactria’s governors withdrew from the Seleucid Empire and established independent Greek kingdom