CHAPTER 11 | LESSON 1 The Geography of Greece

Lesson 1 The Geography of Greece

BEFORE YOU READ
In Lesson 1, you will learn how geography affected the development of the Greek civilization.

AS YOU READ
Use this chart to take notes about how geography affected ancient Greece.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountains cover most of Greece.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several seas surround Greece.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece traded with other regions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TERMS & NAMES
- **Peninsula** a body of land that has water on three sides
- **Peloponnesus** the southern peninsula of Greece
- **Isthmus** a narrow strip of land connecting two larger bodies of land
- **Phoenicians** a group of trading people on the coast of the eastern Mediterranean
- **alphabet** a system of symbols that stands for sounds

Geography Shapes Greek Life
(pages 355–356)

What were the main features of the geography of Greece?

Greece is a peninsula, or body of land that has water on three sides. The mainland of Greece borders the Mediterranean Sea. Thousands of islands also make up Greece.

The Greek peninsula is divided in two. The Peloponnesus is the southern peninsula. An isthmus, or narrow strip of land, joins the Peloponnesus to the rest of Greece.

Most of Greece is made up of mountains. The mountains divide Greece into many rugged regions. They make transportation difficult. There are no rivers in Greece for travel. The rugged landscape made it difficult to bring Greece together under one government.

Greece has a warm climate. This kind of climate led to an outdoor life for the Greek people.

Because the land in Greece is rocky, very little of it could be used for farming. But most Greeks were farmers or herdsmen. In Greece, landowners made up the upper class. Landowners could support themselves. They also had enough money to buy helmets and weapons. As a result, landowners could serve in the army and defend their land.

To get more farmland, the Greeks found colonies in other places. They set up many colonies in Anatolia, which had plains and rivers.

Greece also did not have enough natural resources such as metals. They had to get these resources from someplace else. Greece did have stone for building. It also had good places for harbors.

1. Why did Greeks set up colonies?

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

Ancient Greece
Trade Helped Greece Prosper
(page 357)
How did the sea affect Greek life?
The sea was important to Greece. On the south is the Mediterranean Sea. The Ionian Sea is west of Greece, and the Aegean Sea is east. These seas linked the different parts of Greece to each other. The seas were important for transportation.

The Greeks were skilled sailors. They also were skilled ship builders. They built rowing ships for fighting and trading. The sea also provided the Greeks with fish, an important part of the Greek diet. The Greeks traded fish for other products.

The Greeks did not grow much grain. They did produce olive oil, wine, wool, and pottery. Greek city-states bought and sold these products from each other. Greeks also traded these products with places such as Egypt and Italy. The Greeks bought products such as grain, timber, flax to make linen, and slaves.

2. How was fish important to the Greeks?

The Earliest Greeks
(pages 358–359)
How did trade influence Greek culture?
The earliest people had moved into Greece by about 2000 B.C. The first Greek civilization started on the Peloponnesus. It was named after its most important city, Mycenae. A king ruled each Mycenaean city. The people were traders. Their culture had writing, gold jewelry, and bronze weapons. By 1200 B.C., the Mycenaean civilization disappeared. Between 1200 and 700 B.C., Greek culture declined.

During this time, people did not keep written records. As a result, historians know very little about the decline of this culture.

In time, Greek culture began to advance again. This is because the Greeks began to learn from other people. One group they learned from was the Phoenicians, a trading people. The Phoenicians lived on the coast of the eastern Mediterranean. The Greeks picked up the alphabet from the Phoenicians. This was a system of writing in which 22 symbols stood for sound. Eventually, the Greek alphabet became the alphabet we use today. The Greeks learned about making coins from people in Anatolia. The Anatolians invented coins.

3. What did the Greeks learn from the Phoenicians?
Activity Sheet

Part A. Build Vocabulary

Key Terms  Write a key term in each blank to complete a statement.

peninsula: a body of land that has water on three sides
Peloponnesus: the southern portion of Greece
Isthmus: a narrow strip of land that connects two larger bodies of land
Phoenicians: a trading people who lived on the coast of the eastern Mediterranean
Alphabet: a system of writing using symbols for sounds

1. The southern portion of Greece is called the ________________.
2. The ________________ that makes up mainland Greece sticks out into the Mediterranean Sea.
3. The Greeks traded with many people, including the ________________.
4. The Greeks took an ________________ with 22 symbols and changed some of the letters.
5. A thin ________________ connects the northern and southern parts of Greece.

Part B. Cooperative Work

Supply the missing effects on the chart by working with your group to determine the answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>many mountains, few rivers</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mild climate</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>most land is rocky</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>landowners had wealth, served in army,</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>defended homeland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no precious metals</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>country almost surrounded by water</td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>traded with Phoenicians</td>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>traded with Anatolia</td>
<td>8.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reteaching Activity

Reading Comprehension

A. Find the name or term in the second column that best matches the description in the first column. Then write the letter of your answer in the blank.

1. a body of land that has water on three sides   a. Mediterranean
2. the southern tip of Greece, which is connected to the rest of Greece by a narrow strip of land   b. Peloponnesus
3. the large sea that is south of Greece   c. olive oil
4. the small sea that is east of Greece   d. peninsula
5. one of the goods that Greece traded for products such as timber, animal hides, and nuts   e. Aegean

B. Find the name or term in the second column that best matches the description in the first column. Then write the letter of your answer in the blank.

6. the most important city of the first Greek civilization   f. Phoenicians
7. a narrow strip of land that connects two larger masses of land   g. Athens
8. a trading people who lived on the coast of the eastern Mediterranean and who influenced the early Greeks   h. coins
9. the set of symbols that the Greeks developed into their own system of writing   i. isthmus
10. metal objects invented in Anatolia about 650 B.C. for use in trade   j. alphabet