



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **6th Grade** | Unit 3

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 603

The Civilizations of Greece and Rome

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The Civilizations of Greece and Rome

Introduction

After 200 years of being an important power in the Middle East, the Persian Empire was conquered by Alexander the Great of Macedonia, a country near Greece. After that time, the Fertile Crescent, Egypt, and the known lands around the Mediterranean were ruled by the Greeks, from whom we have inherited much of what we value in Western civilization.

The Greek reign gave way to the Roman civilization. During the time of the Romans, the manner of recording years was changed to correspond with the birth of Jesus. Christianity became the most powerful influence on earth. In this LIFEPAK® we shall study the exciting ages of the Greek and Roman civilizations.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, you should be able to:

1. Describe the geography of Greece and how it affected the development of Greece.
2. Name influences that affected the Grecian culture.
3. List the contributions of the Greeks.
4. Describe the geography of the Roman Empire.
5. State some facts of Roman life and history.
6. List the contributions of Rome.
7. Relate the reasons for the decline of the Roman Empire.

1. THE CIVILIZATION OF GREECE

While the Sumerians were learning to write and the Egyptians were building their pyramids, another group of people were sailing the seas and living pleasant lives in the eastern end of the Mediterranean region. These people

were the Cretans, whose ideas spread to other Aegean islands and to Greece proper. Greece rose to a position of leadership and influence and then fell under the weight of her own carelessness and luxury.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the geography of Greece and how it affected the development of Greece.
2. Name the influences which affected the Grecian culture.
3. List the contributions of the Greeks.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your success in this section.

complexity (kum plek su tē). Made up of a number of parts.

corbel (kôr bul). A bracket of stone, wood, or other material on the side of a wall. It helps to support a projecting ledge above.

dictatorship (dik tā tur ship). Rule of a person with absolute authority.

fortification (for tu fu kā shun). A wall or fort built to make a place strong. Something such as a wall used against an attack.

frieze (frēz). A decorated band around a room.

helot (hel ut). A member of the class of slaves or serfs in ancient Sparta.

hoplite (hop lit). A heavily armed Greek foot soldier who fought in close formation with other hoplites.

labyrinth (lab u rinth). A maze; a number of connecting passages so arranged that it is hard to find one's way from point to point

nomad (nō mad). A member of a tribe who moves his cattle from place to place for pasture; a wanderer.

Perioeci (per ē ē sī). People in ancient Greece. Class of persons in ancient Sparta who had no political rights, but enjoyed personal freedom and were protected by law.

philosopher (fu los u fur). Person who studies truth and principles of knowledge.

philosophy (fu los u fē). The study of truth and principles underlying all real knowledge.

pumice (pum is). A light, spongy stone thrown out from volcanoes.

saffron (saf run). An orange-yellow coloring matter obtained from the crocus flower.

topography (tu pog ru fē). Surface features of a place or region.

trance (trans). State or condition somewhat like sleep.

trireme (trī rēm). A Greek ship with three rows of oars, one above the other, on each side.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʃh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

GEOGRAPHY

Greece is made up of the lower part of the Balkan peninsula, which is in the northeastern part of the Mediterranean Sea. It has numerous islands off the coast. Greece is bounded on the east by the Aegean Sea, and on the west by the Adriatic Sea. On the north are other Balkan countries. Greece has many fine harbors and

much natural beauty. However, the mountain ranges and the deep valleys cut Greece into isolated sections. Generally, the soil is stony and dry, although there are some valleys that have rich, red earth. Usually, little rain falls except along the eastern border.



| Map of the City-states of Greece and Asia Minor



Complete each statement.

- 1.1 Greece lies on the _____ peninsula.
- 1.2 Greece has many isolated sections because _____
_____.
- 1.3 Greece has many fine _____.
- 1.4 The soil of Greece is generally a. _____ and b. _____.
- 1.5 The area of good rainfall is _____.

BEGINNING

Scholars differ as to the origin of the Greeks. About 4000 B.C., a dark-skinned race settled on the peninsula that was afterward called Greece, and later, on the islands of the Mediterranean Sea. Some say these settlers came from Anatolia (an uh toa lee uh); others say they came from the Black Sea area. Some of these ancient **nomads** settled on the large islands of Crete not far from the southern tip of the peninsula. This group developed one of the first great civilizations.

Crete. Not until 1870 did the world unearth the remains of the great civilization of the Cretans. Like the Fertile Crescent, Crete had rich soil, a perfect climate, and plenty of water. With less time spent battling for a living, the Cretans began to make complicated objects. They cut down their large trees and built ships to sail the blue Mediterranean. From the wild crocus flowers, which covered their island with a golden mantle, the Cretans collected the **saffron** used in yellow dye, in food, and in medicine. With products to trade, the Cretans visited other lands. From the Egyptians, they secured rich fabrics and jewels. From the Anatolian Hittites, they learned how to use iron.

From the wealthy Lydians (lid ee unz), they learned to coin money. From Phoenicia (fuh nish uh), the Cretans obtained the alphabet which we use today.

As the Cretans developed a government, they chose a king for a seven-year period. The king was known as Minos, and the people were called Minoans (mi noa unz). The capital of Crete was Knossos (nos us). In the last century, when the king's palace was unearthed, its **complexity** amazed the archaeologists.

Great **friezes** decorated the walls. The symbol of the double-ax was used in painting and in sculpture and is thought to have represented the authority of the king.

The throne was only a seat with a high back, and the nobles had only benches to sit on. However, the benches were covered with red and white plaster. (Plumbing pipes and a bathtub were a surprise to the archaeologists.) On the walls were painted fish, dolphins, and seaweed. The queen had her own private staircase so that she could go upstairs without bothering the men. Several rooms in the palace held large storage jars which were six feet tall. Wheat, oil, dye, and other necessities were kept in them.



Answer these questions in your own words.

- 1.6 Why were the first Greeks said to be nomadic? _____

- 1.7 What developed on the large island of Crete? _____

- 1.8 How would you expect the Greeks to change after they ceased to be nomads? _____

Write the correct answer on the lines.

- 1.9 Remains of the Cretan civilization were discovered _____
 a. before Christ b. in the 1900s c. in the 1800s
- 1.10 Crete could be compared to the Fertile Crescent in its rich earth, water, and _____
 a. location b. climate c. size
- 1.11 The Cretans used the saffron from crocus to make _____
 a. a drink b. greens to cook c. a yellow dye
- 1.12 The capital of Crete was located at _____
 a. Alexandria b. Syracuse c. Knossos
- 1.13 Supplies were stored in _____
 a. huge jars b. caves c. cupboards

An unusual part of the Minoan palace at Knossos was an underground series of rooms called a **labyrinth**. Visitors were lost in the labyrinth unless they unreeled a string behind them for a guide. In this place, a monster called Minotaur (min uh tor) was said to live. The Minotaur was half bull and half man. Each year seven youths and seven maidens were sacrificed to Minotaur. Many scholars believe monuments and sacrifices to a bull were made because the Cretans thought the sound of an earthquake was an angry bull. By sacrificing the young people, the Cretans thought they could satisfy the angry bull and avoid destruction.

The Cretans also worshiped the Great Mother Cybele, or Snake Goddess. Often, her image

was carved in statues with much gold decoration and with snakes coiled around the arms. Snakes were thought to be household protectors; thus, each home had a special room for snakes. Sometimes a little table with grooves was placed in a convenient place so the creatures could sip their milk from a cup.

The Cretans also built wide paved roads on which chariots could be driven. Inns with footbaths were built near the roads to give relief to weary travelers.

The Cretans loved games, food, athletics, music, and beautiful dress. They expressed regard for mankind in delicate and lovely art. The Cretans were the first to build stone theaters where large audiences were entertained

by processions and musical programs. Women in Crete had many more rights than women had in most early civilizations. Girls even assisted bullfighters. In bullfighting, the Minoans demonstrated good sportsmanship, for the bull was not killed. The male fighter had to grab the horns of the lunging bull, throw himself on the back of the animal, and then land on the ground. A girl helped the bullfighter keep his balance.

The women wore full skirts with very tiny waists, beautiful hairdos, and jewelry. The men wore belts around their small waists. They shaved with stones, rubbed their teeth with **pumice** stone, and had their body hair singed by a barber.

For food, the Minoans ate fish, birds, and beef. They had barley cooked in various ways and enjoyed cheese, nuts, and honey. They drank goats' milk believing that only uncivilized people drank cows' milk! The Minoans sang, played games, and guessed riddles. Although Minoans ate with their fingers, they had the food cut into bite-size pieces before it was served.



| Sculptures depicting Greek hairstyles

The Cretans were at peace. They had no **fortifications**. Perhaps when the nearby Greeks came to trade or visit, they envied the Cretans their way of life and thought how easy the conquest of this paradise would be. The conquest of Crete by the Mycenaeans (might see us) is exactly what happened about 1450 B.C., after Knossos had been shaken by an earthquake. From then on, the Mycenaeans from Greece controlled this great civilization of the Cretans.



Complete each statement.

1.14 The Cretans built a labyrinth underground to hold _____

_____.

1.15 When the Cretans heard the roar of an earthquake they thought it was an angry _____

_____.

1.16 Snakes were kept in the house because they were thought to be _____

_____.

Answer these questions.

1.17 What kinds of food did the Cretans eat? _____

_____.

1.18 From where did the Mycenaeans who conquered the Cretans come? _____

_____.

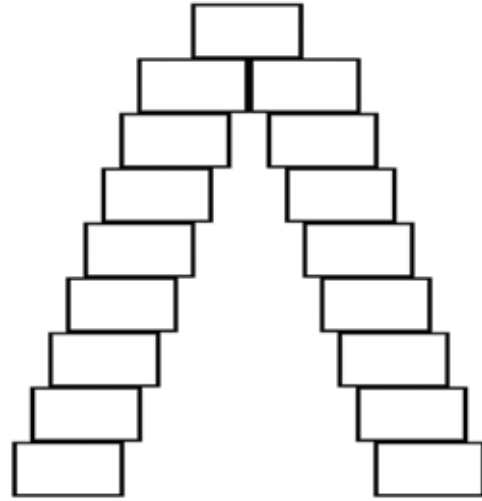
Mycenae. The Mycenaeans of Greece were a vigorous and bright people who absorbed good taste from other lands. By 1400 B.C., they were known for their art, literature, and **philosophy**. Their chief city, Mycenae (mie see nee), was just north of what later became Corinth. The palace of their king was a busy and noisy place. Beautiful objects, inlaid with ivory, glass, or gold, were treasured by the Greeks because of the time and effort required to make them.

In 1300 B.C., the king built a wall twenty-three feet wide and sixty feet high. The stone blocks used were enormous. A **corbel** arch, in which each stone projected beyond the one below, was used. A triangle was also used for support. The Lion Gate, the main gate of the wall and an example of a corbel arch, is still admired to this day.

The common people went inside the palace walls in times of danger but at other times lived in their own houses. Their homes were shaped like deep rectangles with flat roofs and front porches.

People worked at various occupations. They were cooks, doctors, carpenters, tailors, woodcutters, and manufacturers of textiles. The Mycenaeans grew many agricultural products and kept domestic animals such as oxen, sheep, pigs, and goats. They also built good roads and bridges.

For their worship of gods, these people built shrines. Zeus (zoos) was thought to be the father of all the gods and to live with the other



| An illustration of a corbel arch.

gods on Mt. Olympus. The Greeks thanked Zeus for all things—rain, sunshine, food, and victories in war. They also honored Apollo, the sun god; Poseidon (pu sī dn), the sea god; Artemis (ar tuh mis), the moon goddess; and many others. There was even an altar labeled “To an Unknown God,” which moved Paul to preach the truths of Christ to the Greeks. Many laughed at Paul, but a few believed.

In the thirteenth century many pirates came in from the sea to attack cities and rob them. Mycenae was destroyed by the Dorians, who came from Asia Minor. For safety, many Greeks fled to Ionia (ie oa nee uh) on the coast of Asia Minor. Because they believed they were heroes, the Greeks remained strong and later returned to their homeland to rebuild it.



Unscramble the words to determine the correct answer. Write your answers on the lines.

- 1.19** The Mycenaeans valued objects that required _____ to make.
etim and ftefor
- 1.20** The corbel arch made each stone _____ beyond the one below.
tprjoec
- 1.21** What gate was most unusual and is still visible? _____ .
hTe onLi eGta
- 1.22** Two of the gods worshiped by the Mycenaeans were _____ .
lolApo adn nsidooPe
- 1.23** An unusual occupation seldom known today was that of the _____ .
retadowocut

CITY-STATES

Many city-states developed in the Grecian peninsula because of the **topography** of the land. The mountains and deeply indented coast separated the city-states. Four chief city-states were Argos, Thebes, Sparta, and Athens.

Characteristics. People remained loyal to their city-states and not to a nation. Therefore, the Greeks did not become a strong, united nation.

On the other hand, some elements did unify the city-states. All Greeks had a belief in many gods, they had a common language, and they had the same literature. Another uniting feature developed in 776 B.C. when the first Olympic games were held in the valley of Olympia in the city-state of Elis. At first, only foot races took place; then many sports were added, including that of chariot racing. The games were named for the home of their gods,

Mt. Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece. During the games every four years, all politics, national desires, and unpleasantness were set aside. Athletes were noted for their beautiful bodies. Winners were crowned with a ring of leaves, and often sculptors made marble statues of them.

Before the Olympic games, elections, battles, or other important events, the Greeks traveled the steep and difficult roads to Delphi to consult Apollo. There a priest sprinkled water on a goat. If the goat moved, the action meant Apollo was ready to speak. A priestess ate certain leaves and drank “holy water” before going into a **trance**. The people thought Apollo spoke through the priestess. Priests interpreted her frenzied speech as advice or predictions for those who had come to consult.

SELF TEST 1

Complete each statement on the left with words from the right. Write the letter beside the correct answer on the blank (each answer, 3 points).

- | | | |
|-------|--|---------------------------|
| 1.01 | _____ Crete's capital was | a. first civilizations. |
| 1.02 | _____ Greece is located on | b. Troy. |
| 1.03 | _____ Crete had one of the | c. Knossos. |
| 1.04 | _____ The art of Crete was | d. many rights. |
| 1.05 | _____ Women of Crete had | e. 1870. |
| 1.06 | _____ Snakes were kept in the house as | f. the Iberian Peninsula. |
| 1.07 | _____ The first conquerors of Crete were | g. the Balkan peninsula. |
| 1.08 | _____ The Greeks worshiped | h. protectors. |
| 1.09 | _____ The Trojan Horse was used in the Battle of | i. Mycenaeans. |
| 1.010 | _____ The Cretan civilization was unearthed in | j. Marathon. |
| | | k. delicate. |
| | | l. Hittites. |
| | | m. many gods. |

Complete these sentences. (each answer, 4 points)

- 1.011 The Balkan peninsula is in the _____ Sea.
- 1.012 City-states developed in Greece because the country was divided by _____.
- 1.013 The oath taken by doctors that they will practice honestly is called the _____.
- 1.014 In the Peloponnesian War, Athens fought _____.
- 1.015 Triremes were the Greek _____.
- 1.016 The Parthenon is located in _____.
- 1.017 Herodotus is called the father of _____.
- 1.018 The man who introduced questions and argument to Grecian education was _____.
- 1.019 Leonidas, the brave leader who helped the city of Athens, was from _____.
- 1.020 A Spartan boy had to learn to suffer without _____.

Select the correct ending and write it on the line (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.021 Cleisthenes is known as the _____ .
 a. father of inventions b. great sculptor c. father of democracy
- 1.022 The Delian League was a union of _____ .
 a. Greece and Crete b. Egypt and Greece c. city-states in Greece
- 1.023 The rule of the Golden Mean was taught by _____ .
 a. Aristotle b. Socrates c. Plato
- 1.024 The country that had the Minotaur was _____ .
 a. Mycenae b. Crete c. Sparta
- 1.025 The man who taught that reason was most important in government was _____ .
 a. Aristotle b. Socrates c. Plato

Answer true or false (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.026 _____ Phidias supervised the building of the Parthenon.
- 1.027 _____ Athens and Sparta had great love for each other.
- 1.028 _____ At the Battle of Marathon, the Greeks won because they had weapons of metal.
- 1.029 _____ The Minoans were afraid of the sound of an earthquake.
- 1.030 _____ Plato was a pupil of Aristotle.
- 1.031 _____ The Greeks believed in the enjoyment of life.
- 1.032 _____ The leading city of the Hellenistic Age was Athens.
- 1.033 _____ Plato believed the spiritual was more important than the physical.
- 1.034 _____ The Greeks did not know about latitude and longitude.
- 1.035 _____ Sparta was a military state.

	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials _____	date _____
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