

The Greek City-States

Mr. P's Class (adaptation)

Geography

- Surrounded by seas
- Small mountain ranges kept villages separated



Early Greeks

- Minoans
 - Arrived on the island of Crete in 2000 B.C.
 - Built a great civilization
 - Volcano erupts and causes tidal waves
 - Destroys settlements and weakens Minoan civilization



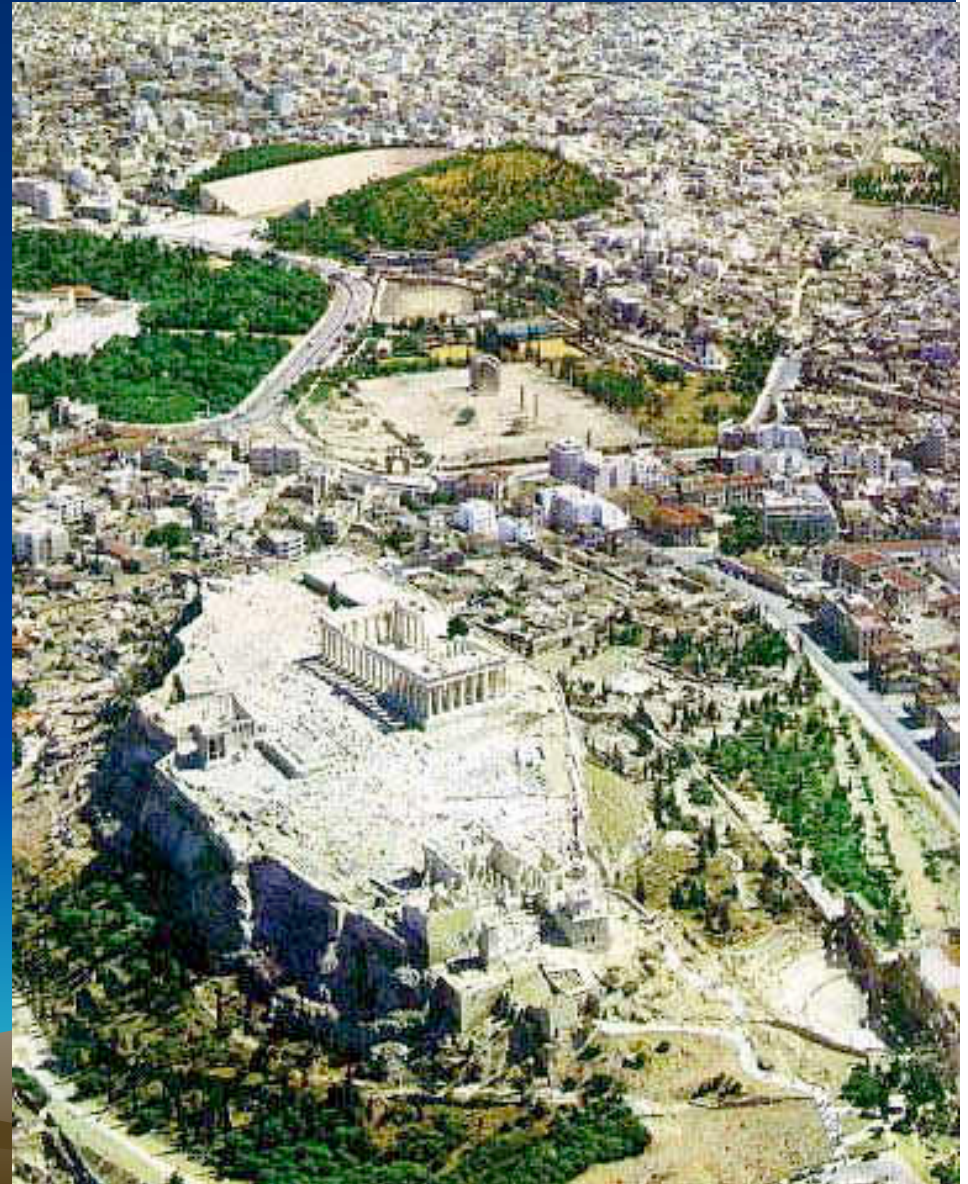
Early Greeks

- Mycenaeans conquered Crete in 1400 B.C.
 - Warlike people
 - Also settled southern Greece
 - Earthquakes and warfare destroyed many cities by 1200 B.C.



Greek City-States

- Polis (city)
 - City surrounding a fort
- Absolutely independent and self-sufficient



Greek City-States

- Based on 3 ideas:
 - Geographical territory
 - Community it represented
 - Economic independence it produced



Greek City-States

- Similarities
 - Covered small areas of land
 - Athens (smaller than Rhode Island)
 - Sparta (smaller than Connecticut)
 - Large compared to others
 - Small populations (most fewer than 10,000)



Greek City-States

- More similarities
 - Original forts created on an acropolis (hill)
 - Each city-state had an agora (marketplace)
 - Served as a meeting place for the people



Greek City-States

- Shared a common language and religious ideas
- Regarded all non-Greeks as barbarians



Greek City-States

- All had independent identities
- Took great pride and loyalty in their polis
- Each had its own government and laws

