**Greece:**

I. Ancient Civilizations

a. People living in river valleys depended on the rivers flooding for fertile land.

II. Greece

a. Did not depend on flooding.

b. Had no rivers.

c. Had mountainous land and deep valleys with rugged highlands (hills).

d. Mountains divided the people.

e. Greece is located in Southeastern Europe.

**Seas Surrounding Greece:**

* Aegean Sea is to the East of Greece.
* Ionian Sea to the West of Greece in btw. Greece and Italy.
* Mediterranean Sea to the South of Greece.
* These seas made Greece a crossroads for trade.
* Greece had long coastlines with many bays which were good for trading.

**Settlements:**

* Most people lived along the coast.
* Soil was rich and there was a mild climate which was good for farming and raising animals.
* The Greeks sold their crops to other lands located across the seas.
* Trade spread Greek ideas and Greeks got the alphabet and coins from other civilizations. (CULTURAL DIFFUSION)

**Greek Alphabet-Extra Info:**

* Used to write the Greek language since about the 9th century BC
* First to use separate symbols for each vowel and consonant
* Modification of the Phoenician alphabet
* Gave rise to Latin alphabet

**Greece’s Geography:**

* Mountains divided Greece into different regions.
  1. i. 75% of Greece is covered in mountains.
* Lowlands-fertile land.
* Hills-good for animals.

**Geography-Extra Info:**

* Greece is located on the Balkan peninsula about the size of Louisiana in the Mediterranean Sea.
* Located on the continent of Europe, it’s very close to Egypt, the Persian empire (which includes Turkey) and Rome.

**People in Greece:**

* All people spoke the same language and had the same religion.
* Because the mountains separated the people, they rarely traveled to the other regions in Greece.
* People created small, independent communities each with their own way of doing things called city-states.
  1. i. City-states were individual communities that shared the same religion and language but had their own independent government.

**Climate:**

* Rain fell during winter months.
* Summers were hot and dry which allowed Greeks to spend most of their time outdoors at agoras (marketplaces).
  1. Women got water from fountains
  2. Men shopped
  3. Statues of gods and heroes
* Greeks enjoyed outdoor events such as:
  1. plays
  2. religious and political events
  3. sports and athletic competitions

**Climate of Ancient Greece-Extra Info:**

* Greece has a Mediterranean climate
* Winters are mild and wet
  1. allows for limited farming
  2. grapes and olives
* Summers are warm and dry
  1. leads to drought
  2. grapes and olives are one of the few plants that can survive the summer droughts
* November
  1. Greece receives 2.2 inches of precipitation
     1. Average temperature is a balmy 64 degrees
  2. Minnesota receives 1.29 inches of precipitation
     1. Average temperature is a chilly 29 degrees

**Minoan Civilization:**

* Settled on the island of Crete
* Named after King Minos
* The Minoans developed a written language.
* They learned cloth weaving, pottery and jewelry making.

**Minoan Civilization: (Continued)**

* Wealth came from trade.
  1. They controlled trade with all islands in the Aegean Sea and cities on Ionian Sea, Syria and Egypt.
  2. Traded food , pottery , and artisan crafts.
* Ships patrolled the seas and protected the kingdom from invaders.
* When the Minoan civilization grew weak, groups of people migrated to the Greek mainland.

**Mycenae:**

* City-state on the Greek mainland that developed after the Minoan civilization grew weak.
* Replaced Crete as the center of civilization in eastern Mediterranean.
* Became very powerful and were successful defenders against attackers.
* Ships captured ships of other cities and took plunder (valuables taken during war).

**Myths and Legends:**

* Greeks created many myths to help explain the mysteries of nature and life.

**Trojan War:**

* Troy was a real place, but the story of the war is a mixture of myths and legends.
* The war was fought between the Greeks and the people of Troy.
* Gods and goddesses help heroes on both sides of the battle.
* Sparta (Greeks) won by hiding in the Trojan Horse and making a surprise attack.
* Poet, Homer ,wrote two poems about the war: The Iliad and The Odyssey.
* Trojan War Additional Info.
  1. After tricking the Trojans to open their main doors, using the Trojan horse, the Achaeans destroyed and mercilessly slaughtered the Trojans.

**Mount Olympus:**

* Greeks believed that the gods and goddesses lived here.
* In Ancient Greece daily life focused on keeping their many gods and goddesses happy.

**Olympics:**

* Held every four years to honor Zeus, king of all the gods. Held in Olympia.

**Olympics Additional Info:**   
“Olympic Truce”—all battles and wars were halted so that everyone could come and watch the games.

**Forms of government:**

* Monarchy-is when a king rules.
* Aristocracy-is when members of a wealthy family ruled.
* Democracy-is when the people rule.

**Athens Government:**

* Athens had the first democracy.
* Ruled by an Assembly(500 people)- made up of any citizen that was over the age of 18.
* Slaves, Women, and Men born outside of Athens were NOT citizens. They could not:
  1. Own property
  2. Vote
  3. Testify in court
* In return for their rights, citizens of Athens were expected to:
  1. Defend their city in times of conflict
  2. Take part in government by serving on juries
  3. Participate in political debates
* Athens was a center for culture.

**Sparta:**

* Was the opposite of Athens; Sparta was a strict military state.
* Spartans were raised to be warriors.

**Spartans were constantly fighting neighboring city-states and turning non-Spartans into helots (slaves).**

* Boys went to military camps to be trained for lifetime in the army at the Age of seven.
  1. Endured brutal training with little food or clothing.

**Women in Sparta:**

* Women were expected to be strong and physical.
  1. Women had more rights than women in any other Greek city-state.
  2. Owned property
  3. Express opinions
  4. Manage estates
  5. Could NOT participate in government.