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Prepare to Read

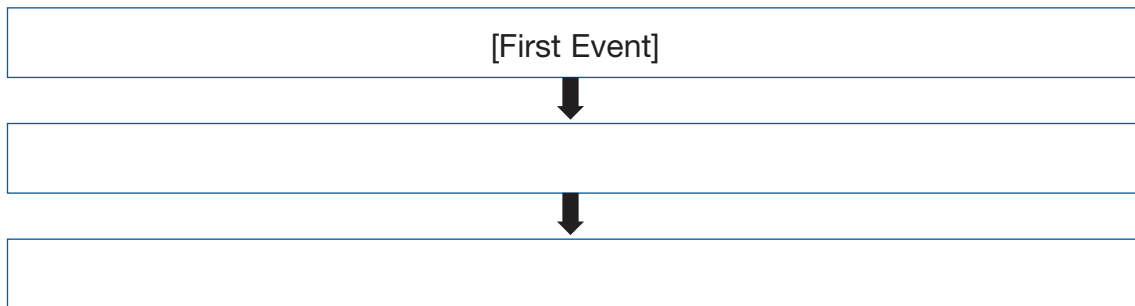
Section 1 The Rise of Greek Civilization

Objectives

1. Understand how Greece's geographic setting influenced Greek civilization.
2. Examine early Greek history.
3. Examine the development of democracy in Greece.

Target Reading Skill

Identify Sequence A sequence is the order in which events occur. You can keep track of the order of events by making a sequence chart like the one below. In the first box, write the first event. Then write each additional event in the following boxes. The arrows show how one event leads to the next.



Vocabulary Strategy

Use Context to Clarify Meaning When you come across new words in your text, they are often defined for you. Sometimes there may be a brief definition in the same sentence. Sometimes the definition appears in a separate sentence. The word *or* can be used to introduce the definition. Look at the following examples.

epic, *or a long poem that tells a story*

Democracy *is a form of government in which citizens govern themselves.*

The underlined words are defined in context. In these examples, brief definitions appear in italics.

Section 1 Summary

Greece's Geographic Setting

¹ Greece is a land of **peninsulas** and small, rocky islands. Mountains are the major landform. Only about one fifth of Greece is good for growing crops, so it's no wonder the Greeks became traders and sailors.

⁵ Some Greeks lived on real islands. Others lived in villages separated by mountains. Each community developed its own customs and beliefs. The Greeks fought each other, but they still shared the same heritage, language, and gods. ✓

Greek Beginnings

¹⁰ From about 3000 to about 1100 B.C., the Minoans (mi NOH unz) lived on the island of Crete. At one time, they controlled the Aegean (ee JEE un) Sea. The Minoans left writings on clay tablets. In the middle of the 1400s B.C., their civilization declined.

¹⁵ The Mycenaeans (my suh NEE unz) lived on the mainland. They were at the height of their power around 1400 B.C. They controlled the Aegean Sea and parts of the Mediterranean. They spread their power through conquest. They also traded widely. ✓

²⁰ Greek myth tells the story of the Trojan War. It was a war between Greece and Troy. Two **epics** tell of the Trojan War. They are the *Iliad* (IL ee ud) and the *Odyssey* (AHD ih see). The poet Homer is credited for both of them. The poems explained what Greek gods were like and how Greek heroes behaved.

The Dark Ages of Greece

After the Trojan War, Greek civilization fell apart. No one knows why. Poverty was everywhere. People no longer traded beyond Greece. They forgot the art of writing. People kept history alive by word of mouth.

³⁰ These years have been called Greece's Dark Ages. People settled where they could farm. Farms were built

Key Terms

peninsula (puh NIN suh luh) *n.* an area of land nearly surrounded by water

epic (EP ik) *n.* a long poem that tells a story

✓ Reading Check

What two landforms separated ancient Greek villages?

1. _____
2. _____

✓ Reading Check

Contrast how Minoans and Mycenaeans spread their power.

-
-
-

Vocabulary Strategy

The term *acropolis* is defined in context. Circle its definition.



✓ Reading Check

What were three effects of Greece's Dark Ages?

- _____
- _____
- _____

Target Reading Skill

What important changes led to the development of city-states in Greece?

✓ Reading Check

What kind of ruler often replaced aristocratic governments? Who supported these rulers?

✓ Reading Check

Who could vote in Athens?

near hills for protection. They fortified or strengthened them to protect them from attack. A fortified hill was called an **acropolis**. ✓

City-States Develop

³⁵ Sometime around 750 B.C., villages joined to form **city-states**. Each city-state was near an acropolis and had its own government and laws.

By the end of the Dark Ages, most city-states were ruled by **aristocrats**. They controlled most of the good ⁴⁰ land and could afford the best weapons.

The city-states became richer through trade. A middle class of merchants and artisans formed. They wanted a say in government. Aristocratic governments were often replaced by rulers called **tyrants**. They were supported by the middle and working classes. ✓ ⁴⁵

Democracy in Greece

In time, the people of some cities got rid of tyrants and adopted a form of government called **democracy**. One of them was Athens. Athens gave citizens aged 18 or older a say in discussing laws.

⁵⁰ Not all Athenians were citizens. Only men could be citizens and they had to have both an Athenian father and mother. Slaves, women, and men with noncitizen fathers were not citizens. ✓

Review Questions

1. Describe the geographic setting of ancient Greece.

2. What two kinds of government developed in the Greek city-states?

Key Terms

acropolis (uh KRAH puh lis) *n.* a high, rocky hill where early people built cities

city-state (SIH tee stayt) *n.* a city with its own government

aristocrat (uh RIS tuh krat) *n.* a member of a rich and powerful family

tyrant (TY runt) *n.* a ruler who takes power with the support of the middle and working classes

democracy (dih MAHK ruh see) *n.* a form of government in which citizens govern themselves