

## Why Is Ancient Greece so Interesting?

### It's All Greek to Me!

The Greek civilization was **divided** among an extensive area: on the Balkan Peninsula, on islands in the Mediterranean Sea, and on the coast of Asia Minor. Greece wasn't a unified country because of this division. Since the land was dry and rocky, the Greeks got their food from the Mediterranean. They were **expert sailors** who sailed across the sea to **trade** with other countries.

Each territory had its own government and laws, but they shared the same culture, spoke the same **language**, and worshipped the same gods.

Greek history is divided in three **eras**: Archaic (9<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> century BC), Classical (5<sup>th</sup> to mid-4<sup>th</sup> century), and Hellenistic (mid-4<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC). Before the Ancient Greek civilization there were other civilizations such as the Minoan Crete and the Mycenae.



**1 Read the text "It's All Greek to Me!" Work with a classmate. Match the columns to complete the sentences.**

1. Ancient Greece was divided in
2. Greeks had to get food from the sea because
3. Greek sailors traded with
4. Each territory was divided but they
5. Greek history is divided in three periods:
6. Minoan Crete and Mycenae are

- a. other countries across the sea.
- b. pre-Archaic civilizations.
- c. had the same government, laws, and gods.
- d. three territories.
- e. Archaic, Classical, and Hellenistic.
- f. their land was dry and rocky.

**Read the text again. Drag the words in the text that belong to the meanings below to their correct place.**

1. a length of time

2. spoken and written communication

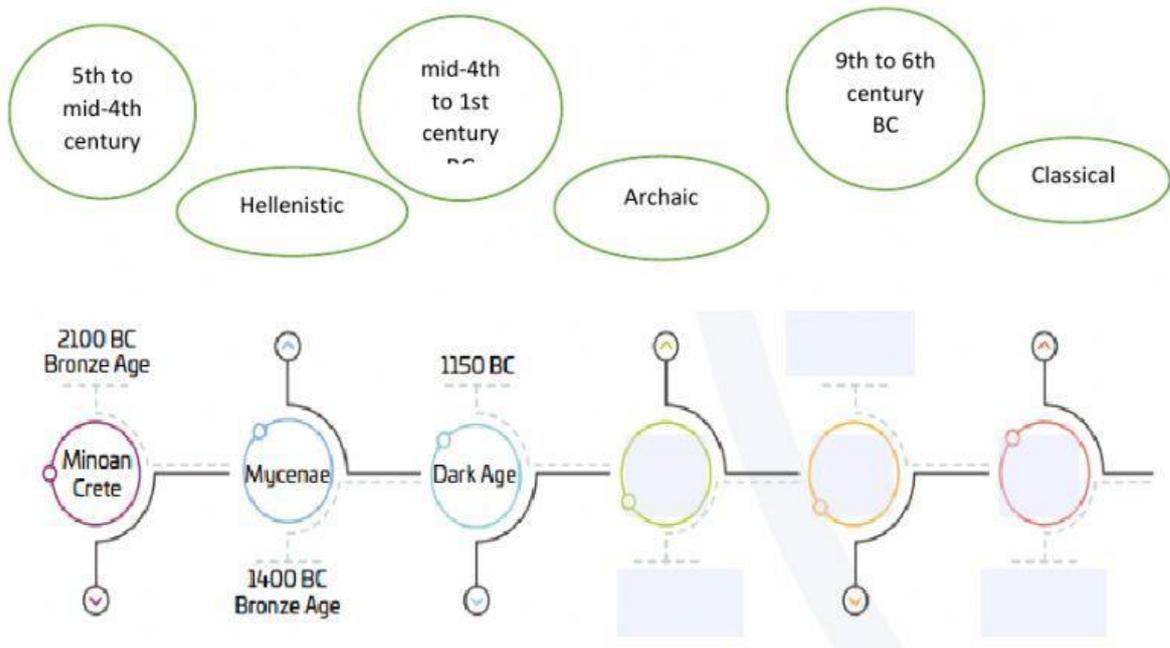
3. member of a naval ship or boat

4. buying and selling goods or services

5. separated into parts

6. having a special skill or knowledge

Complete Greece's timeline with information from the text.



Read the sentences. Write the reflexive pronouns in each sentence.

1. My parents went by \_\_\_\_\_ on vacation to the Greek islands.
2. Homer wrote the Iliad and the Odyssey all by \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Minotaur lived by \_\_\_\_\_ in the labyrinth.
4. Athena \_\_\_\_\_ was the goddess of wisdom, handicraft, and war.
5. I have always seen \_\_\_\_\_ visiting the porch of the Caryatids.

**06** Write sentences with the words given below.  
Look at the example.

1. Greek / architects / built / temples / themselves

Greek architects built temples by themselves.

2. The Parthenon / is / wonder / itself

\_\_\_\_\_

3. I / want / travel / Greece / myself

\_\_\_\_\_

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4. Sailors / sometimes / sailed / themselves

\_\_\_\_\_

5. We / visit / Mycenae ruins / ourselves

\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer the questions.**

What Greek influences do you see in today's culture?

How many gods did the Greeks worship?

Why do you think the Parthenon is so important to Greek culture?

What similarities can you find between the Greek, Roman, and Egyptian cultures?