Lesson 1: The Geography of Greece

DIRECTIONS: Read the summary to reveal how the ancient Greeks developed communities and traveled on the sea to trade with other peoples. As you read, highlight/underline important details in each section that relate to that section’s title. Think about what you already know, what you want to know, and what you have learned after reading the summary.

Vocabulary

agora: an outdoor marketplace in ancient Greece
plunder: goods taken during war

A Mountainous Land (p. 247)
Many ancient civilizations formed near rivers. The rivers would overflow in the spring and make the soil good for farming. Unlike previous civilizations you have read about this year, Greece DID NOT depend on a river. Greece is a rugged, mountainous land with no great rivers. It does not have much good farmland. Mountains divided the people which is why they were not a unified country. Greece is located in the southeastern corner of Europe. It is on the southern tip of the Balkan Peninsula. Greek-speaking people also lived on islands in the Aegean Sea. The sea separates Greece from the western edge of Asia.

A Land Tied to the Sea (p. 248)
Greece is surrounded by the sea on three sides. The Aegean Sea is to the east. The Ionian Sea is to the west. This sea separates Greece from Italy. The Mediterranean Sea is to the south. It links Greece with Asia, North Africa, and the western part of Europe. This location of Greece is at the crossroads of many different cultures. Greece’s coastline has many excellent harbors. The Greeks were great sailors and traders. Most people in ancient Greece lived along the coast and in the land’s few river valleys. There the Greeks raised animals and grew crops such as grapes, olives, and barley. The Greeks traded and sold crops with other peoples across the seas. Trade allowed Greek ideas to spread. It also allowed the Greeks to learn from other cultures.

Independent Communities (p. 249)
Geography affected how life in Greece developed. Uniting the country under one government was difficult. Ancient Greeks did share the same language and religion. Mountains divided Greece into different regions and kept people apart. Therefore, many independent cities sprang up with their own form of government. Each city did things its own way. The climate of Greece is pleasant, and the Greeks had an outdoor way of life. Summers are hot and dry. Most rainfall occurs during the winter months. The agora, or outdoor marketplace, was common in cities. The Greeks watched plays in outdoor theaters. Other forms of entertainment include political meetings, religious celebrations, and sports contests which were also held outdoors.

Two Early Greek Civilizations (p. 250-251)
The Minoan civilization was on the island of Crete, in the Mediterranean Sea. By 2500 B.C., the Minoans had a written language. They also could weave cloth and make pottery and jewelry which they traded. The Minoans controlled trade in the Aegean Sea. By 1600 B.C., the Minoans were powerful. Minoan ships protected the kingdom from invaders. Then the Minoan civilization grew weak. No one knows why. About 2000 B.C., groups of people went to the Greek mainland. Over hundreds of years, new city-states sprang up. The greatest early city-state was Mycenae. It became the center of civilization in the eastern Mediterranean. Mycenae was powerful and well defended because of the 20 feet thick walls surrounding the city. Its ships captured the ships of other cities. The Mycenaean took plunder, or goods taken during war.
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DIRECTIONS: The Greek civilization developed in a mountainous region nearly surrounded by seas. Fill in the organizer below with at least two facts describing ancient Greece in each box. Then answer the two questions that follow using complete sentences. You will use your textbook and/or summary (other side) to find your answers.

1. Climate p. 249
   - summers are hot and dry
   - 
   - 

2. Government p. 249
   - 
   - 
   - 

3. Landforms p. 247-8
   - 
   - 
   - 

4. Entertainment p. 249
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   - 

p. 250 5. What did the Minoan civilization trade with other islands? ________________________________________________

p. 251 6. What made Mycenae so well protected? ____________________________________________________________
Lesson 1: The Geography of Greece

DIRECTIONS: The Greek civilization developed in a mountainous region nearly surrounded by seas. Write the following causes or effects in their correct places on the graphic organizer below. A cause is WHY something happens. An effect is WHAT happens. You will use your textbook and/or summary (other side) to find your answers. Look for clue words within the text such as if, then, because, since, and so. Clue words can sometimes signal causes and effects.

- The Mediterranean Sea connects Greece to Asia, North Africa, and parts of Western Europe.
- Many Greeks spent their time in outdoor marketplaces.
- Trade allowed Greek ideas to spread.
- Mountains divided people in Greece.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p. 247</td>
<td>Greece was not unified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. 248</td>
<td>Greece is at the crossroads of many cultures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece receives rain in the winter months. Otherwise it is hot and dry.</td>
<td>p. 249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeks sold crops to other lands.</td>
<td>p. 248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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