SECTION 1

Step-by-Step Instruction

Objectives
As you teach this section, keep students focused on the following objectives to help them answer the Section Focus Question and master core content.

- Identify the influences on Minoan culture and how the civilization prospered.
- Summarize how Mycenaeans ruled the sea trade and started the Trojan War.
- Describe the works of Homer and their influence on Greek culture.

Prepare to Read

Build Background Knowledge
Ask students to share what they already know about Ancient Greece such as its location, government, and art.

Set a Purpose

Witness History Audio CD
Zeus Kidnaps Europa
Ask: What type of story is this and who are the main characters? (a Greek myth; Zeus, Europa)

Focus
Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (Answer appears with Section 1 Assessment answers.)

Preview
Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.

Reading Skill
Have students use the Reading Strategy: Summarize worksheet.

Note Taking
Have students read this section using the Structured Read aloud strategy (TE, p. T21). As they read, have students fill in the table identifying the section’s main ideas.

Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 36

114 Ancient Greece

Greek amphora, or storage pot, depicting the kidnapping of Europa

Vocabulary Builder

Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use word from this section.

Witness History Audio CD
Witness History, Audio CD
Zeus Kidnaps Europa

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Terms, People, and Places

- Minoans
- Mycenaeans
- Dorians
- Crete
- Trojan War
- Homer
- Zeus
- Europa
- Greek amphora

Note Taking
Reading Skill: Identify Main Ideas
Create a table like the one below. Then, use the table to record the main ideas related to the groups of people discussed in the section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minoans</th>
<th>Mycenaeans</th>
<th>Dorians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Early People of the Aegean

The island of Crete (kreet) was the cradle of an early civilization that later influenced Greeks living on the European mainland. The people of Crete, however, had absorbed many ideas from the older civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia. Europa’s mythic journey from Phoenicia to Crete suggests this movement of ideas from east to west.

Minoans Trade and Prosper

Washed by the warm waters of the Aegean (ee JEE un) Sea, Crete was home to a brilliant early civilization. We do not actually know what the people who built this civilization called themselves. However, the British archaeologist who unearthed its ruins called them Minoans after Minos, a legendary king of Crete. Minoan civilization reached its height, or greatest success, between 1600 B.C. and 1500 B.C.

The success of the Minoans was based on trade, not conquest. Minoan traders set up outposts throughout the Aegean world. From their island home in the eastern Mediterranean, they crossed the seas to the Nile Valley and the Middle East. Through contact with Egypt and Mesopotamia, they acquired ideas and technology in fields such as writing and architecture that they adapted to their own culture.

Minoan Art at Knossos

The rulers of this trading empire lived in a vast palace at Knossos (NAHS os). It housed rooms for the royal family, banquet halls, and working areas for artisans.

Reading Strategy: Summarize

eloquence, p. 116

Use a manner of speech that is vivid and persuasive.

The governor spoke with eloquence about the courage of the smoke jumpers who fought the forest fire.

Minoans Trade and Prosper

Witness History Audio CD

Zeus Kidnaps Europa

Europe, the beautiful daughter of the king of Phoenicia, was gathering flowers when she saw a bull quietly grazing with her father’s bulls. The bull was actually Zeus, king of all the Greek gods, who had taken in love with her. When Europa reached up to place flowers on his horns, he suddenly bounded into the air and carried the weeping princess far across the Mediterranean Sea to the island of Crete. Eventually, Europa married the king of Crete and gave her name to a new continent—Europe.

Focus Question
How did the Minoans and Mycenaeans shape early Greek civilizations?
The walls of the palace at Knossos were covered with colorful frescoes, watercolor paintings done on wet plaster. These frescoes tell us much about Minoan society. Leaping dolphins reflect the importance of the sea to the Minoan people. Religious images indicate that the Minoans worshiped the bull as well as a mother goddess. Other frescoes show young men and women strolling through gardens or jumping through the horns of a charging bull. The paintings also suggest that women appeared freely in public and may have enjoyed more rights than women in most other ancient civilizations.

Minoan Civilization Disappears By about 1400 B.C., Minoan civilization had vanished. Archaeologists are not sure of the reasons for its disappearance. A sudden volcanic eruption on a nearby island may have rained flaming death on Knossos. Or perhaps an earthquake may have destroyed the palace, followed by an immense wave that drowned the inhabitants of the island. However, it is certain that invaders played some role in the destruction of Minoan civilization. These intruders were the Mycenaeans (my suh NEE unz), the first Greek-speaking people of whom we have a written record.

Checkpoint How does the art at Knossos reflect Minoan culture?

Trade and War in Mycenae

Like the Aryans who spread across India, the Mycenaeans spoke an Indo-European language. They conquered the Greek mainland before overrunning the island of Crete.

Sea Trade Brings Wealth Mycenaean civilization dominated the Aegean world from about 1400 B.C. to 1200 B.C. Like the Minoans, the Mycenaeans were sea traders. They reached out beyond the Aegean to Sicily, Italy, Egypt, and Mesopotamia. The Mycenaeans learned many skills from the Minoans, including the art of writing. They, too, absorbed Egyptian and Mesopotamian customs, many of which they passed on to later Greeks.

The Mycenaeans lived in separate city-states on the mainland. In each, a warrior-king built a thick-walled fortress from which he ruled the surrounding villages. Wealthy rulers amassed treasures, including fine gold ornaments that archaeologists have unearthed from their tombs.

Checkpoint How do the scene described above and the daggers below reflect the importance of the sea to the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations?

Answers

Caption The fresco and the inlay on the dagger show scenes from the sea, thus the sea was of great importance to both civilizations.

The Knossos artwork illustrates the importance of the sea to the Minoan culture and provides details of the culture's daily life.
Homer and the Great Legends of Greece

Introduce
Tell students that Greek civilization declined after the fall of Mycenae and the arrival of the Dorians. People even lost the ability to write. Use the Idea Wave strategy (TE p. T20) to have students brainstorm what types of conditions today might send a civilization into a similar decline? (Sample: nuclear war, economic collapse, tyranny)

Teach
Discuss the work of Homer and its influence on Greek civilization. Ask What were the topics of the Iliad and the Odyssey and who wrote them? (The Iliad tells the story of the Trojan War, the Odyssey tells of Odysseus’ long voyage home after the war; both may have been the work of many people, though they are attributed to Homer, a blind poet.) What might people today learn about the ancient Greeks from these epic poems? (We can get hints about daily life, ancient warfare, religious beliefs, and the values of the ancient Greeks.)

Independent Practice
Link to Literature
To help students better understand the works of Homer, have them read the excerpt from The Odyssey and complete the worksheet.

Monitor Progress
Check Reading and Note Taking Study Guide entries for student understanding.

Answers
Trade brought wealth and prosperity in addition to contact with the ideas and skills of other cultures; however, trade also brought conflict.

Caption
Sample: The war was a great triumph for the Minoans and memorializing it in art glorified the event as well as the victor.

Vocabulary Builder
Necropolis (n. in Greek) the site of tombs; in a number of speeches that is vivid and permanent

Differentiated Instruction
Solutions for All Learners

Homer and the Great Legends of Greece

The Trojan War
The Mycenaeans are best remembered for their part in the Trojan War, which took place about 1250 B.C. The conflict may have had its origins in economic rivalry between Mycenae and Troy, a rich trading city in present-day Turkey, that controlled the vital straits, or narrow water passage, connecting the Mediterranean and Black seas.

In Greek legend, however, the war had a more romantic cause. When the Trojan prince, Paris, kidnaped Helen, the beautiful wife of a Greek king, the Mycenaeans sailed to Troy to rescue her. For the next 10 years, the two sides battled until the Greeks finally stormed and burned the city to the ground.

For centuries, most people regarded the Trojan War as pure legend. Then, in the 1870s, a wealthy German businessman, Heinrich Schliemann (HYN rik SHEL yuh mahn), set out to prove that the legend was rooted in fact. As Schliemann excavated the site of ancient Troy, he found evidence of fire and war dating to about 1250 B.C. Though most of the details remain lost in legend, modern scholars now agree that the Trojan War was an actual event.

Checkup
How did trade shape Mycenaean society?

Homer and the Great Legends of Greece

Not long after their victory over Troy, the Mycenaeans themselves came under attack from sea raiders and also from another Greek-speaking people, the Dorians, invading from the north. As Mycenaean power faded, these people abandoned the cities and trade declined. People forgot many skills, including the art of writing. From the end of the Mycenaean civilization in about 1100 B.C. until about 900 B.C., Greek civilization seemed to step backward.

Much of what we know about the Trojan War and life during that period comes from two great epic poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey. These epics may have been the work of many people, but they are credited to the poet Homer, who probably lived about 750 B.C. According to tradition, Homer was a blind poet who wandered from village to village, singing of heroic deeds. Like the great Indian epic, Homer’s tales were passed on orally for generations before they were finally written down.

The Iliad, full as it is of gods, goddesses, and even a talking horse, is our chief source of information about the Trojan War. At the start of the poem, Achilles (ahk LIS), the mightiest Greek warrior, has withdrawn from battle because he has been unfairly treated and insulted by his commander. The war soon turns against the Greeks, but Achilles stubbornly refuses to listen to pleas that he rejoin the fighting. Only after his best friend is killed does Achilles return to battle.

The Odyssey tells of the many struggles of the Greek hero Odysseus (uh DIS ee us) on his return home to his faithful wife, Penelope, after the fall of Troy. On his long voyage, Odysseus encounters a sea monster, a race of one-eyed giants, and a beautiful sorceress who turns men into swine.

The Trojan Horse
The story of the Trojan horse had great significance to ancient Greeks. The image of the horse was often used by Greek artisans to decorate their work, such as this relief on the neck of a seventh-century B.C. amphora. Why do you think the ancient Greeks would memorialize the Trojan War in that art?

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Looking Ahead

After the Doric invasions, the land of Greece passed several centuries in obscurity. The people lived in small isolated villages and had few contacts with the outside world. Time was in reverse, the stories about Crete and Mycenae a part of their heritage, and they built upon the legacy of those and other civilizations to forge a new, Greek civilization. When it emerged, this Greek civilization would not only dominate the region, it would ultimately extend the influence of Greek culture over most of the Western world.

Sentences should reflect an understanding of each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. Draw Inferences: What values of the ancient Greeks are found in the poems of Homer?

5. Demonstrate Reasoned Judgment: Do you think the epics of Homer are a reliable source of information about the history of the ancient Greeks? Why or why not?

Primary Source

“Every man make up his mind to fight.
And more on his enemy! Strong as I am,
It's hard for me to face so many men.
And fight with all at once. . . .
And yet I will.”

—Homer, Iliad

For almost 3,000 years, the epics of Homer have inspired European writers and artists.

Checkpoint What do Homer’s epics reveal about Greek culture?

Assess and Reteach

Assess Progress

■ Have students complete the Section Assessment.

■ Administer the Section Quiz.

Teaching Resources, Unit 1, p. 62

■ To further assess student understanding, use Progress Monitoring Transparencies, 14

Reevaluate

If students need more instruction, have them read the section summary.

Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 37

Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 37

Spanish Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 37

Extend

Have students conduct research on the Minoan or Mycenaean civilization to locate additional or recently discovered artifacts that provide detail on the cultures of these ancient societies. Then have students draw or paste images of their findings on a poster and include short summaries describing the artifact, its use, where it was found, how old it is, and what it reveals about the Minoan or Mycenaean culture.

Answer

The epics reveal the values of the ancient Greeks with their depiction of heroism, courage, and eloquence as well as details of their religious beliefs and warfare.

Writing About History

Thesis statements should express the main idea of their essay on the contributions of the Aegean civilization.

For additional assessment, have students access Progress Monitoring Online at Web Code naa-0411.

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