

Chapter IV: The Ancient Greeks (p.76)

As you read these sections, be thinking about how geography can affect political organization
Also - how can differences between people lead to conflict and change?

Vocabulary Words, People, Places and Key Points:**L1 - Poets and Heroes p. 76**The Importance of Geography

Many geographic features of Greece played a huge part in its development:

- 1 occupied a very small area compared to Mesopotamia or Egypt
- 2 two peninsulas and many small islands
- 3 very mountainous (about 80%)
- 4 water separated Greece into many parts as well (which bodies of water)

How would this geography affect the ways the Greeks settled down and lived?

- 1 isolated from each other
- 2 very independent and proud
- 3 seafaring - much trade and contact with outsiders

Mycenaens - (the first Greeks)

Mycenaens: part of the group of Indo-Europeans who spread into Europe and Asia. They prided themselves on their BATTLE SKILLS. The famous Greek poet, HOMER, more later>>>> wrote about their fighting in the Trojan War against the city of Troy.

Dark Age: after the Mycenaens fell, Greece entered into a Dark Age:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1100 BC-750 BC | 1 population declined | 3 hard times - no progress or culture |
| | 2 low food production | 4 many left and formed Greek colonies elsewhere |

Finally, some things began to improve during the 8th century BC:

- 1 revival of agriculture, trade and economic activity
- 2 iron replaced bronze for weapons>>>stronger and more affordable
- 3 iron helped tools to produce more food
- 4 adopted the Phoenician alphabet - this new system of writing made learning simpler

HOMER: one of the greatest poets of all time (many say the greatest) He began to write at the end of the Dark Age.

Epic Poem: tells the deeds of a great hero

The Iliad: hero is Achilles / he learns many valuable lessons

The Odyssey: hero is Odysseus / the story is his journey home from the Trojan War

Homer's writings were very influential, not only on ancient Greeks, but to many people even today.

- 1 they gave the Greeks a vision for who they were and were a great inspiration to the young
- 2 they were used as texts for education
- 3 they taught values like courage and honor...taught them to strive for excellence.
- 4 arete: Greek word for struggle or contest>>>showed the Greeks how to preserve honor and a good reputation ...a good model for Greeks to follow for the future.