GEOGRAPHY AND CIVILIZATIONS OF THE AEGEAN
ANCIENT GREEK GEOGRAPHY

- A peninsula
- At the southern end of the Balkans
- 1400 islands
  - maritime culture
- About the size of Alabama
  - Slightly larger than Ohio
PELOPONNESUS

Peninsula within a peninsula
Important Geographic Features of Greece

Surrounded on three sides by sea

- Aegean Sea – east
- Ionian Sea - west
- Mediterranean Sea – south
THE HELLESPIONT

- Strait connecting Aegean Sea and Black Sea
  - separates Asia Minor and Greece
- Now known as 'the Dardanelles'
Important Geographic Features of Greece

- Surrounded on three sides by sea
- Largely covered by rugged mountains
- 80% of Greece is covered by mountains or hills
- Pindos Mountains – “Greek Rockies”
Important Geographic Features of Greece

- Surrounded on three sides by sea
- Largely covered by rugged mountains
- Highest point is Mt. Olympus (Olimbos) – 9570 ft.
MOUNT OLYMPUS

Home of the gods ??
Important Geographic Features of Greece

- Surrounded on three sides by sea
- Largely covered by rugged mountains
- Climate good for growing olives and grapes
  - Hot/dry summers
  - Cool/wet winters (¾ of rainfall)
  - ¼ of land suitable for farming
  - Olives → olive oil, grapes → wine, wheat → bread
1400 Islands

- 227 are inhabited
- Largest is Crete
- Tourism

Corfu  Crete  Mykonos  Rhodes  Santorini (Thera)
CRETE

- Largest Greek island
- Home to the Minoans
- Capital was Knossos
Cyclades Islands

- Archipelago
- 220 islands
- Underwater part of Pindos Mountains
THERA

- Minoan island → Atlantis ???
- Destroyed in 1628 BC by a super volcano
THE MINOANS

- Named Minoans after King Minos
PALACE AT KNOSSES

- 1400 rooms
- "Minotaur" in the labyrinth?
WORSHIPPED BULLS
MINOAN WRITING

• Linear A
  – 1700 BC – 1450 BC
  – We can’t read it yet

• Linear B
  – 1450 BC – 1350 BC
  – We CAN read this
MINOAN COMMERCE

• Great shipbuilders
• Large trade network
• Exported
  – wool
  – olive oil
  – timber
• Imported
  – other raw materials
  – luxury items
END OF MINOAN CIVILIZATION

• Theory 1
  – Mycenaeans - 1400 BC
• Theory 2
  – volcano at Thera - 1628 BC
  – May have allowed “Theory 1”
THE MYCENAEANS

- 1600-1150 BC
- City of Mycenae – on mainland Greece
- Liked war... a lot!
- King Agamemnon – led the Greeks during Trojan War
DAWN OF THE “DARK AGES”

• Mycenae destroyed - 1150 BC
  – Earthquakes ?? Sea People ?? Pirates??

• Greece entered “Dark Ages”
THE TROJANS

- City of Troy
  - Trade rival vs. Greeks
- King Priam and his son Paris
TROJAN WAR

• 10-year war
• Greeks destroyed Troy - 1190 BC
  – Trick? Trojan Horse
JUST FOR FUN !!!

• Visit the major Greek Islands on Google Earth
  – Download it at http://earth.google.com
  – Under “Layers” at bottom left of screen
    • Check boxes for
      – Terrain
      – Featured Content
      – Borders
      – Populated Places
      – Geographic Features (optional – shows mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes, etc.)
  – Click here to download and install the Google Earth .kmz file to add the these Greek islands to your “My Places”
  – You can use Wikipedia to get coordinates
    • http://www.wikipedia.org
    • Copy and paste coordinates into Google Earth
JUST FOR FUN !!!

• **The Cyclades Islands** – 37°00′N 25°10′E
  - **Thera (Santorini)** – 36°25'N 25°26'E
    - Volcano – 36°24'14.40"N 25°23'45.60"E
  - **Delos** – 37°24′N 25°16′E
    - Ruins / Amphitheatre – 37°23'54.44"N 25°16'1.13"E
• **Crete** – 35°18′N 25°10′E
  - 1400-room Palace of Minos at Knossos – 35°17'52.68"N 25° 9'48.10"E
• **Lesbos** – 39°10′N 26°20′E
  - Sappho’s city of Myteline – 39° 6'11.42"N 26°33'24.85"E
• **Rhodes** – 36°10′N 28°00′E
  - Colossus of Rhodes and Medieval city – 36°26'49.12"N 28°13'49.58"E
• **Salamis** – 37°58′N 23°30′E
  - Paloukia Port – 37°57'41.52"N 23°31'42.61"E