

# Ancient Greece – Geography Intro Reading

## **READING Directions:** Check off as you complete the step.

- Read the paragraph below with your **TEAM** or **INDEPENDENTLY**
- Highlight important details as you read.
- Annotate & talk to the text
- Answer the questions using what you learned from the reading



## **Peninsulas & Islands**

The Greeks lived on rocky, mountainous lands surrounded by water. The mainland of Greece is a peninsula, an area of land surrounded on three sides by water. But the Greek peninsula is very irregular. It's one big peninsula made up of a series of smaller peninsulas. The land and sea intertwine like your hand and fingers in a bowl of water. In addition, there are many islands. Look at the map of Greece and notice the rugged (jagged) coastline.

In your mind, picture those peninsulas and islands covered by mountains that stretch almost to the sea. Just a few small valleys and coastal plains provide flat land for farming and villages. Now you have an image of Greece, a land where one of the world's greatest civilizations developed.

## **Mountains and Settlements**

Because mountains cover much of Greece, there are few flat areas for farmland. People settled in those flat areas along the coast and in river valleys. They lived in villages and towns separated by mountains and seas.

Travel across the mountains and seas was difficult so communities were isolated from one another. As a result, the people created their own governments and ways of life.

## **Seas and Ships**

Since travel on the peninsula of Greece was so difficult due to the mountains, the early Greeks used the seas as a source of food and as a way of trading with other communities. The Greeks also became skilled shipbuilders and sailors. Their ships sailed to Asia Minor (present-day Turkey), to Egypt and to the islands of the Mediterranean and Aegean seas. As they traveled around these seas, they found sources of food and other products they needed. They also exchanged ideas with other cultures.

**1. Where did the Greeks live?**

**2. What type of landform is Greece?**

**3. What covers the peninsulas and islands?**

**4. What does the small amount of flat land allow the Greeks to do?**

**5. Why was travel difficult for the Greeks?**

**6. How did the early Greeks use the seas?**

**7. Who did they exchange ideas with?**

**CHALLENGE:** List all the physical features discussed in the passage.

## How Did The Physical Features Affect Ancient Greece?

**Directions:** Read each statement and decide if it represents an effect of the Mountains or Seas on Greece. Write Mountain, Sea, or Both in the chart.

<b><i>STATEMENT</i></b>	<b><i>MOUNTAINS/SEAS OR BOTH?!</i></b> <b><i>CIRCLE WHICH ONE YOU THINK IS CORRECT!</i></b>
<b>There was little farmland.</b>	
<b>These were a source of food.</b>	
<b>These separated villages and towns from each other</b>	
<b>These was a way to trade with other civilizations</b>	
<b>These made travel difficult</b>	
<b>These helped transportation</b>	
<b>These allowed for little contact between towns</b>	
<b>These helped the Greeks exchange ideas with other cultures.</b>	

**Fold & Glue**