



THE GEOGRAPHY AND CITY-STATES OF

ANCIENT

GREECE

After the river valley era, a number of classical civilizations developed in the *Mediterranean* and in *Asia*

The first major classical civilization was ancient *Greece*

Classic cultures created high levels of achievement in *art, science,* and *technology* that impacted *future* ages

Impact of Geography on Greece:

How might Greece being located on the Mediterranean Sea impact Greek culture?



Impact of Geography on Greece: How might Greece's mountainous terrain affect Greek culture?



Greece's lack of natural resources and **location** on the Mediterranean Sea encouraged Greek **trade** with neighboring societies



The Greeks were **skilled sailors**, which linked the various Greek states with neighboring countries

Legend:
Orange box: Greece in 1300 B.C.
Red line: Flow of trade

Mountains covered about **75%** of Greece; these barriers ***divided*** the Greek people into separate mountain valleys and made unifying Greece nearly impossible



The Greek people were divided into *independent* city-states (called *polis*) within each valley and its surrounding mountains



Greek Culture

Despite their lack of *unity*, the Greeks shared some common characteristics:

–Greeks shared the same *language*

–Greek *writing* was influenced by the Phoenician alphabet and later became the basis for Latin

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Greeks were polytheistic and believed that the *gods* were immortal, but also that they had *human qualities*; religion became the basis for Greek mythology



Zeus

King of the gods

Athena

Goddess of wisdom

Aphrodite

Goddess of love

Apollo

God of sun & music

Ares

God of war

Hades

God of underworld

Hera

Goddess of family

Poseidon

Greek city-states had an *agora* (a massive marketplace) that was the center for trade and government



City-states had an *acropolis*, a temple on a hill dedicated to one of the sacred gods or goddesses

Differences Among Greek City-States

Despite similar language and religion, the Greek polis were very *different* from each other, especially in how they were *governed*



Differences Among Greek City-States

Some polis had a *monarchy*, a government ruled by a *king*

Monarchy



- State ruled by a king
- Rule is hereditary
- Some rulers claim divine right
- Practiced in Mycenae by 2000 B.C.

Greek City-States, 750 B.C.



Differences Among Greek City-States

Some polis had an *aristocracy*, a government ruled by *elite nobles*

Aristocracy

- State ruled by nobility
- Rule is hereditary and based on family ties, social rank, wealth
- Social status and wealth support rulers' authority
- Practiced in Corinth

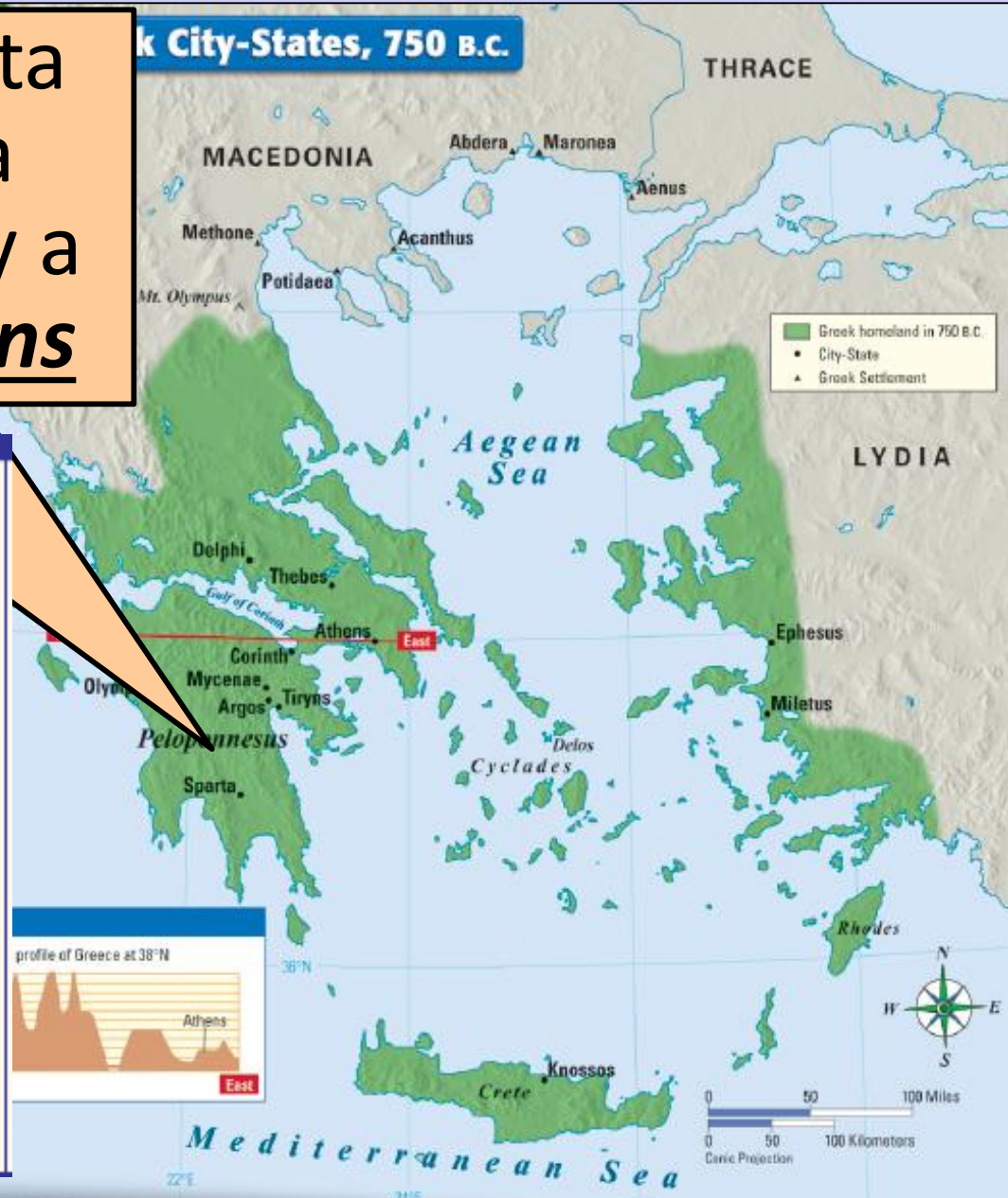


Differences Among Greek City-States

Some polis like Sparta had an oligarchy, a government ruled by a small group of citizens

Oligarchy

- State ruled by a small group of citizens
- Rule is based on wealth or ability
- Ruling group controls military
- Practiced in Sparta by 500 B.C.



Differences Among Greek City-States

Some polis like Athens had a **direct democracy**, a government ruled by **citizens who vote** on decisions

Direct Democracy

- State ruled by its citizens
- Rule is based on citizenship
- Majority rule decides vote
- Practiced in Athens by about 500 B.C.



The powerful Greek city-states *Athens* and *Sparta* represented the greatest *differences* among polis

Athenian society focused on wealth and *culture*:

–Athens had a direct democracy in which both *rich* and *poor* citizens could vote and hold public office



Athenian society focused on wealth & culture

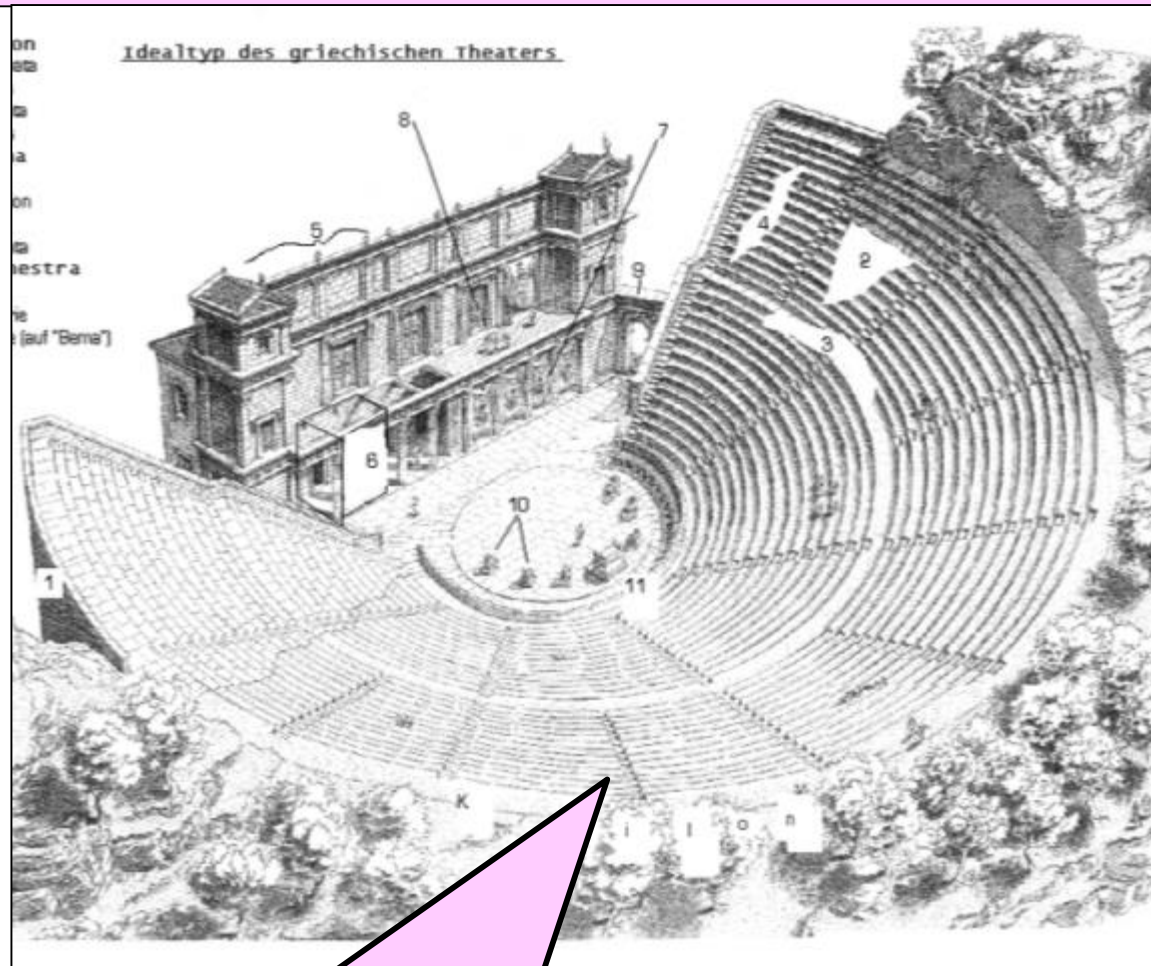


Architects built the **Parthenon** to honor the goddess Athena; the Greeks were known for ***beautiful buildings*** whose style can be seen in many modern buildings in several countries

Athenian society focused on wealth & culture

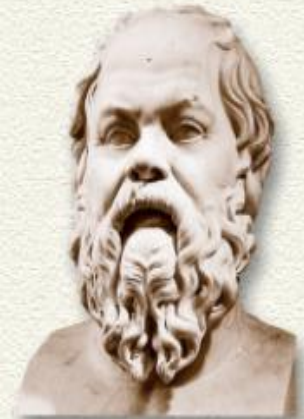


Artists created realistic sculptures



Theater had both comedies and tragedies

Athenian society focused on wealth & culture



Socrates
470–399 B.C.

Socrates encouraged his students to examine their beliefs. He asked them a series of leading

questions to show that people hold many contradictory opinions. This question-and-answer approach to teaching is known as the Socratic method. Socrates devoted his life to gaining self-knowledge and once said, "There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance."



Plato
427–347 B.C.

Born into a wealthy Athenian family, Plato had careers as a wrestler and a poet before he became a

philosopher. After Socrates, his teacher, died, Plato left Greece. He later returned to Athens and founded a school called the Academy in 387 B.C. The school lasted for approximately 900 years. It was Plato who once stated, "Philosophy begins in wonder."



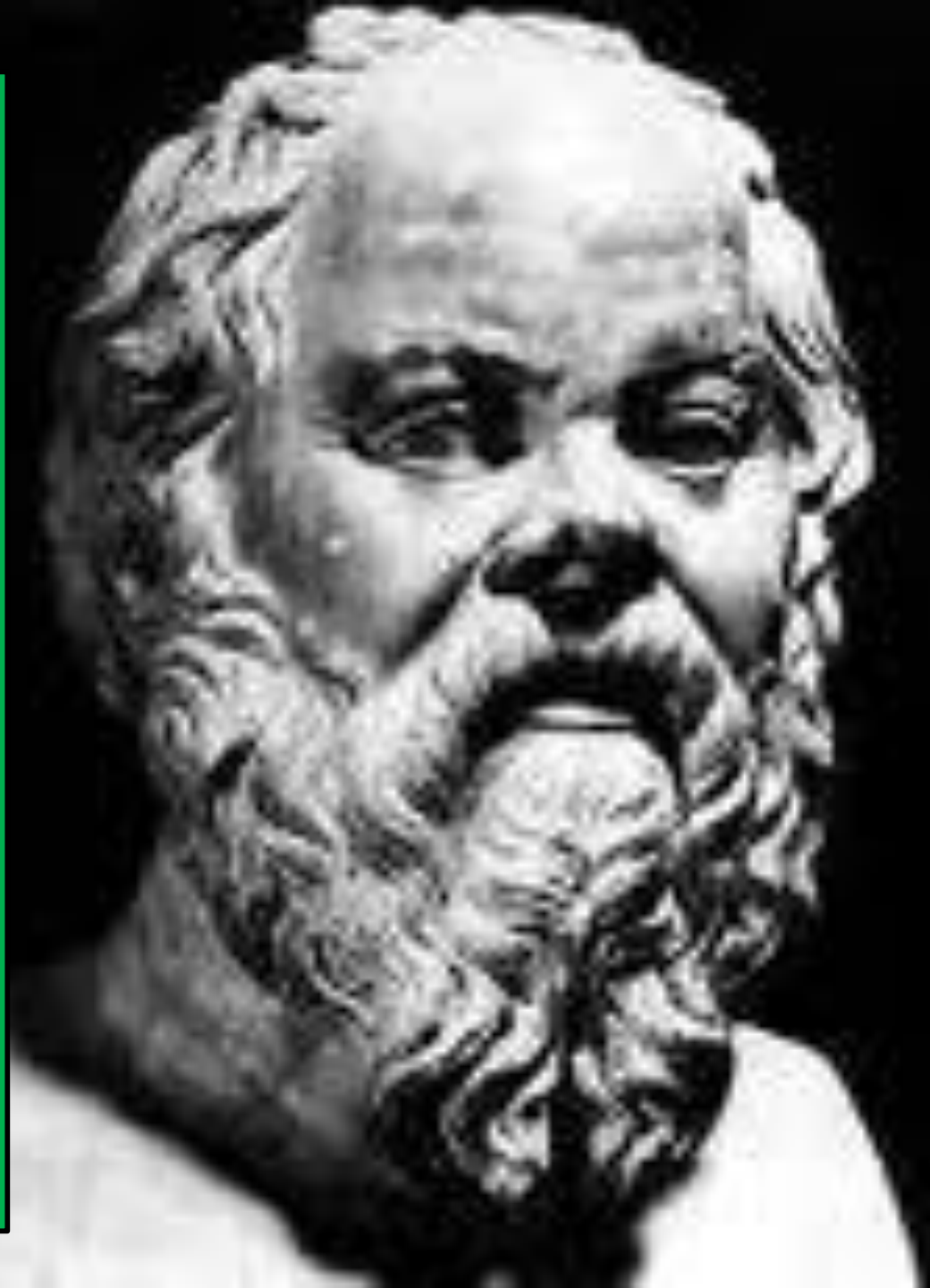
Aristotle
384–322 B.C.

Aristotle, the son of a physician, was one of the brightest students at Plato's Academy. He came there as a

young man and stayed for 20 years until Plato's death. In 335 B.C., Aristotle opened his own school in Athens called the Lyceum. The school eventually rivaled the Academy. Aristotle once argued, "He who studies how things originated . . . will achieve the clearest view of them."

Philosophers - Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle questioned assumptions, quested for knowledge, and used **logic** to find answers to questions

The Greek cultural contributions (especially from Athens) to philosophy, art, ***entertainment***, literature, ***architecture***, science, education, and ***democracy*** formed the foundation of ***Western civilization***





The society of Sparta focused on ***military strength***, not freedom, art, and learning (like Athens)



Spartan boys left the home at ***age 7*** and lived in an army barracks

Until the age of ***30***, they trained, exercised, and ***fought***

Spartan men stayed involved with the military until ***age 60***



This system produced ***tough, skilled soldiers***; the Spartans were taught to put military service above everything, even family



Spartan **women** ran the family estates while the men were training or fighting

This was different from other Greek city-states, where women had **little role** in society

The women were also taught to value service to Sparta above **family**; they would often say to sons and husbands before they went off to **war**:
“Come back **WITH** your shield... or **ON** it.”

The Spartans showed their *strength* during the wars with *Persia*



King Darius' army was defeated by several Greek city-states when some **Greeks** living in the Persian Empire's territory **revolted**



Persia's next king, **Xerxes**, never forgot this defeat and decided to teach Greece a lesson; he led his massive forces in an **invasion** of Greece

In ***the Battle of Thermopylae***, a small ***Spartan*** force of only ***300 soldiers*** (supported by some soldiers from other states) managed to hold off the Persian invaders and inflict terrible losses



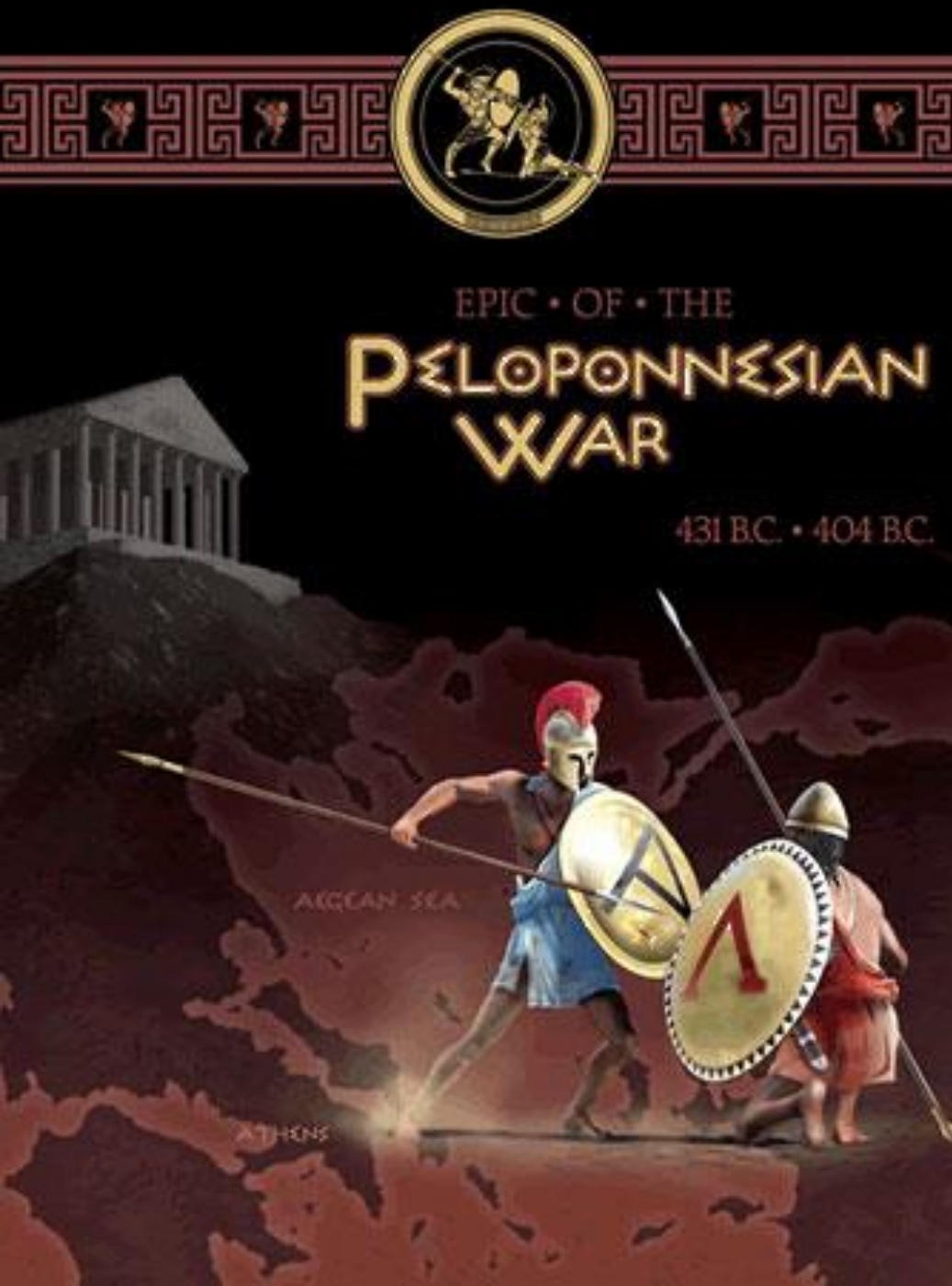
Even though the 300 soldiers were all ***killed***, their actions ***inspired*** the various Greek city-states to work together and defeat Xerxes

Athens and ***Sparta*** worked well together against Persia, but after that war, they ***competed*** for influence in Greece



This rivalry would lead to ***conflict***

most powerful city-state on the peninsula of Peloponnesus. Athens... of the city-states along the Aegean Sea. Prolonged warfare... s and Sparta permanently weakened the region.

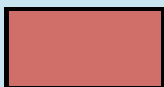


The war between Sparta and Athens was called the ***Peloponnesian War*** (named after the southern part of Greece, where Sparta was located)

Sparta won, but the war left all of Greece ***weakened***



Athens and allies



Sparta and allies



Other Greek areas

The Peloponnesian War left the weakened Greece open to be *conquered*, which is what happened when *Macedonia* invaded

Closure Activity

Where would you rather live:
Athens or Sparta? Why?

