

# The Geography of Ancient Greece

The geography of ancient Greece influenced the civilization in many important ways. As you read more, you will learn that the geography had both positive and negative effects on the lives of the people in ancient Greece.

You may be familiar with Mount Olympus where many of the Greek gods are said to have lived and Mount Vesuvius which erupted and buried the city of Pompeii. There are many other mountains in the regions, covering much of the land. These mountains acted as a natural barrier. They protected the Greek city-states from invasions. It also allowed independent city-states to develop their own cultures and governments. Along with protection, the mountains provided marble. The Greeks used this marble for sculptures and architecture.

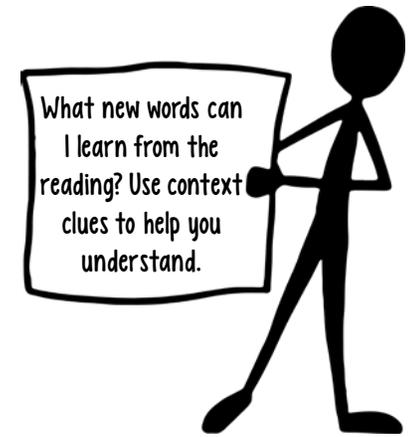


While there were positive aspects of being surrounded by mountains, there were challenges because of the location. There was little land available for farming. The land was rocky and not fertile. Because of this, there was food scarcity in some areas. The citizens of Greece did find that grapes and olive trees would grow well, even with rocky soil. While being separated by mountains allowed the city-states to develop their own forms of government, it also led to isolation. Conflicts sometimes developed because of a lack of communication and cooperation. The civilization was never completely united. It was also difficult to travel from place to place.

The peninsula is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea which helped to provide the city-states with resources they could not get from the land. Seas gave the Greeks opportunities to trade, fish, and explore other parts of the area. The seas also allowed cultural exchange between other civilizations. While the water provided benefits for the Greeks, it also made them vulnerable to piracy and invasions from seafaring civilizations.

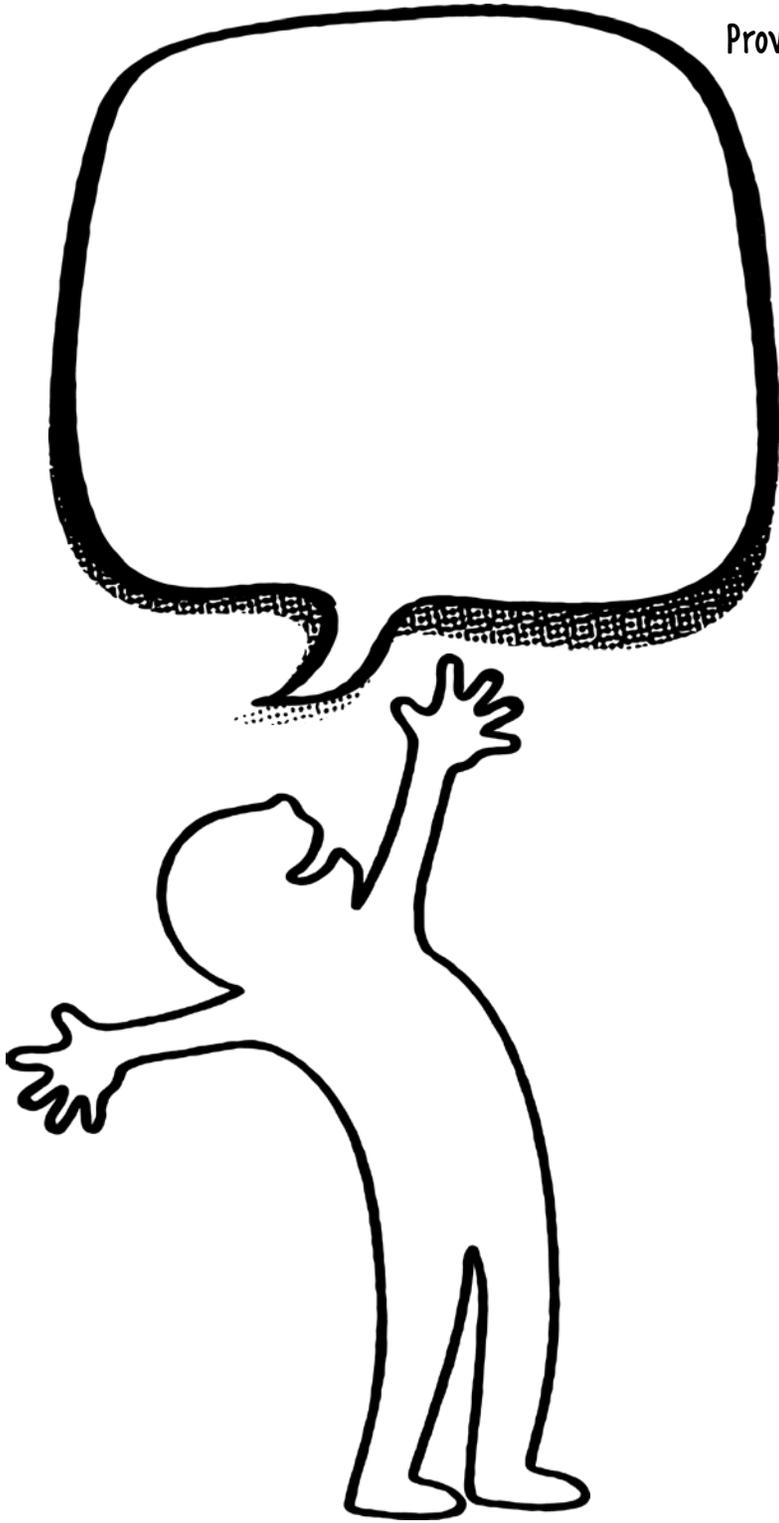
Use context clues to help you read and understand new words.

1. Highlight three words that are important in the reading.
2. What clues do you see around the words? What other words help you understand the meaning?
3. Write what you think each word means. Check to see if your definition is correct.



word	context clues	definition

Provide a claim and evidence that supports the positive impact geography had on ancient Greece.



1.

2.

3.

Name:

Provide a claim and evidence that supports the negative impact geography had on ancient Greece.

1.
2.
3.

Name:

