

The Geography of Ancient Greece

Focus on: Claims & Evidence

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.

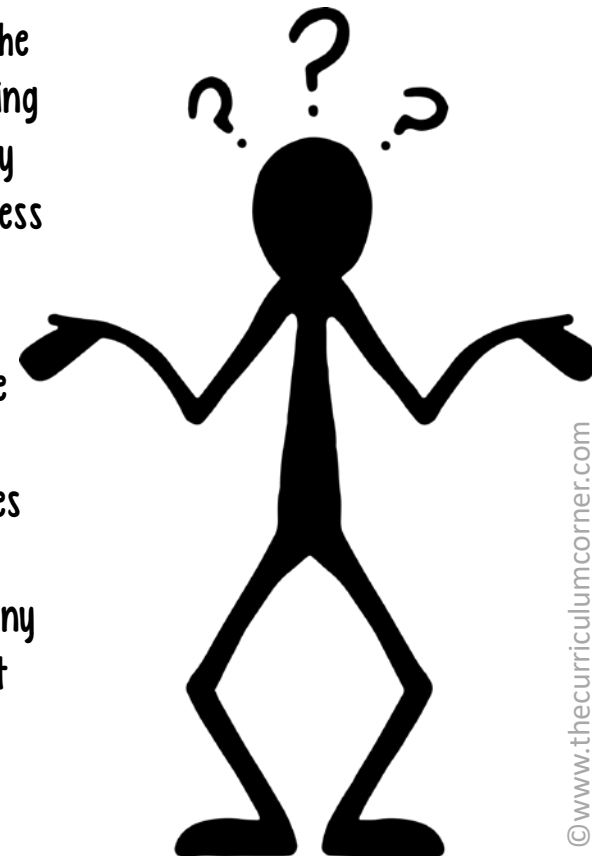
You may be familiar with Mount Olympus where many of the Greek gods are said to have lived and Mount Vesuvius which erupted and buried the city of Pompei. There are many other mountains in the region, covering much of the land. The peninsula is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea which provided the city-states with resources they could not get from the land.

The land was varied, much of the land was mountainous and other parts were islands. The mountains caused many people to settle along the coast and the rocky terrain made it challenging for farming to flourish. They found that they could grow olive trees and grapes well in the rocky soil and were able to grow some grain. Shepherds could also use the land for small herds of 10 or less to graze. For the most part, the lack of fertile soil forced the Greeks to be dependent on trade rather than farming.

The mountains spreading across Greece made it difficult for much of the civilization to be completely united. Because of the natural barriers, many city-states felt independent. It was difficult to travel from place to place which also meant that communication between city-states was slow. However, this natural barrier made it a challenge for enemies to attack.

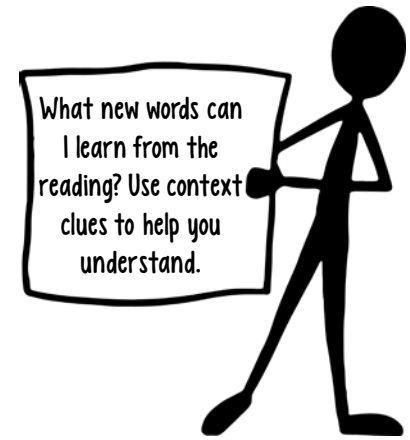
Greece is surrounded on three sides by water. While the land in Greece did not contain many natural resources, the sea was different. Fishing became a way of life for many. The people built ports and traveled across the sea so that they could transport and trade goods.

The land and water influenced the culture in Greece in many ways.

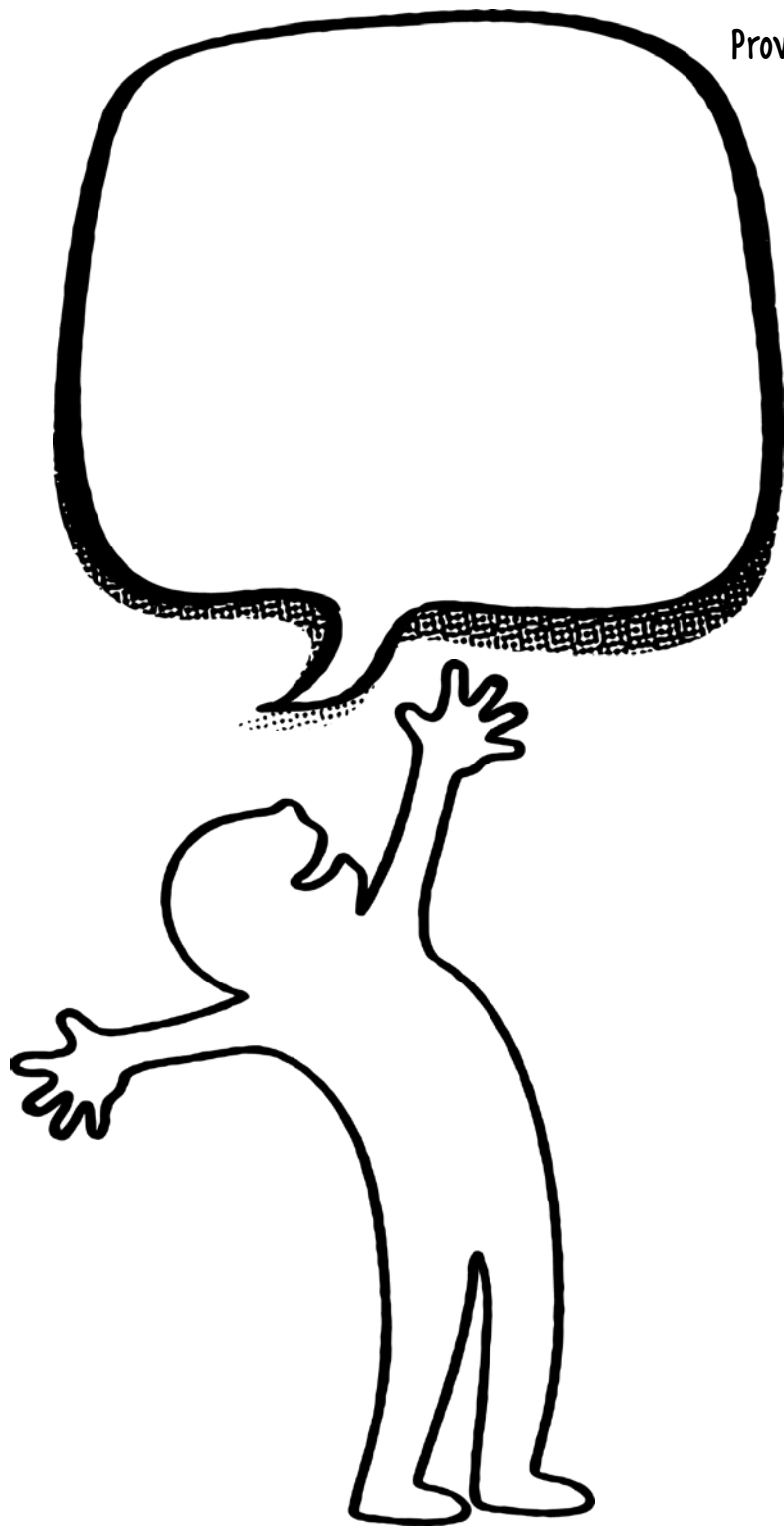


Use context clues to help you read and understand new words.

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:

