

Ancient Greece: a civilization shaped by geography

Lesson Map: <http://esriaustralia.com.au/education/SpatialActivity69>

Engage

Where is Greece and what is its climate?

- Click on the URL above to open the lesson's Story Map: *Ancient Greece*. Scroll down to get started.
- Read through the information as you make your way through the view of the Mediterranean Sea. You can zoom in for a closer look by pressing the + icon. You can zoom out to gain a broader geographical context by pressing the – icon.
- Scroll down to bring up the next section: *The Climate of Ancient Greece*. Read the information. Take notes if required.
- Use the map slider to examine Greece's climate in Winter and Summer.
- ? Describe the similarities or differences in Greece's climate during the different seasons. [*Greece's temperature remains very consistent all year round. Although there seems to be a slight cooling in temperature in the summer months, this appears minimal.*]

Explore

Physical geography - Mountains and the Mediterranean Sea

- Scroll down. Read the information on Greece's physical geography. Click on the arrow to the right of the screen to progress through a small slideshow. Take notes if required.
- ? Observe the slide of Mount Olympus. Perform a quick internet search. What was the significance of this mountain to the Ancient Greeks? [*Mount Olympus was considered to be the home of the gods and the site of the throne of Zeus.*]
- Scroll to the next section: *How did physical geography influence the development of*

Download student worksheet [here](#).

Time
45 minutes

Activity

Investigate how geography shaped Ancient Greek civilization.

Learning Outcome

Students will be able to:

- Investigate how geography influenced the development of Ancient Greece
- Examine how physical geography gave rise to the Greek city-state
- Identify differences in the identities of notable city-states, including Athens and Sparta

ACARA Curriculum Link

[Year 7 History: The Mediterranean world - Greece](#)

[ACDSEH003 | ACDSEH035 | ACDSEH130 | ACCHS214](#)

[Senior Ancient History: Ancient Greece](#)

Teacher Feedback:

To share your feedback on this, or any Spatial Activity, please contact education@esriaustralia.com.au

Ancient Greece. Read the information. Take notes if required.

- Engage with the map slider to see the locations of prominent city-states.
- ? Explain how Greece's topography influenced and promoted the development of independent city-states. *[After observing the map slider, it is evident that city-states sat in valleys between prominent mountain ranges. This natural barrier would have promoted the development of independent city-states and influenced each city-state to develop unique identities. The city-state of Knossos – found on the island of Crete – also had the natural barriers of water, which would have promoted this independence.]*
- Scroll down to continue to read about how geography influenced the development of Ancient Greece's city-states. Read the information. Take notes if required.
- ? Explain how trading with other countries (e.g. Egypt or the Persian Empire) would promote new ideas and advancements. *[Although trade with other countries was practiced primarily for food, goods and profits, it also exposed the Ancient Greeks to new ideas and customs. As they traded with people from other countries, they came into contact with different styles of art and architecture, new ways of thinking and technological discoveries that they could take back home and adopt in their own styles.]*

Explain

How did the geographical position of Athens allow the city-state to flourish?

- Scroll to the next section: *Athens*. Read the information. Take notes if required.
- ? Make a list of geographical factors that allowed Athens to flourish, despite its poor agricultural conditions.
 - Access to coastlines, which gave them access to naval trade
 - Its position on the peninsula of Attica forced trade goods to pass through Athens to other inland city-states. The same was true in the reverse.
 - Close proximity to silver mines, which allowed the city-state to garner wealth quickly.
- Scroll to the next page to continue to read about Athens. Read the information. Take notes if required.
- ? Explain why the classical period of Athens is referred to as the 'Golden Age'. *[The classical period is referred to as the Golden Age as Athens flourished during this period. Although the city-state was already an economic and militaristic power, it is the cultural developments that occurred in Athens that this age refers to. New ideas*

– in the form of philosophy, science, and entertainment – enticed people from all over Greece and lands beyond to come and see Athens. Furthermore, new advancements in art and architecture led to the beautification of Athens.]

- Watch the video to view drone footage that features the Acropolis of Athens. Pay attention to the architecture and art that remains evident to this day.

Extend

How did the geographical position of Sparta shape it's development?

- Scroll to the next section: *Sparta*. Read the information and take notes as required.

- ? Identify the source of Sparta's economic wealth. Why was it imperative that they maintained control of the helots? *[The source of Sparta's wealth were the fertile agricultural lands of the region, which allowed them to make profits off farming produce. It is therefore imperative that they maintained control over the helots as the more land they controlled, the more profits the city-state would receive.]*

- Scroll to the next section: *Delphi*. Read the information and take notes as required.

- ? The Ancient Greeks considered Delphi to be the centre of the world. Perform a quick internet search. Why did they think this? *[Delphi is considered the centre of the Earth as Zeus sent two eagles out in opposite directions around the Earth and Delphi is where they met.]*

- Scroll to the next section: *Development marked by diversity*.

Next Steps:

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