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Mr. Donn and Maxie's PowerPoint® Series

Ancient Greece

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lecture Notes.....	S1
Student Handouts.....	H2



Welcome to Ancient Greece! Throughout the main presentation, in the Teacher Notes space, you will find questions, answers, and additional information. Teacher Notes are designed for new teachers, as well as for experienced teachers new to teaching ancient history. We hope you find it useful.

These presentations were designed for grade 6, but can easily be used in any grade. Each presentation works well for both individual student and classroom use.

We hope you enjoy this fun look at Ancient Greece. Have a great year!

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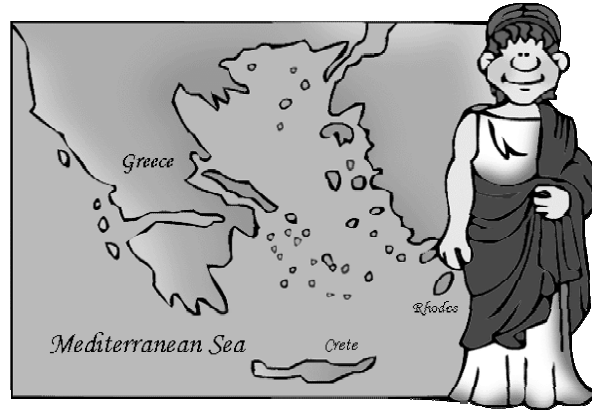
Ancient Greece

- **EARLY GREECE: Slides 3–11**
- **FABLES, LEGENDS, AND MYTHS: Slides 12–37**
- **RESULTS OF THE GRECIAN DARK AGES: Slides 38–43**
- **GREEK CITY-STATES: Slides 44–78**
- **DAILY LIFE: Slides 79–101**
- **WARS AND EXPANSION: Slides 102–117**
- **GIFTS FROM THE GREEKS: Slides 118–130**
- **QUIZ: Slides 131–132**



Early Greece

Ancient Greece



Greece is a country in Europe. In ancient times, people lived along the huge coastline where food was plentiful.

4

Teacher Notes:

Greece is located on the Ionian Peninsula. It is surrounded on three sides by water, as all peninsulas are. The center has mountains—not huge mountains, but you would certainly notice them if you tried to walk from one side of Greece to the other.

Why do you think people chose to live along the coastline? (Answer: Because they could eat seafood if nothing else was available.)

The Greeks were great farmers. They grew olives, lemons, oranges, tomatoes, vegetables, and wheat to make bread.

New Towns

The Greeks loved to explore and they loved to build towns. They explored the Mediterranean looking for new places to build. Not everyone was glad to see them. Egypt chased them away. They had better luck in:

- Turkey
- Italy
- France



Teacher Notes:

Pretty soon, there were a great many Greek towns.

Why you think the Greeks wanted to build towns?

Possible answer: As the population grew, some people did not get along. They sailed off to find land of their own. The coastline was huge. There were so many places to build a town.

What do you think they needed nearby to have a town flourish?

Possible answers: Source of fresh water, fertile land, source of water for irrigation, something with which to build homes. All of these things were available along the coastline of Greece and in other places around the Mediterranean.

The Minoans

The Minoan king lived in a maze of a palace with 1500 rooms! The walls were painted with pictures of people jumping over bulls!

Even poor people had four-room stone houses with running water and bathrooms that flushed!



6

Teacher Notes:

The palace at Knossos, the capital of Crete, was incredible. Some of the walls in the palace were painted with brightly colored starfish. Some painted scenes showed Minoan people jumping over bulls, which was the big sport in Crete back then. The homes on the island of Crete—even the four-room stone homes—had bathrooms. All bathrooms on ancient Crete had running water and flushing toilets. The Minoans were a very advanced civilization for the times. The Minoans had a strong navy, which is probably why the Greeks never succeeded in colonizing the Minoan people.

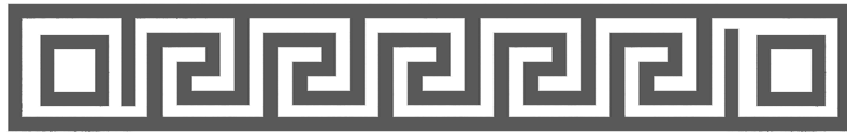
Online Help: Teacher Note: There are several sites online that include a retold version of the myth *Theseus and the Minotaur*. You can find a loosely retold, kid-friendly version online here:
<http://greece.mrdonn.org/theseus.html>

The Minoans

Natural disasters hit Crete!

- Earthquake (around 1700 BCE)
- Volcanic eruption (around 1500 BCE)
- Tidal waves (following volcanic eruption)
- The Minoans disappear

“Good thing we did not build there!” the Greeks agreed happily.



7

Teacher Notes:

Ask: What do you think happened to the Minoans? (Get one or two answers.)

Answer: Nobody knows. The combination of natural disasters certainly weakened them.