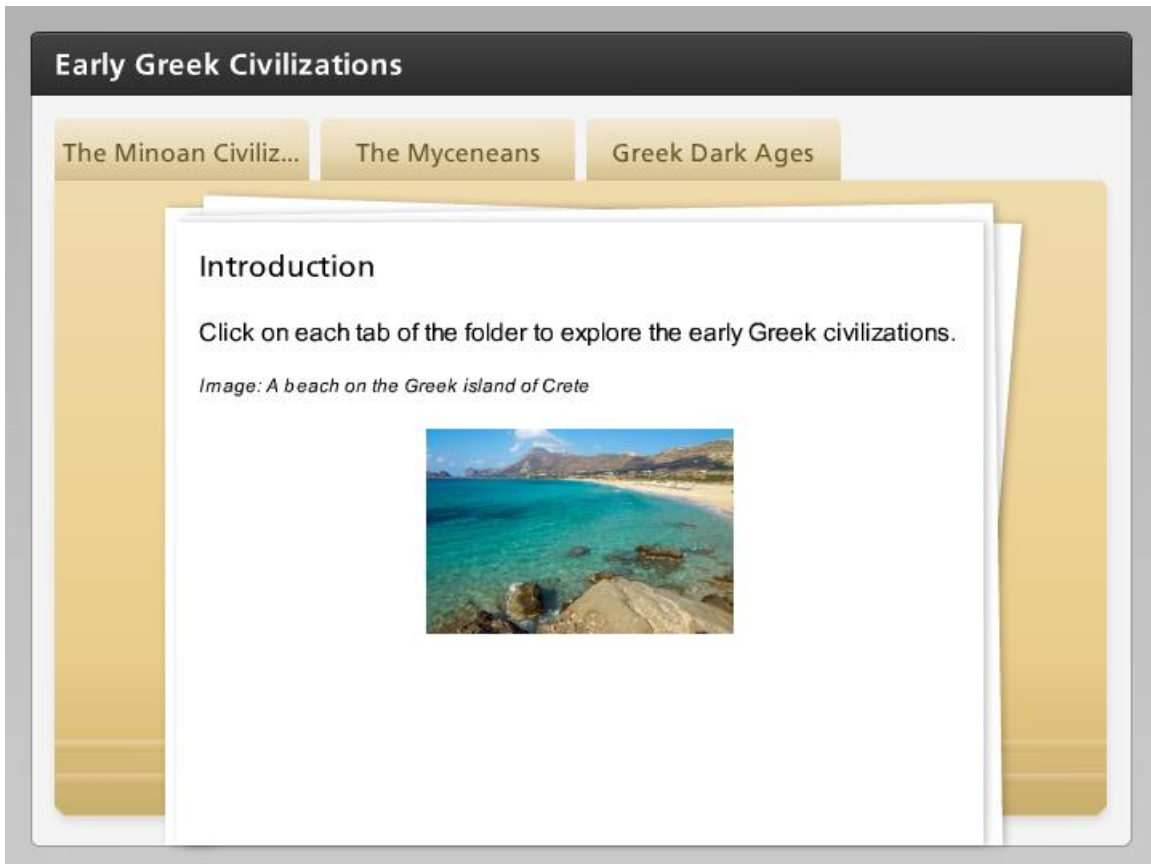


Module 4: Ancient Greece

Topic 2 Content: Early Greek Civilizations

Introduction



Click on each tab of the folder to explore the early Greek civilizations.

Image: A beach on the Greek island of Crete

Module 4: Ancient Greece

Topic 2 Content: Early Greek Civilizations

The Minoan Civilization

Early Greek Civilizations

The Minoan Civiliz... The Myceneans Greek Dark Ages

The Minoan Civilization

During the Bronze Age, the Minoan Civilization lived on the island of Crete, located southeast of mainland Greece. The Minoans traded with other cultures situated around the Mediterranean. Evidence exists that the Minoans built elaborate buildings with rudimentary plumbing, decorations, and workshops. Around 1450 B.C. (B.C.E.), the Minoan settlements declined. Historians have multiple theories about why this occurred. Some believe it was due to a nearby volcanic eruption, while other believe the Minoans were victims of an invading group of people.




Image: A fresco from the Minoan palace of Knossos

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Module 4: Ancient Greece

Topic 2 Content: Early Greek Civilizations

The Mycenaeans


Early Greek Civilizations

The Minoan Civiliz... The Myceneans Greek Dark Ages

The Myceneans

The Mycenaeans came to power between about 1600 B.C. (B.C.E.) to about 1100 B.C. (B.C.E.). Their main settlement was a little over fifty miles southwest of Athens. During this time, the Mycenaeans dominated southern Greece. Mycenaean religion provided a foundation for what would become Greek polytheism. The Mycenaeans used the earliest form of Greek writing called Linear B. It is rumored that their military expeditions against Troy inspired the famous works, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

Image: An ancient tomb in Mycenae



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Image: An ancient tomb in Mycenae

Module 4: Ancient Greece

Topic 2 Content: Early Greek Civilizations

Greek Dark Ages

Early Greek Civilizations

The Minoan Civiliz... The Myceneans **Greek Dark Ages**

Greek Dark Ages

From around 1100 B.C. (B.C.E.) through 750 B.C. (B.C.E.), ancient Greece experienced a Dark Age during which agriculture decreased. A smaller availability of food caused a decrease in the size of the Greek population. Very few records exist from this period; however, it was during this time that the Greeks began to adopt the Phoenician alphabet. In addition, the Greek epic poet Homer composed his works towards the end of the Greek Dark Ages.

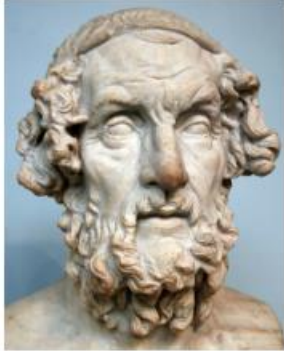


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