“We are all Greeks.”
- Shelley
Pre-“Greek”—Aegean Culture (Bronze age—3000-1200 BCE)

- **Cycladic 3000-1600**—marble statues
- **Minoan 2000-1400** King Minos--Knossos: Goddess with Snakes, Bull Jumper (Arthur Evans discovered Knossos)
- **Mycenaean 1600-1200**—mainland Greece. Schliemann discovered Troy and the Mycenaean culture. They built great palaces and were preoccupied with death.
Cycladic Period
3000-1600 BCE

Cycladic Period
ca. 2500 BCE

Minoan 2000-1400—see Crete/Heraklion
Minoan 2000-1400

- Seafaring kingdom
- Seemingly safe and secure society
- Human sacrifice
- Minotaur was the child of the queen and a sacred bull
- 1700 BCE the great earthquake

Palace at Knossos ca. 1500 BCE
Labyrinth “House of the Double Ax”

Double-axes of Knossos
Bull-leaping mural on palace walls
Palace of Minos, Knossos c. 1700-1300 BCE

Thera/Santorini or the Lost Continent of Atlantis

Santorini
Mycenaean 1600-1200

- Aggressive and militant
- Cyclops legend
- 1200 BCE Mycenaean attacked Troy (in present-day Turkey). Hence, the basis for the Iliad and Odyssey.
Lioness Gate
Mycenae
1250 BCE

“Mask of Agamemnon”
Mycenaean
ca. 1500

GREEK CULTURAL PERIODS

Heroic Age—1200-750 BCE
Greek City-State/Persian Wars—750-480 BCE
Athens/Golden Age 480-430 BCE
Heroic Age—1200-750 BCE

- Dorians (see map) destroyed the Mycenaean empire—ca. 1200
- Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey* (NB the individualism of these epics)

Dipylon Vase
c. 8th century BCE
Greek City-State/Persian Wars — 750-480 BCE

- 200 City-State reflected the terrain of Greece
- Competitive among themselves, but unified against Persians
- Marathon 490 BCE—land defeat for Persians
- Salamis 489 BCE—navel defeat for Persians
- Herodotus—sociologist and historian

Athens/Golden Age 480-430 BCE

- Athens was the big winner in the wars with Persia
- The result was Camelot for a half-century
- 508 BCE—Athens becomes first democracy (people-power)
- NB the power structure of Athenian society
- Athens vs. Sparta
- Pericles’ contributions to democracy and to the Peloponnesian Wars (431-404 BCE)
- Olympic games 776 BCE—naked athletes
Greek Philosophy

- Practical explanation of the natural order
- Objective, logical vs. subjective, intuitive
- Naturalism and its philosophies—pre-Socrates
- Sophists—concerned about the “Hows”
- Socrates
- Plato
- Aristotle
Socrates (ca. 470-399 BCE)

- Examine one's life by questioning everything, which resulted in his questioning of the Greek Assembly.
- The Assembly claimed that he was corrupting the minds of young people and not believing in the gods.

Quotes from Socrates:

- "By all means marry; if you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher."
- "Do not do to others what angers you if done to you by others."
- "Envy is the ulcer of the soul."
- "Remember what is unbecoming to do is also unbecoming to speak of."
- "Thou shouldst eat to live; not live to eat."
- "Children today are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannize their teachers."

Plato (ca. 427-347 BCE)

- Academy—precursor to the university
- Plato discussed and examined various theories of government
- Rejected democracy
- Plato believed that the best form of government ("polis" or state)
- Government in three parts: (1) the "philosopher kings" (2) the warriors (3) the masses
- Cosmic Forms
Aristotle—384-322 BCE

- Student of Plato at the Academy
- Aristotle was said to have been the last person on earth that understood everything that was known at the time
- Peripatetic philosopher
- Unmoved mover
- NB his philosophy regarding the sexes
- Golden Mean
- State over the individual

Greek Culture and Art:

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<tr>
<th>Greek</th>
<th>Egyptian</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2. Ever-changing</td>
<td>2. Static</td>
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<td>6. Chaotic</td>
<td>6. Unity/continuity</td>
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For an interesting world timeline:
http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hm/04/hm04.htm