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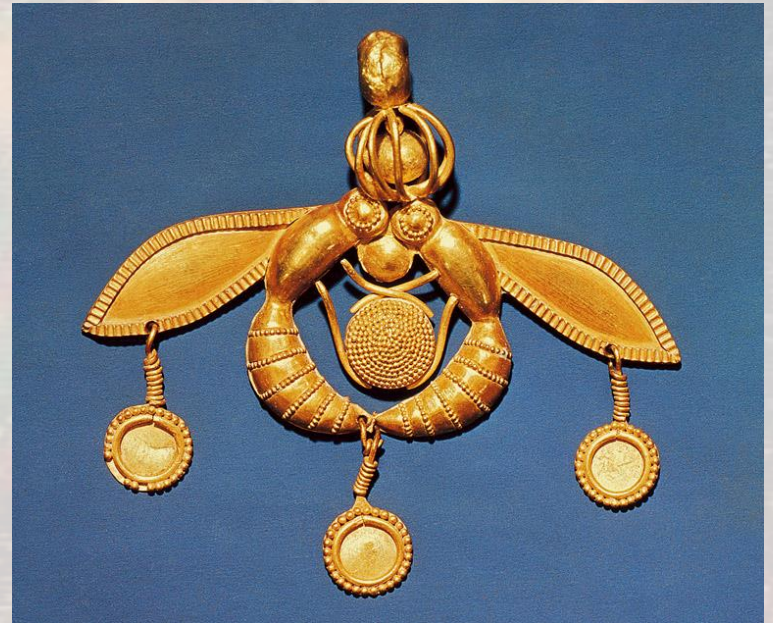
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# Ancient Aegean Art



# Introduction

- Eastern Mediterranean (Aegean Sea)
- Bronze Age 3000 BC - 1000 BCE
- Three civilizations:
  - Cycladic (islands such as Thera)
  - Minoan (islands of Crete)
  - Mycenae (Greek mainland)
- Bronze Art & Metal working



# Cycladic Art

- 3000-1600 B.C.E.
- No writing
  - Mostly know of them through art
- Supply of hard white marble
  - Used to make small sculptures mostly
- Later absorbed by Minoan and Mycenaean cultures



# Case Study: Two Figures of Women

c. 2500-2200 B.C.E.

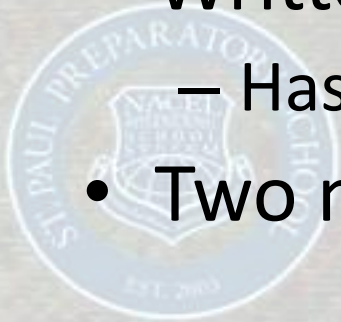
Medium: White  
Marble

Found in graves in  
large numbers



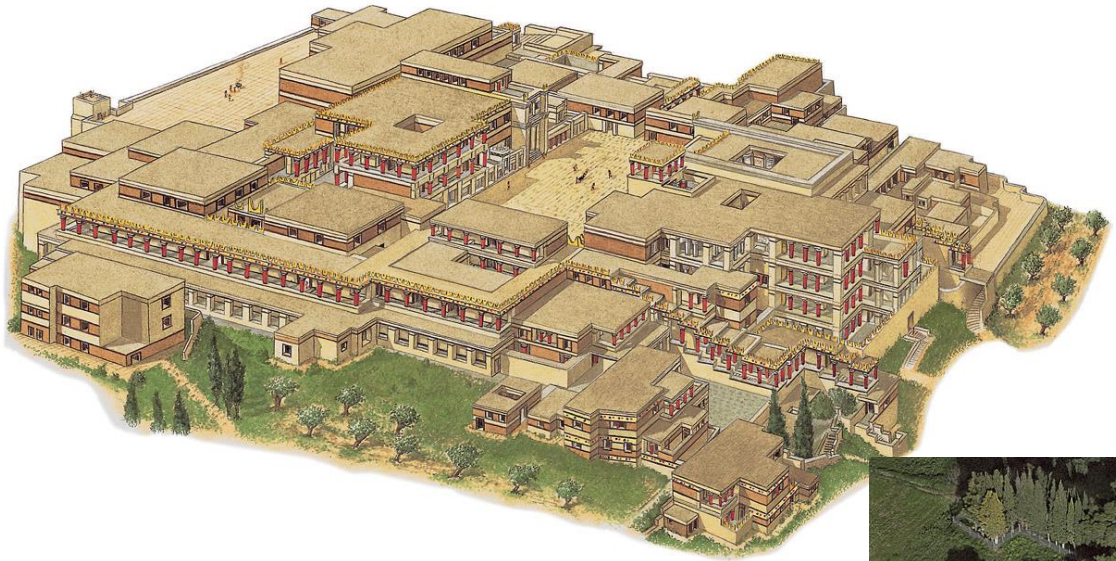
# Minoan Civilization (1900-1450 B.C.E.)

- Primarily a non-metal bronze age civilization on island of Crete
- Written language
  - Has not been translated yet
- Two major periods: Old Palace & New Palace



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# A H Old Palace Period



Ruins of the Palace of Knossos



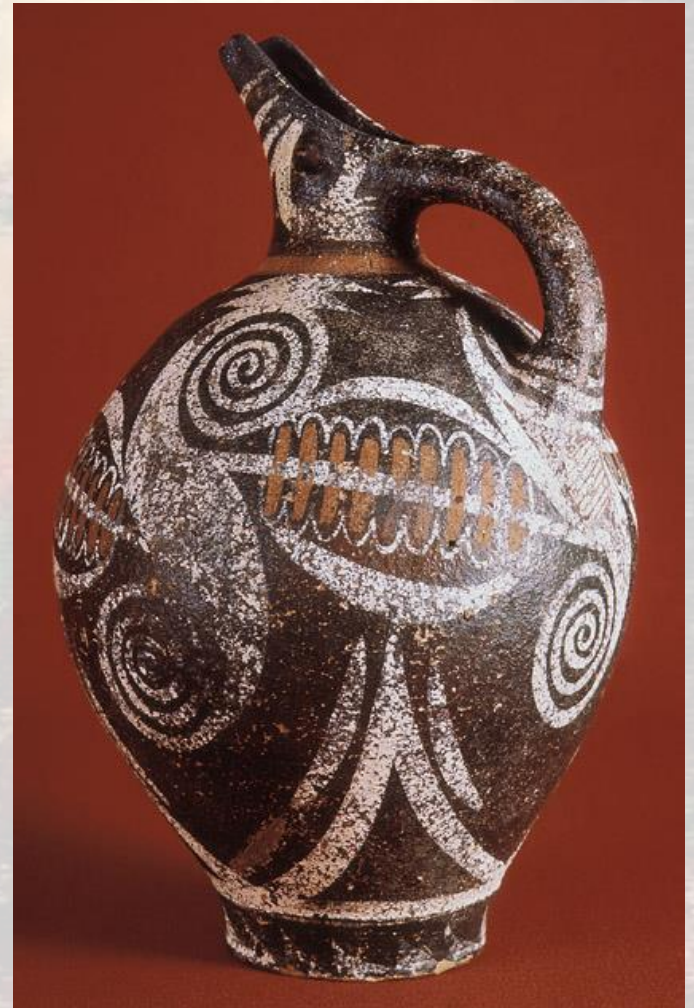
# A H Palace at Knossos



- First use of dressed stone in Aegean
  - Finished and polished
- Walls decorated with plaster and murals
- Water management systems

# Old Palace Pottery

- Art celebrated natural world
  - Not a militaristic society
- Invented pottery wheel
  - Painted decorations
- Traded with Mesopotamians and Egyptians





# New Palace Period (1700-1450 B.C.E.)

- Suites in Palace for archives, business, residences
  - Wet & dry frescoes in palaces and buildings
  - Filled in outlines with pure color (like Egyptians), elegant line drawings
- Only small sculptures have been found

# A H Bull Leaping (c. 1450-1375 B.C.E.)



Wall painting (with modern reconstruction) from the palace complex at Knossos

# Landscape (c. 1630-1500 B.C.E.)



Wall Painting (with modern construction) from Akrotiri, Thera



# Case Study: Woman or Goddess with Snakes



c. 1600 – 1550 B.C.E.  
Medium: Faience  
From the palace  
complex at Knossos

# Case Study: Vapheio Cup



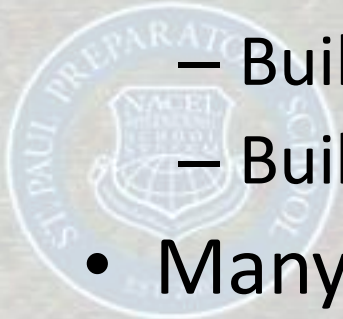
c. 1650-1450 B.C.E.

Medium: Gold

Found near Sparta,  
Greece

# Mycenaean Civilization (c. 1450-1100 B.C.E.)

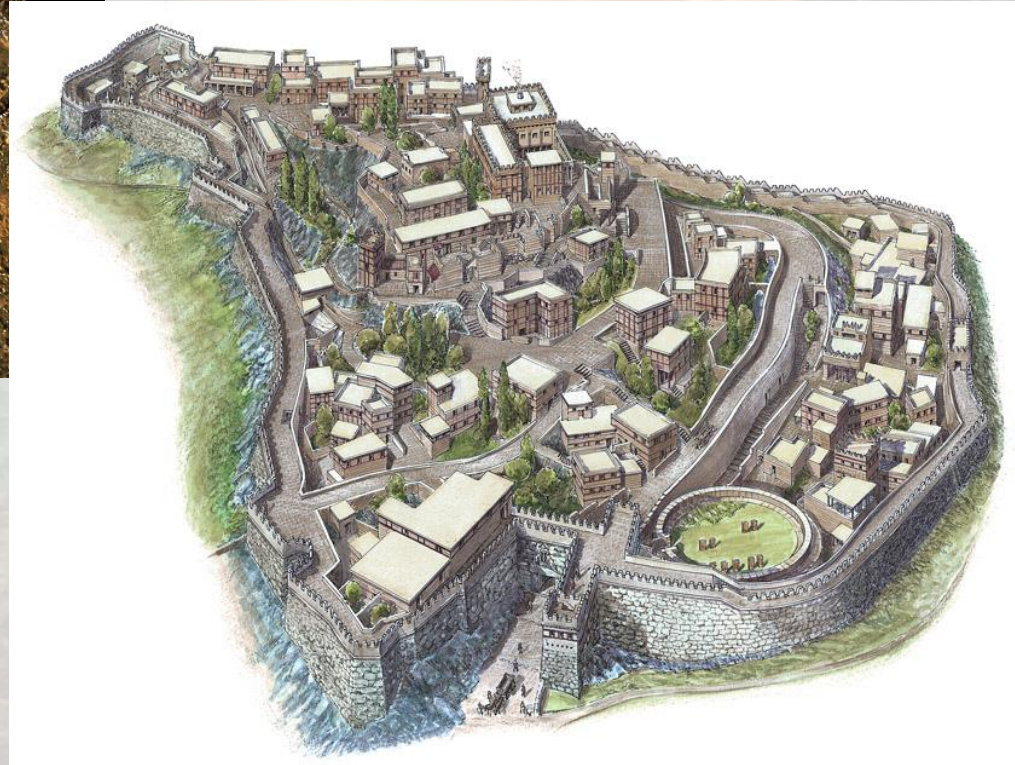
- Warlike culture,
  - Took over Crete/Minoan society and mainland Greece
  - Built over Palace at Knossos
  - Built citadels
- Many artworks uncovered
  - Including remnants of city of Troy



# Citadel at Mycenae



- Home of King Agamemnon
- Site occupied c. 1600–1200 BCE; walls built c. 1340, 1250, 1200 BCE



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# Lions Gate at Mycenae



c. 1250 B.C.E.

Medium: Limestone

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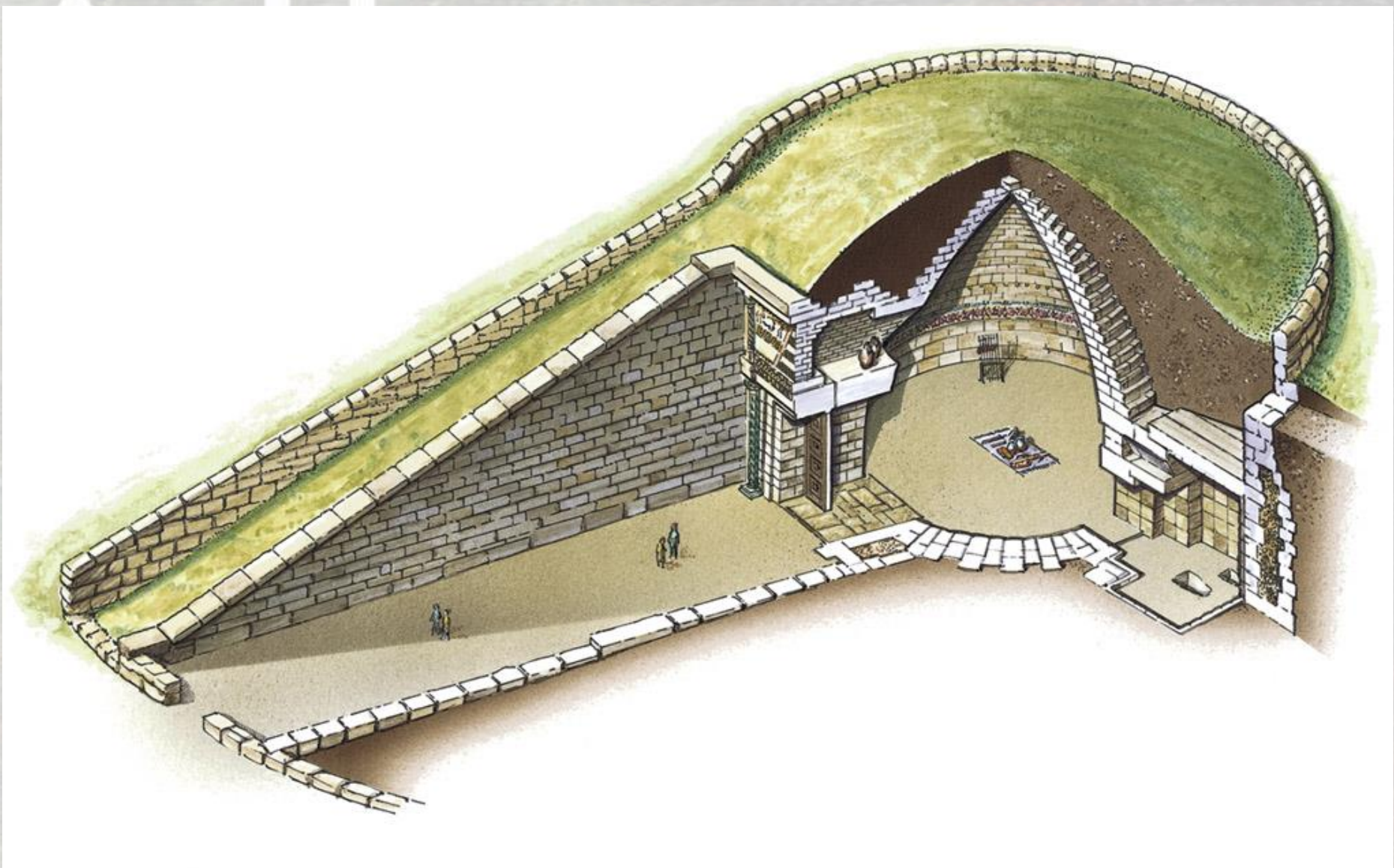
# A H Mycenae Tombs

- Started with shaft tombs 20-25' deep; royalty buried with ceremonial weapons and status objects
- Began Tholos tombs
  - Example: Treasury of Atreus
- Corbel vault-arched ceiling made of projecting layers of stone until meet in middle

# Entrance to the *Tholos*



Constructed c. 1300-1200 B.C.E., Located in Mycenae, Greece



# Case Study: Funerary Mask of Agamemnon



c. 1600-1550 B.C.E.

Medium: Gold

From the royal  
tombs, Grave Circle  
A, Mycenae, Greece