Ancient Greece

An Empire United but Divided

Greek Geography

- Located in SE Europe
  - Cities separated from one another by Mountains and water
  - Loose collection of **city-states** on Balkan Peninsula and islands scattered around the Aegean and Mediterranean Sea

Black Sea

Mount Olympus +

Greece

Troy

Aegean Sea

Asia Minor

Athens

Ionian Sea

Sparta

Rhodes

Greek areas

Other lands

Crete

Mediterranean Sea

A Sea-faring People

- Easy access to sea allowed Greeks to trade goods and ideas with nearby Civilizations
  - Ex. Traded wine for metals
  - Adopted Phoenician Alphabet

Beginning of Greek Society

- Early Greeks (Known as Minoans) developed on Island of Crete around 1600 B.C.E.
  - Replaces by Mycenaeans around 1400 B.C.E

Homer's *The Illiad*

- Tale of the Trojan War
- Mycenaean versus powerful city of Troy
  - Legend – Paris (Prince of Troy) Kidnaps Helen of Troy from Greek king
  - History – War most likely erupted because of trading dispute

Achilles

- Greek champion who defeated Troy's Champion Hector
- Semi-Mythical Warlord
  - Said to be a son of the gods

The Fall of Troy

- After 10 years of war the Trojans were defeated
  - Troy was burned to the ground
  - Achilles was killed by Paris by a poisoned arrow that hit his heel

Greek City States

- Ancient Greece organized into loose collection of city states at the beginning