

**CITY-STATES IN
ANCIENT
GREECE**



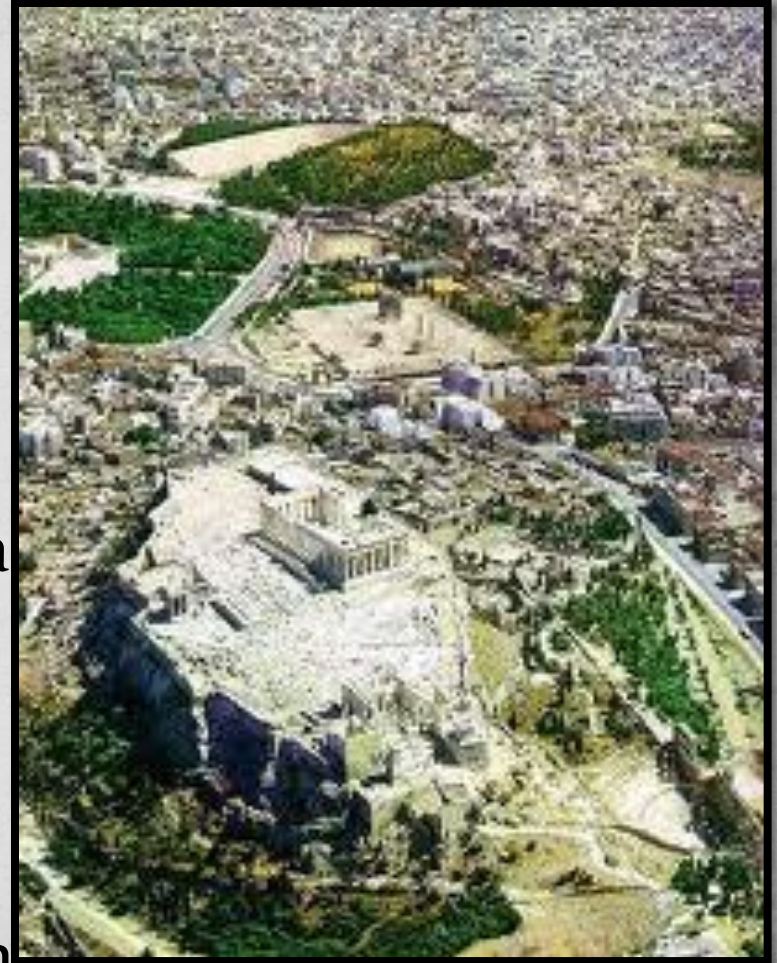
The background of the slide is a photograph of a Greek city built on a hillside. The buildings are white with dark roofs, and a prominent church spire is visible on the right side. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text is overlaid on this image.

Essential Question:

**DESCRIBE THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
THE GREEK CITY-
STATES**

HOW DID GEOGRAPHY INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CITY-STATES?

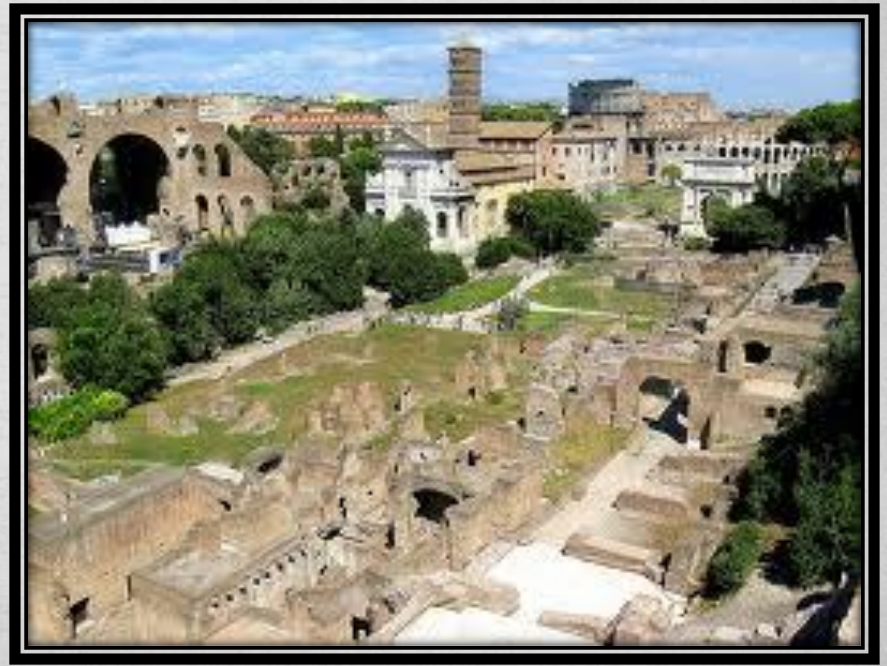
- By 750 B.C. the small villages between the mountains had grown into **CITY-STATES**
- Some of the main city-states were Athens, **SPARTA**, Argos, and Corinth
- In Greek, a city-state was called a **POLIS**
- The Polis connected the villages, farms, and towns in the surrounding area
- The word **POLITICS** comes from the word Polis



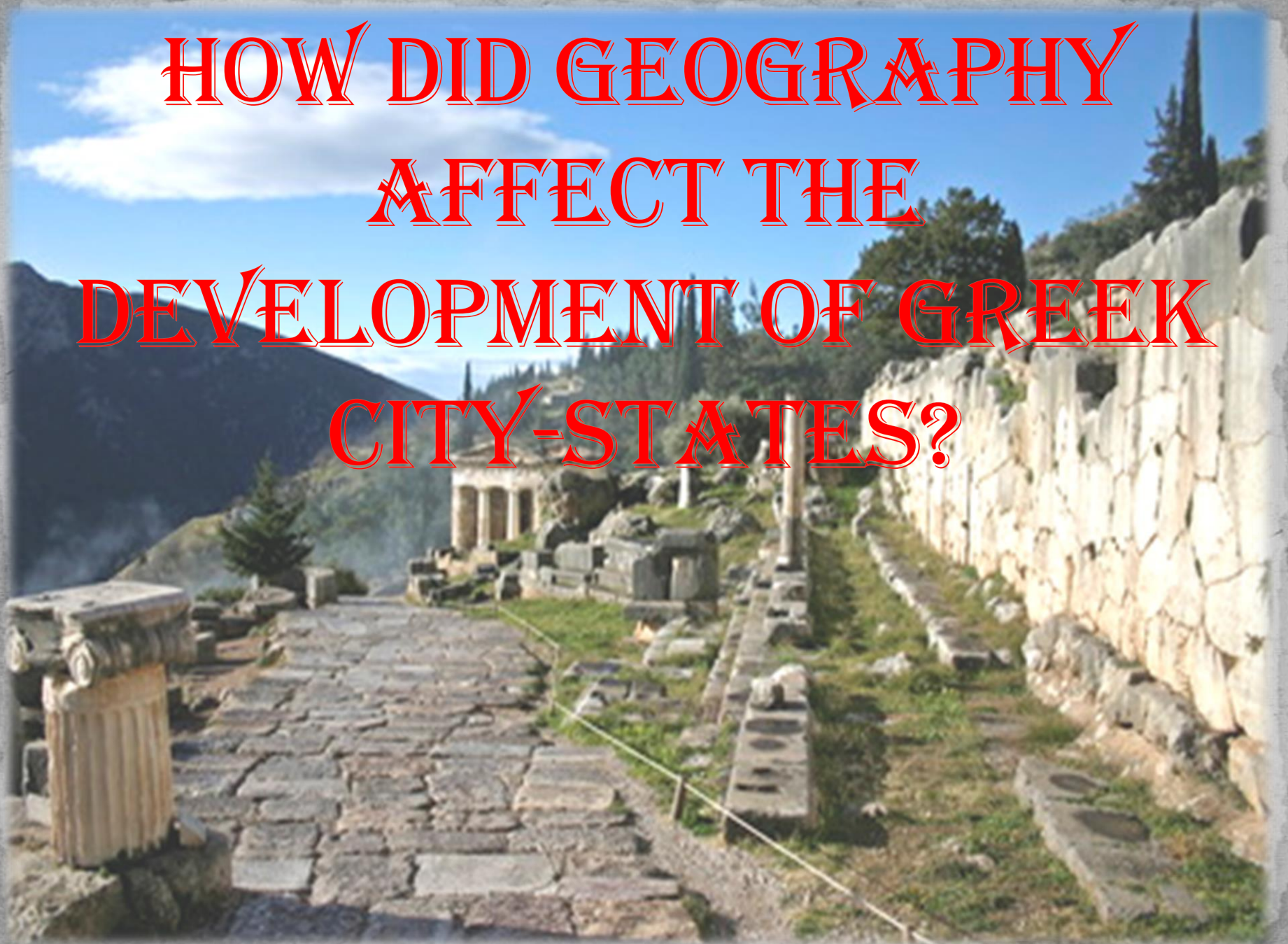


- In a Polis, all the free people were **CITIZENS**, unless they were foreigners
- Most had fewer than 5,000 people, but some had as many as 10,000
- **ATHENS** probably had more than 20,000
- Most city-states had a large hill in the middle known as an **ACROPOLIS**
- This became a place of refuge when the polis was attacked
- The Acropolis was also a place of worship

- Around the acropolis were houses, temples, and a market called the **AGORA**, this is where the people traded and visited
- City-states were separated by **MOUNTAINS** or the seas
 - Because of this, many city-states developed independently and did not have unified governments



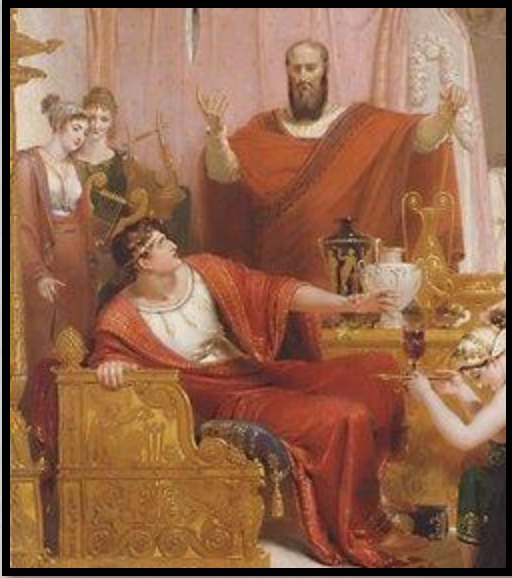
HOW DID GEOGRAPHY
AFFECT THE
DEVELOPMENT OF GREEK
CITY-STATES?



WHAT NEW FORMS OF GOVERNMENT WERE DEVELOPED?

- By about 750 B.C., the **WEALTHY** class began to rule most of the city-states
- The wealthy rulers replaced the kings who ruled during the Dark Ages
- This form of government is known as **OLIGARCHY**, in which only a few rule
- Oligarchies ruled every part of the city-state, including the army, economy, and **RELIGION**





Poor people wanted new rulers who could provide them with a better life

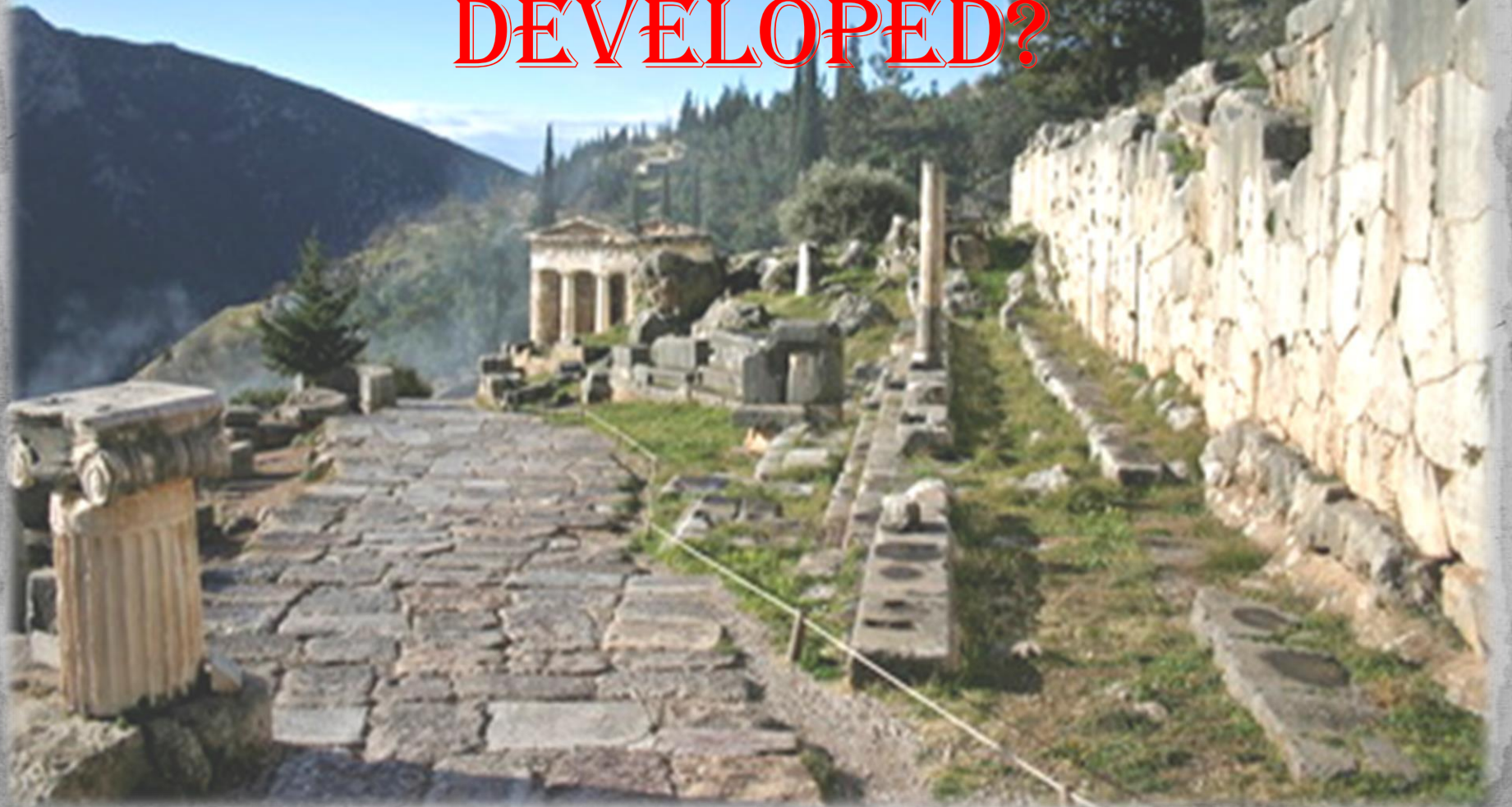
Wealthy men struggled to control the **POWER** of each city state

- The strongest wealthy men became the rulers, these leaders were called **TYRANTS**
 - A tyrant was someone who took control by using force
- At first the tyrants were good to the people, but soon they became harsh rulers
- The word tyrant today means “**A CRUEL RULER**”

- By the 500's B.C., many of the people had **OVERTHROWN** their tyrant rulers
- In some city-states, like **ATHENS**, the government changed into an early form of **DEMOCRACY**, in which the people ruled
- In the first democracies, only free males over 18 could vote
- These first governments paved the way for future democracies



**WHAT NEW FORMS OF
GOVERNMENT WERE
DEVELOPED?**



WHY DID CITY-STATES START ESTABLISHING COLONIES?

- By about 700 B.C., the Greeks had begun to **TRADE** on a large scale
- They exchanged grain, olive oil, wine, wood, pottery, and metal works
- The new metal, **IRON**, greatly affected the Greeks, the people began to explore beyond the **AEGEAN** Sea to look for more iron ore and more land



- The people started more **COLONIES** along the seashore
- These colonies were **INDEPENDENT**, but were still connected to the mainland through trade and religion
- The Greeks started colonies in Asia, northern Africa, and southern **EUROPE**



WHY DID GREEK CITY-STATES START SETTING UP COLONIES?



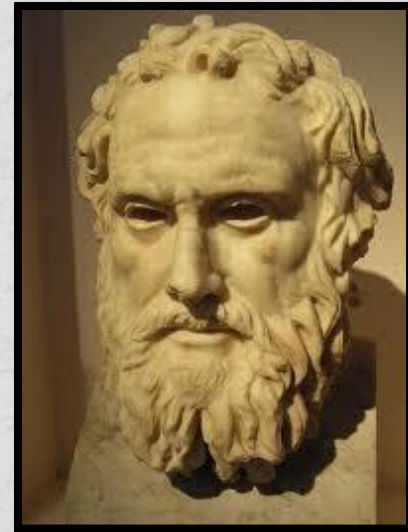
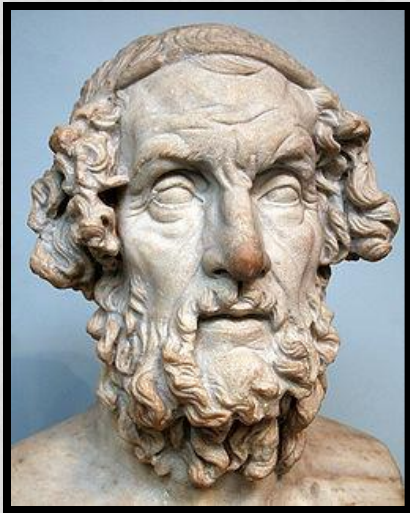
WHAT WAS GREEK CULTURE LIKE?

- Greeks were loyal to their own city-state, but they were also connected to all other Greeks through religion, language, history, writing, and **ATHLETICS**
- The Greeks developed their own alphabet in 700 B.C.
 - The first and second letters were called **ALPHA** and **BETA**
 - This is where the word alphabet comes from
- The Greek alphabet was based off of the **PHOENICIAN** alphabet, which took many of their symbols from the Egyptians

Greek Letter	Name	Equivalent
Α	α	Alpha
Β	β	Beta
Γ	γ	Gamma
Δ	δ	Delta
Ε	ε	Epsilon
Ζ	ζ	Zeta
Η	η	Eta
Θ	θ	Theta
Ι	ι	Iota
Κ	κ	Kappa
Λ	λ	Lambda
Μ	μ	Mu
Ν	ν	Nu
Ξ	ξ	Xi
Ο	ο	Omicron
Π	π	Pi
Ρ	ρ	Rho
Σ	σ	Sigma
Τ	τ	Tau
Υ	υ	Upsilon
Φ	φ	Phi
Χ	χ	Chi
Ψ	ψ	Psi
Ω	ω	Omega

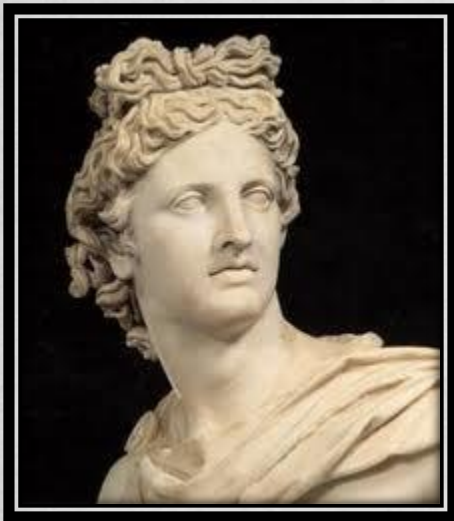
PROTO-CANAANITE	EARLY LETTER NAMES AND MEANINGS	PHOENICIAN	EARLY GREEK	EARLY MONUMENTAL LATIN	MODERN ENGLISH CAPITALS
	<i>alp</i> oxhead				A
	<i>bét</i> house				B
	<i>gaml</i> throwstick				C
	<i>digg</i> fish				D
	<i>hó(?)</i> man calling				E
	<i>wó (waw)</i> mace				F
	<i>zē(n)</i> ?				
	<i>bé(t)</i> fence?				H
	<i>(é(t))</i> spindle?				
	<i>yad</i> arm				I
	<i>kapp</i> palm				K
	<i>lamd</i> ox-goad				L
	<i>mém</i> water				M
	<i>nahš</i> snake				N
	<i>cén</i> eye				O
	<i>pi't</i> corner?				P
	<i>sa(d)</i> plant				
	<i>qu(p)</i> ?				Q
	<i>ra's</i> head of man				R
	<i>tann</i> composite bow				S
	<i>tó (tau)</i> owner's mark				T

- The Greeks used writing to keep track of trade, business, laws, and taxes
- The Greeks started to write down their history, myths, and legends, which before now had only been passed down **ORALLY**
- Most of what the Greeks learned about religion came through the writings of **HOMER** and **HESIOD**



- The Greeks believed that **ZEUS** ruled from mount Olympus

- Greeks believed they could communicate with the gods through an **ORACLE** (a religious person who claimed to receive revelation)
- The most famous is the of Oracle of **DELPHI**
- There was a temple built on this site, dedicated to the god **APOLLO**





[Oracle of Delphi 2 min](#)

- To honor the god Zeus, Greeks competed in **ATHLETIC** festivals
- Starting in about 776 B.C. the Greeks held athletic tournaments every four years in **OLYMPIA**, this became known as the Olympic Games
- The events included wrestling, jumping, running, boxing, discus and **JAVELIN** throwing
- The winners received an olive leaf **WREATH** and were treated as heroes in their home city-state



(14)



- The games united Greece, they would even stop **WARS** to have the games
- Only free men who spoke Greek were allowed to compete
- They competed in the nude, to celebrate the human body
- The athletes competed as **INDIVIDUALS**, not on teams



WHAT WAS GREEK CULTURE LIKE?



WHY DID THE CITY-STATES OFTEN FIGHT AGAINST EACH OTHER?

- Even though the Greeks were united by culture and **RELIGION**, they still fought over land and **RESOURCES**
- Between 725 and 650 B.C., the Greeks developed a new kind of **WARFARE**
- All the adult men served at least some time in the army
- The **WEALTHIEST** men served as leaders, their money bought them their rank
- Those who could afford to own a horse were in the calvary

- The next rank were the foot soldiers, below them were the archers and the stone throwers
- The **HOPLITE** soldiers had to carry 70 pounds of bronze armor, and they had to **PAY** for it
- The soldiers fought in a rectangle formation, they fought shoulder to shoulder, they counted on each other for protection
- They marched forward like a **WALL**, hundreds of soldiers deep



**WHY DID THE GREEK CITY-
STATES OFTEN FIGHT
AGAINST EACH OTHER?**



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The End

A photograph of ancient Greek ruins on a hillside. In the foreground, there is a stone wall on the right and a large column on the left. In the middle ground, a temple with four columns is visible. The background shows a mountain range under a blue sky with some clouds.

- **Power Point created by James Reese, 2012**
- Primary source Harcourt Social Studies Ancient Civilizations, Volume One
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