

A scenic view of a mountain range with a valley in the foreground, overlaid with the title 'Geography of Ancient Greece'. The image shows a series of blue-toned mountain ranges receding into the distance, with a lush green forested valley in the foreground. The text is centered in a red, stylized font.

Geography of Ancient Greece

The image features a scenic landscape of a mountain range. The foreground is filled with a dense, dark green forest. In the middle ground, several layers of mountain ridges are visible, each progressively lighter in color, creating a strong sense of atmospheric perspective. The sky is a clear, pale blue. Overlaid on this background is red text in a stylized, slightly shadowed font. The text is arranged in three lines, with the first line being a shorter phrase and the second and third lines forming a long, multi-line question.

Essential Question:

How did geography
affect the
development of
early Greece?

Map of Greece



Why is most of the soil in mainland Greece thin and rocky?

- Greece is located in southeastern Europe on what is now the **BALKAN** Peninsula
 - A **PENINSULA** is a piece of land that is almost entirely surrounded by water
- The southern tip of Greece reaches to the **MEDITERRANEAN** Sea
- To the west is the Ionian Sea and the Italian Peninsula
- To the east is the **AEGEAN** Sea

(1-2)



(3-4)

- The Ionian and the Aegean Sea almost cut the southern tip of Greece off from the mainland
 - A small strip of land called an **ISTHMUS**, connects them
- The southern part of Greece is called the **PELOPONNESUS**
- Mountains cover most of mainland Greece
- Because it is so mountainous, the soil is **THIN** and rocky



- The coastline of Greece has about **2,000** islands
- The largest of the islands is **CRETE**, in the Mediterranean
- Early people of Greece settled these islands



(5)





Why is most of the soil
in mainland Greece
thin and rocky?

How did the mountainous terrain affect travel and trade in Greece?


- The Early Greeks settled in the narrow VALLEYS between the mountains
- Because of this, each community developed on its own
- The MOUNTAINS kept the communities from uniting with each other
- The mountains made travel difficult, and rivers often dried up
- The poor soil made it difficult to grow things
- There was not much FLAT land available



- The Greeks raised pigs, goats, and **SHEEP**, which don't need large areas for grazing
- From these animals the Greeks got wool, hides, and cheese, but not much **MEAT**
- The crops they could grow were wheat, barley, olives, and grapes
- They used the **OLIVES** to make oil for cooking, lamp fuel, bathing, and perfumes
- They also ate grapes and made wine



(7-8)



How did the
mountainous terrain
affect travel and trade
in Greece?



Why did the
Ancient
Greeks settle
most of their
villages near
the coast?

- Seas around Greece provided FISH and easy travel
- Many Greeks settled near the WATER
- The Greeks developed into a SEAFARING people
 - They were good fishers, sailors, and traders
- The Greeks sailed along the COASTLINE, from harbor to harbor

- Over time, the people **MIGRATED** from one village to another
- They settled on the **MAINLAND** and also on the islands
- The Greeks exchanged religious **BELIEFS** and cultural **IDEAS** with one another





- Sailing was **DANGEROUS**, the winds were strong and the waters were rough
- According to the Greeks, the god **POSEIDON** ruled the seas, he watched over boats and sailors
 - Greeks believed that Poseidon expressed his moods through the ocean
 - Despite dangers, the Greeks depended on the sea for **FOOD** and transportation
 - The ocean also connected Greece to other cultures around the **MEDITERRANEAN**

A scenic view of a mountain range. The foreground is a dark, forested hillside. In the middle ground, there are several layers of blue-tinted mountains, creating a sense of depth. The sky is a clear, light blue. The text is overlaid on the image in a red, serif font with a drop shadow.

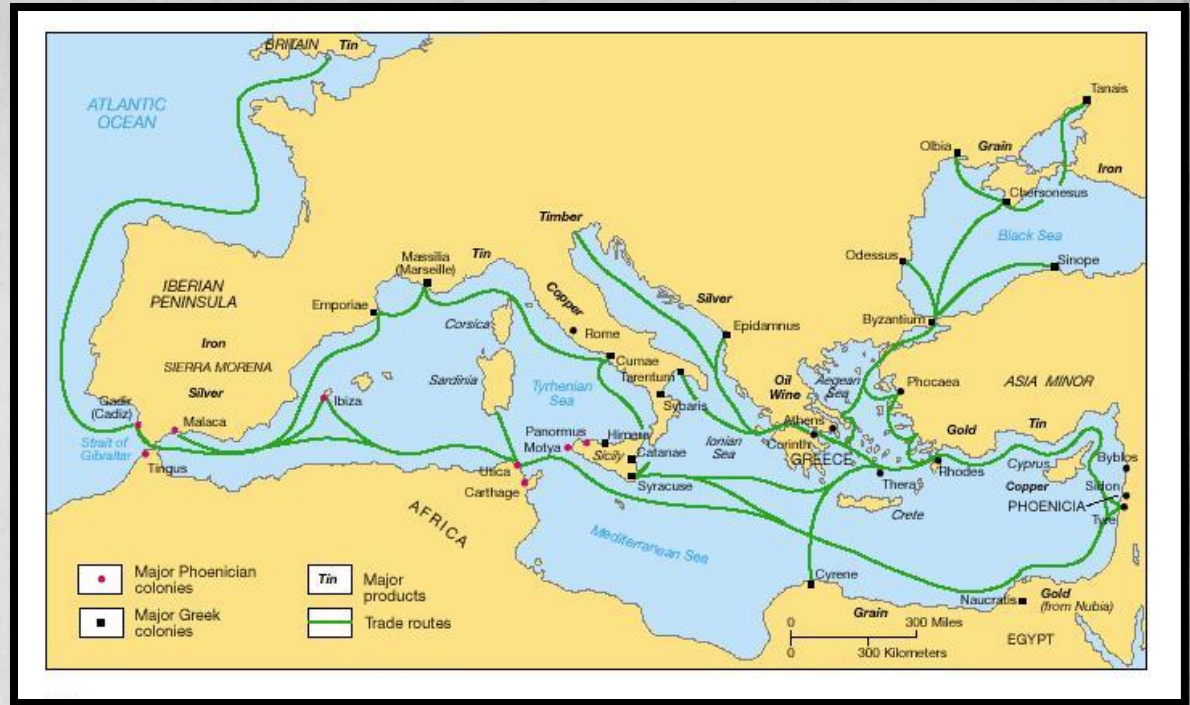
Why did the Ancient
Greeks settle most of
their villages near the
coast?

Why did the Ancient Greeks start trading with other cultures?



- Greek **FARMERS** made trade possible
- Farmers found that they could successfully grow **OLIVES**, grapes and grain in the rocky land of Greece
- The extra food they had helped the Greek **POPULATION** to grow
- Farmers improved their **TOOLS** and their techniques
- Others began to specialize in different jobs, such as weavers, metalworkers, and potters
- Specialized workers exchanged their **CRAFTS** with farmers for food

- To get supplies they could not grow or make, the Ancient Greeks began to **TRADE** with other cultures



- They exported wine, **OLIVE OIL**, pottery, and wood, they also exchanged ideas
- From civilizations in southwest **ASIA**, they learned to mix copper and tin to make bronze
 - They could then make stronger weapons out of the new material

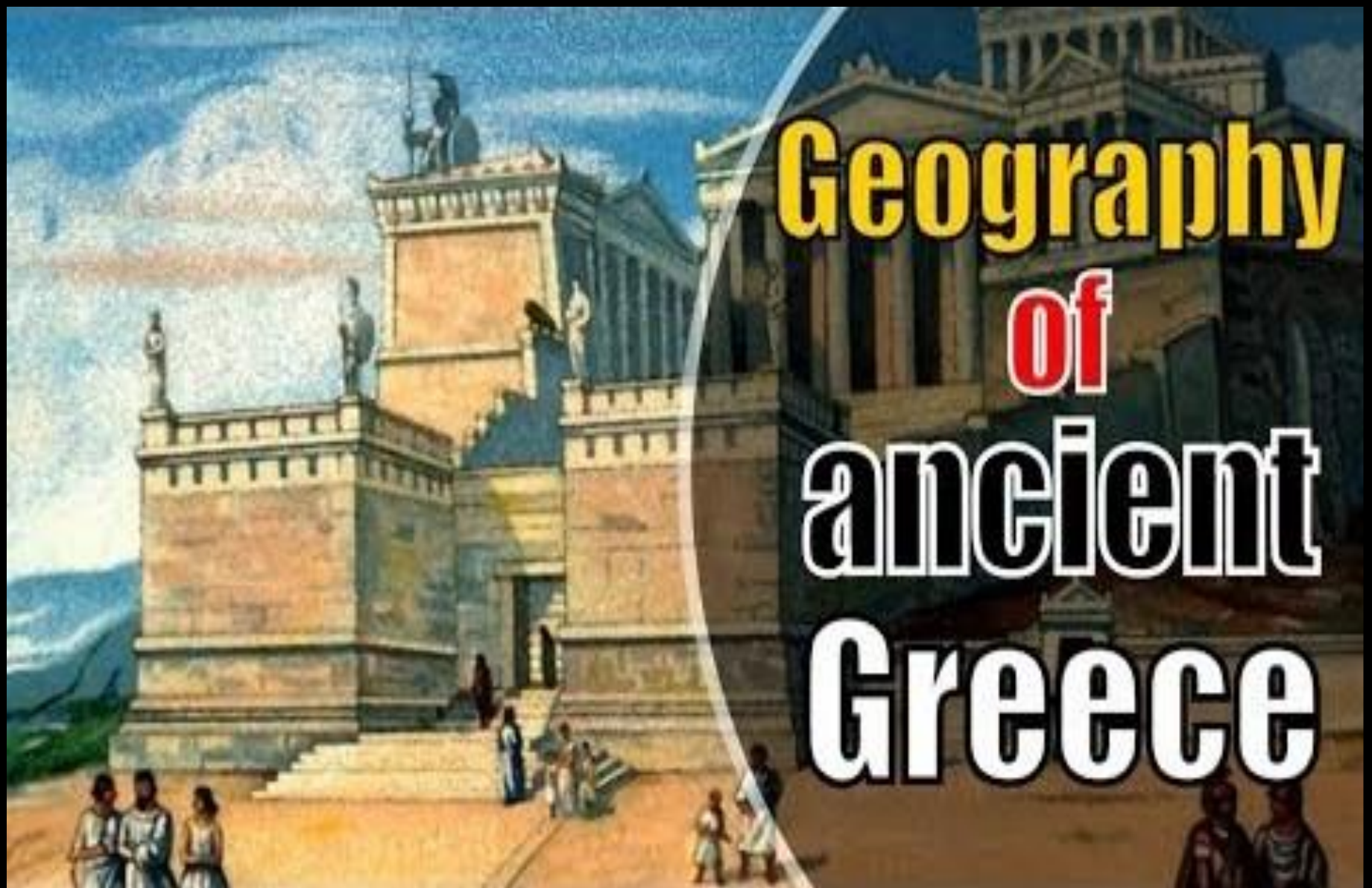
Why did the Ancient
Greeks start trading
with other cultures?



WHY DID ANCIENT GREECE SET UP COLONIES?



[Geography of Ancient Greece Video 12 min](#)



Geography of ancient Greece

[Facts about Geography of Greece Video 5 min](#)

Essential Question:

How did geography
affect the
development of
early Greece?

The image features a scenic view of rolling mountains in various shades of blue, from deep navy to light sky blue, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The mountains are layered, with the closest ones appearing darker and more detailed, while the distant ones fade into a hazy blue. The sky is a clear, pale blue. Overlaid on this landscape is the text "The End" in a large, bold, orange serif font. The text is centered horizontally and has a slight drop shadow, making it stand out against the blue background.

The End

- Power Point created by James Reese, 2011
- Primary source Harcourt Social Studies Ancient Civilizations, Volume One
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