

Ancient Greece and Western Civilization



What is Western Civilization?

- Life focuses on individuals rather than groups of people or society as a whole
- Views the world as governed by rules which can be understood and controlled (science and defined religious powers like Gods)
- Looks forward to the future rather than dwelling on the glories of the past
- Empowers people rather than rulers

Western Civilization

- The traditions of Ancient Greece are seen as the beginnings of **Western Civilization** since it is the earliest example of western culture
- The Greeks were the first to place human beings at the Center of the Universe rather than Gods or Rulers
- Much of our culture is based on their ideas

Aegean Basin

- Minoan, Mycenaean, and later Greek Civilization all started in an area called the **Aegean Basin**
- Which included the **Peloponnesian Peninsula** and the surrounding lands and islands of the **Aegean Sea**





Prelude to Greek Civilization

Preceding the Greeks in the Aegean Basin were the **Minoan** and **Mycenaean** civilizations.

- These 2 civilizations helped to shape what we would later recognize as Greek Civilization

Minoan Civilization

3000 – 1100 BC

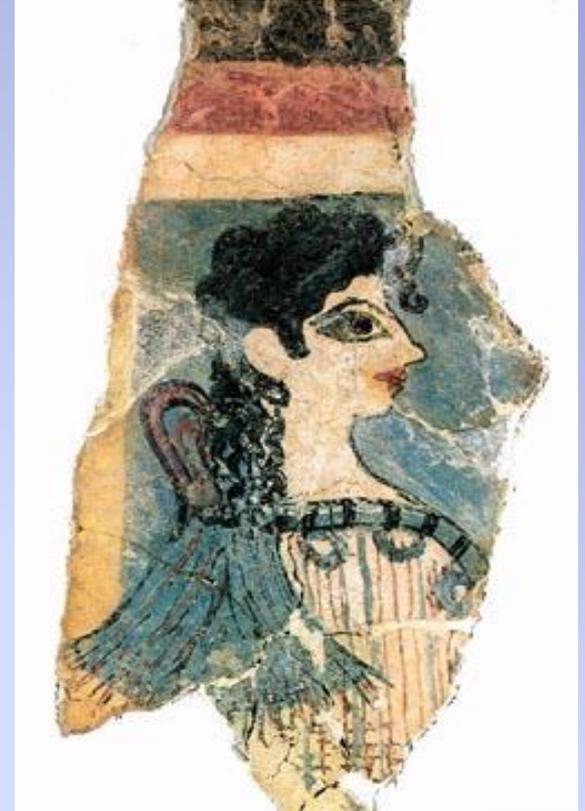
- The Minoan civilization was developing on the island of **Crete** while Egypt and Mesopotamia were flourishing
- The civilization was named after the legendary **King Minos**, who was supposedly a son of Zeus



Religion

- Most Minoan life is revealed through its religious practices and art.
- They were **polytheistic** with many gods including bulls, snakes, men, and women
- They may have been a **Matriarchal Society**- based around the Mother

Mother Goddesses



Sophisticated Palace Architecture

- A complete plumbing and drainage system
- Multi-level structure with complex layout of rooms and passageways
- Beautiful *friezes* (large horizontal paintings often found on walls) and *frescoes* (*paintings done in wet plaster or cement*)
- No walls protecting the palaces of Minos



Palace at Knossos



The Labyrinth

- The story is told of a great **Labyrinth** or maze built beneath the palace at Knossos to house the fearsome **Minotaur**



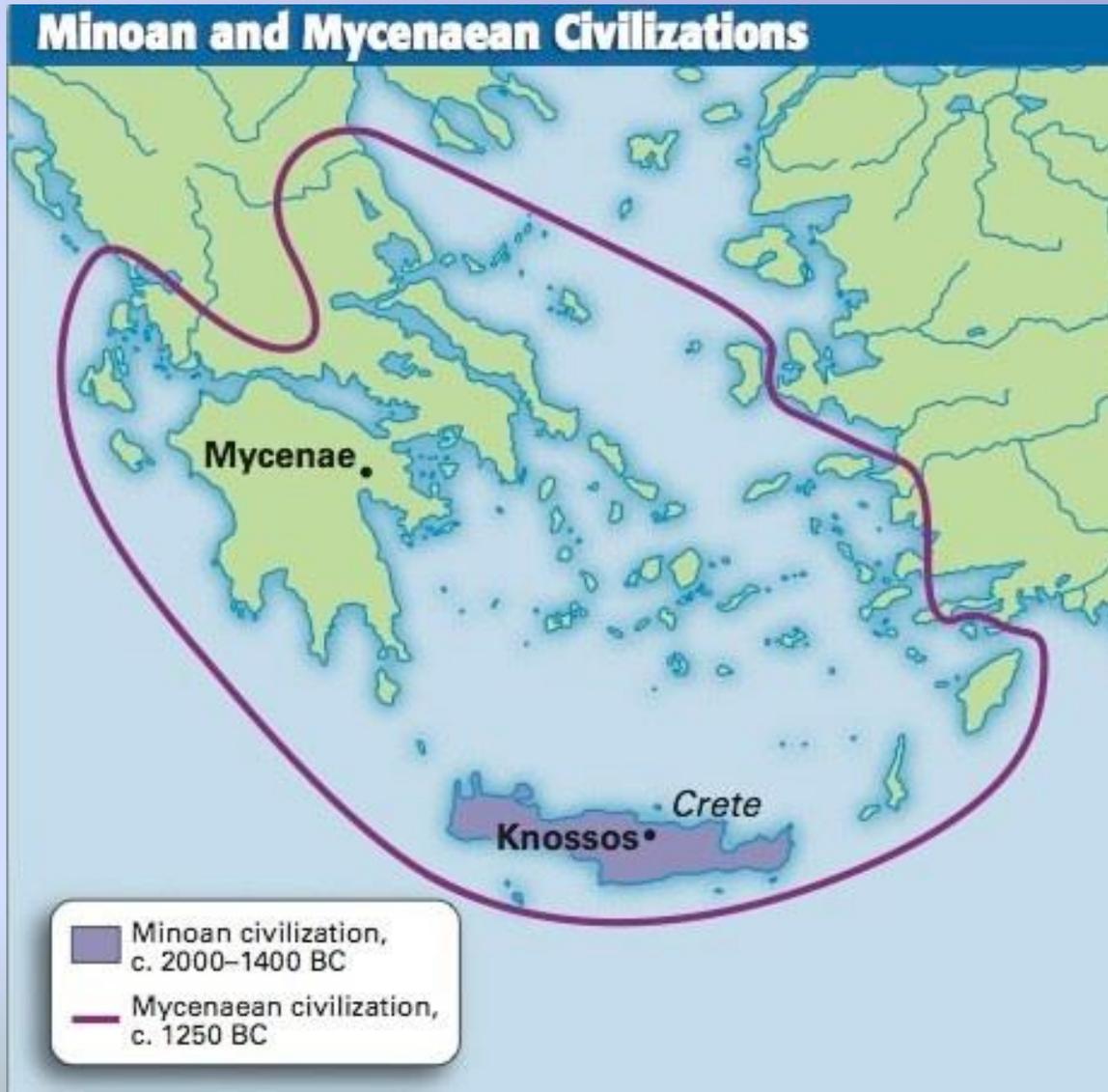
Cultural Beliefs & Influences

- Minoan beliefs influenced Greek thinking, language, social organization and economic pursuits
 - ie: Crete is traditionally believed to be the place where Zeus was born
- The Minoan Culture is where Greek Culture gets its beginnings

Decline of Civilization

- Minoan trade dominated the eastern Mediterranean until about 1380 BCE
- Something happened, maybe a volcanic eruption or other natural disaster
- Some believe that invasions from the Greek mainland were more likely the cause of their decline
- Until Minoan civilization more or less disappears after 1000 BCE

Beginnings: Mycenaean Civilization 1900—1100 BC

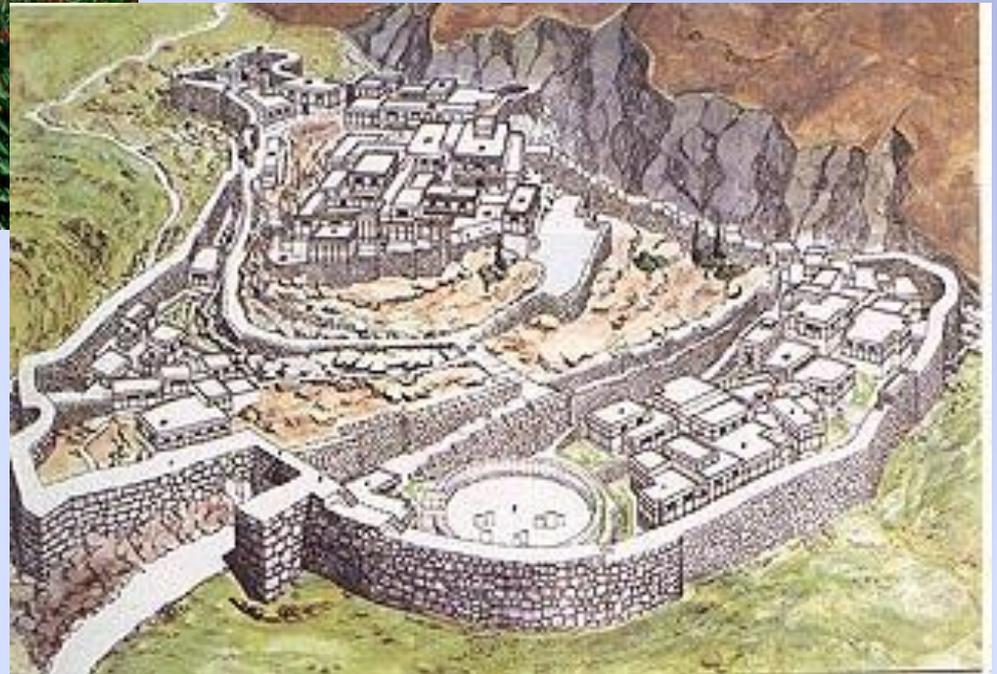


Mycenaeans

- This civilization was named after the fortress city, **Mycenae**
- It was located in the lower rugged region of the Greek peninsula, also called **The Peloponnese**
- Mycenaeans were a war-like people
- They arrived in Greece about 1900 BC and by 1500 ruled the entire peninsula



Mycenae



Lion's Gate



Mycenaean religion

- It was a mixture of Minoan influences and local **deities** or Gods. There were two types of deities...
 1. Some were nature Gods or spirits.
 2. Others were the predecessors of Olympian gods and goddesses worshipped by later Greeks and many even had the same names

The Trojan War

- It was the Mycenaeans who tried to topple the City State of **Troy**.



The Trojan War

- The long siege of Troy weakened Mycenaean Civilization and inspired Homer's epic poems *The Iliad* and *Odyssey*
 - ***The Iliad***- *The story of Trojan War written hundreds of years after the war supposedly happened*
 - ***The Odyssey***- *The sequel to the Iliad where the hero **Odysseus** has many adventures on his way home from the war*
- **The Mycenaean's were the primary inspiration for much of later Greek Culture**

Dark Ages:

1100—800 BC

A group of people called the **Dorians** invaded Mycenaean civilization. Then came a 300 year period called the **Greek Dark Ages** in which

- Life became more **agrarian** (relied on farming)
- Educational and technological advances slowed in favor of simply surviving

Eventually

- Bronze gave way to the stronger metal iron
- A new Alphabet was adopted, **The Phoenician alphabet**, which would spread all across the Aegean Basin

Greek Alphabet

Α

Alpha
(al-fah)

Β

Beta
(bay-tah)

Γ

Gamma
(gam-ah)

Δ

Delta
(del-ta)

Ε

Epsilon
(ep-si-lon)

Ζ

Zeta
(zay-tah)

Η

Eta
(ay-tah)

Θ

Theta
(thay-tah)

Ι

Iota
(eye-o-tah)

Κ

Kappa
(cap-pah)

Λ

Lambda
(lamb-dah)

Μ

Mu
(mew)

Ν

Nu
(new)

Ξ

Xi
(zie)

Ο

Omicron
(om-e-cron)

Π

Pi
(pie)

Ρ

Rho
(roe)

Σ

Sigma
(sig-mah)

Τ

Tau
(tau)

Υ

Upsilon
(up-si-lon)

Φ

Phi
(fie)

Χ

Chi
(kie)

Ψ

Psi
(sigh)

Ω

Omega
(oh-may-gah)

Greek Letter		Name	Equivalent	Sound When Spoken
A	α	Alpha	A	al-fah
B	β	Beta	B	bay-tah
Γ	γ	Gamma	G	gam-ah
Δ	δ	Delta	D	del-tah
E	ε	Epsilon	E	ep-si-lon
Z	ζ	Zeta	Z	zay-tah
H	η	Eta	E	ay-tay
Θ	θ	Theta	Th	thay-tah
I	ι	Iota	I	eye-o-tah
K	κ	Kappa	K	cap-ah
Λ	λ	Lambda	L	lamb-dah
M	μ	Mu	M	mew
N	ν	Nu	N	new
Ξ	ξ	Xi	X	zzEye
O	ο	Omicron	O	om-ah-cron
Π	π	Pi	P	pie
Ρ	ρ	Rho	R	row
Σ	σ	Sigma	S	sig-ma
Τ	τ	Tau	T	tawh
Υ	υ	Upsilon	U	oop-si-lon
Φ	φ	Phi	Ph	figh or fie
Χ	χ	Chi	Ch	kigh
Ψ	ψ	Psi	Ps	sigh
Ω	ω	Omega	O	o-may-gah

The Archaic Greek Age: 800—479 BC

- The Greek culture truly begins as they emerged from the Dark Age with a common
 - language
 - heroic stories
 - myths
 - religious practices
 - trade interests
- This time period is known as **Archaic** Greece or old Greece

The Archaic Greek Age: 800—479 BC

➤ The Greeks claimed a common mythical parent, the God **Hellen**



➤ He fathered three sons, who were supposedly the founders of the 4 major Greek tribes

➤ Because of this the Greek people call their country and people the **Hellas** or **Hellenistic** people

The Polis

- During the Archaic age in Greece people began moving from small farms to cities
- These cities became the center of government, trade, and farming for the area making them **City-States** (cities which rule themselves and surrounding areas)
- They called these City-States the **Polis** (which literally means “The City”)

The Polis

➤ The Polis was typically a fortified or walled city built for defensive purposes on top of a hill



➤ The buildings at the top of the Polis were called the **Acropolis** which means the higher city

➤ The Acropolis was usually a fortified or protected area

Greek Religion

Olympians- The primary Gods of the Greeks, so called because they supposedly lived atop Mount Olympus



Greek Religion

Zeus- King of the Olympians, God of thunder and the sky

Hera- Queen of the Olympians, goddess of marriage and family

Poseidon- Brother of Zeus God of the Seas

Hades- Younger Brother of Zeus, God of the Underworld

Ares- Son of Zeus, God of War

Athena- Daughter of Zeus, Goddess of Wisdom

Sparta

- **Sparta** was a powerful polis located on the South Eastern edge of the Peloponnesus
- They were governed by a group of 30 men made up of 2 Kings (hereditary rulers) and a group of 28 elders (60 year olds elected by the popular shout of the citizens) who ruled for life
- This type of government is called an **Oligarchy** which means rule by an elite few.

Spartan Citizenship

- There were three classes of people in Sparta
 - **Citizens**- Must be of Spartan descent and have been educated in the **Agoge** (Spartan military training)
 - **Non-Citizens**- Free Greek people from different polis'
 - **Slaves**- People conquered by the Spartans. the largest group of slaves was called the **Helots**

Spartan Warriors

- The Spartans were famous for their military prowess
- Spartan boys left home at 7 to begin their military education
- Life was hard and harsh for them so they would learn to be tough and cunning



Interesting Differences

- Sparta needed healthy male warriors, so childbearing women were given more freedoms

<u>Spartan women</u>	<u>Athenian women</u>
Choral singing	No
Dancing	No
Nude athletics w/men	No

Athenian women pursued respectability as an **ideal.**

Athens



- Another Powerful, yet very different polis in ancient Greece was called Athens
- It was located on the eastern edge of the Peloponnesus near the Aegean Sea
- The people of Athens would become the most powerful people in all of Greece

Athens

- Each Greek Polis had a God or Goddess that was responsible for it or was that cities Patron
- The Patron Goddess of Athens was **Athena** the Goddess of Wisdom.



Athenian Education

Girls stayed at home and were taught to be good wives and mothers

Boys from 7-18 attended school

- they memorized poetry
- learned to play the lyre.
- They learned drama, public speaking, reading, writing, math

At 18, they were required to attend two years of military school.



Democracy

- The citizens of Athens all took part in governing the Polis which made Athens the **World's First Democracy**

Demos = People

Cracy = Government or Rule

Democracy

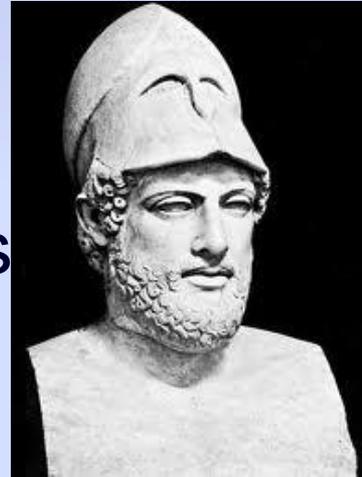
- A **democracy** is when every citizen takes part in the governing of the state
- There are 2 types of democracy
 - **Direct Democracy**- the people are directly involved with making every decision
 - **Representative Democracy**- the people elect representatives to make decisions for them also known as a **Republic**
- Athens used a Direct Democracy. Every Citizen was involved in governing the city state

The traditions of Athens form the basis for much of later Western Civilization

- Self-Government
- Used philosophy to explain the world
- Viewed common men as the center of the Universe

The development of these traditions was thanks, in part, to **Pericles**.

- An important Athenian statesman
- He helped moved Athens away from a monarchy and aristocracy and towards democracy



Greek Golden Age

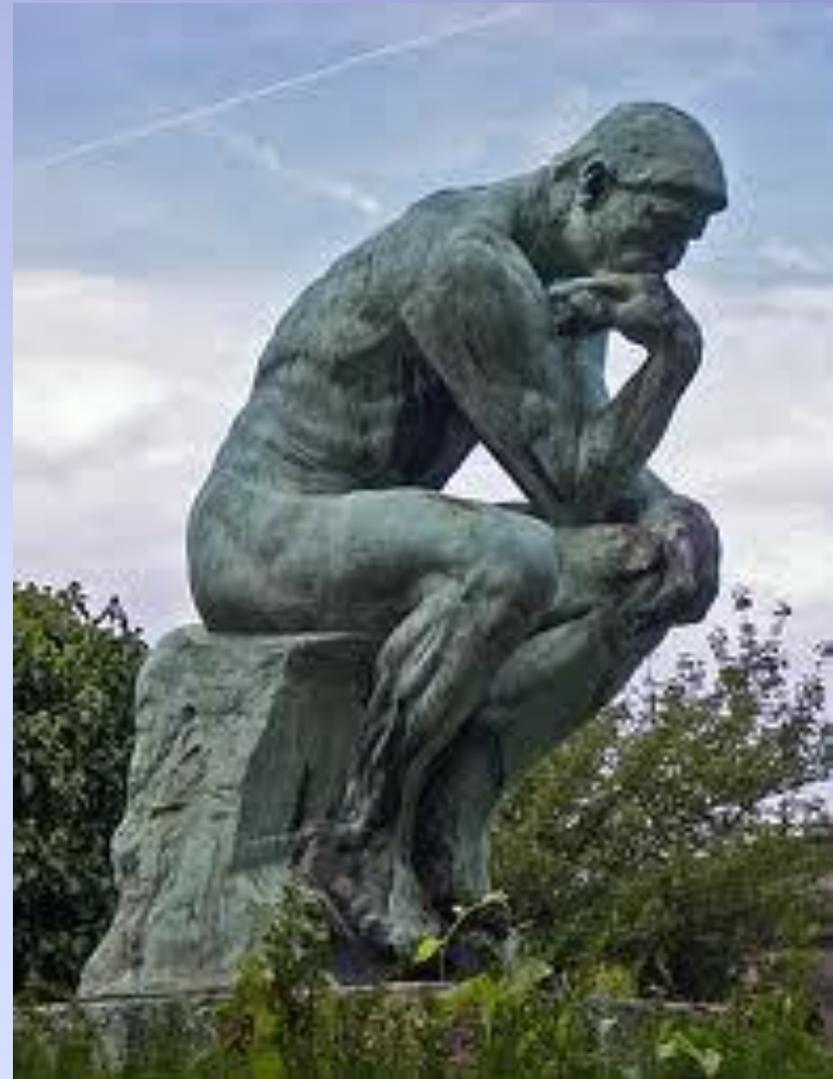
- The common threat of Persian invasion caused the Greek people to unite
- As a result they created a league of nations called the **Delian League**
- Athens was the center of this league which allowed them to establish an “**Athenian Empire**” of influence in Greece

Greek Philosophy

- **Philosophy** is thinking about thinking. It's studying the world and everything in it to explain why we believe what we believe.
- The word philosophy means “Love of Wisdom” in Greek
- Much of western philosophy comes from the Ancient Greek Philosophers

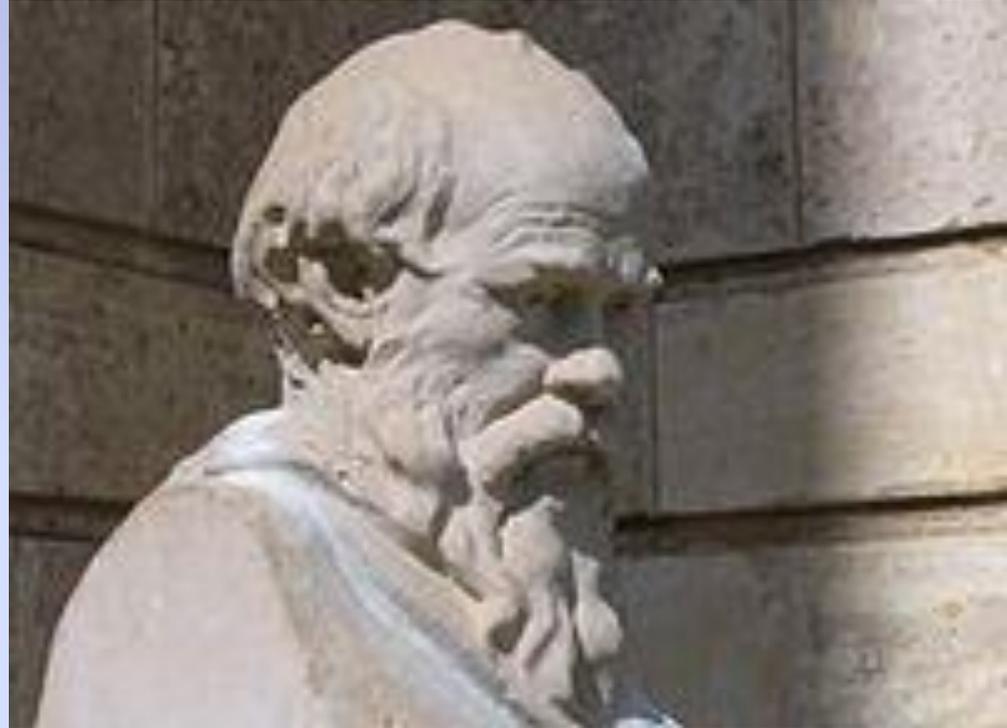
Greek Philosophy

- Athens was the center of Greek Philosophy.
- People came from all over the world to learn and teach in Athens
- The Ancient Greeks were the first to think of normal men as the center of the universe rather than gods or kings



Socrates

- The most famous Athenian Philosopher was **Socrates**
- He answered questions about life by using the **Socratic Method** of questioning.



Socratic Method

Teaching through step-by-step questions that are designed to lead the student to the "truth"

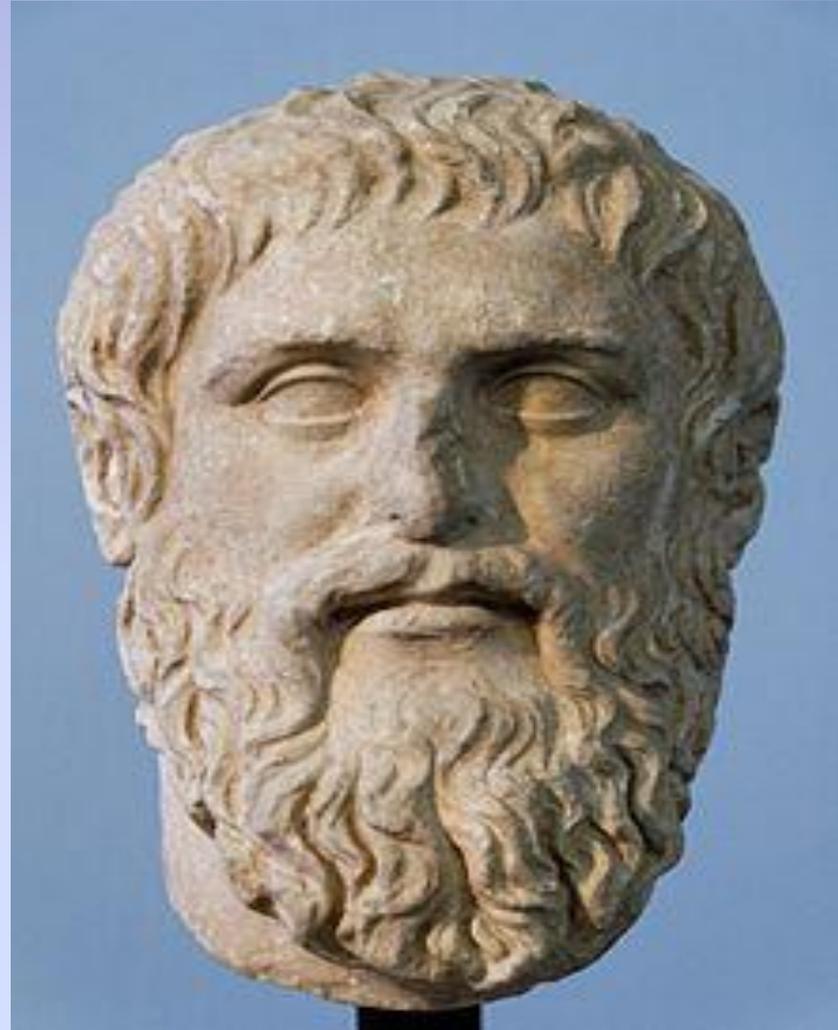
Socrates was a Greek philosopher who wanted people to question and think for themselves



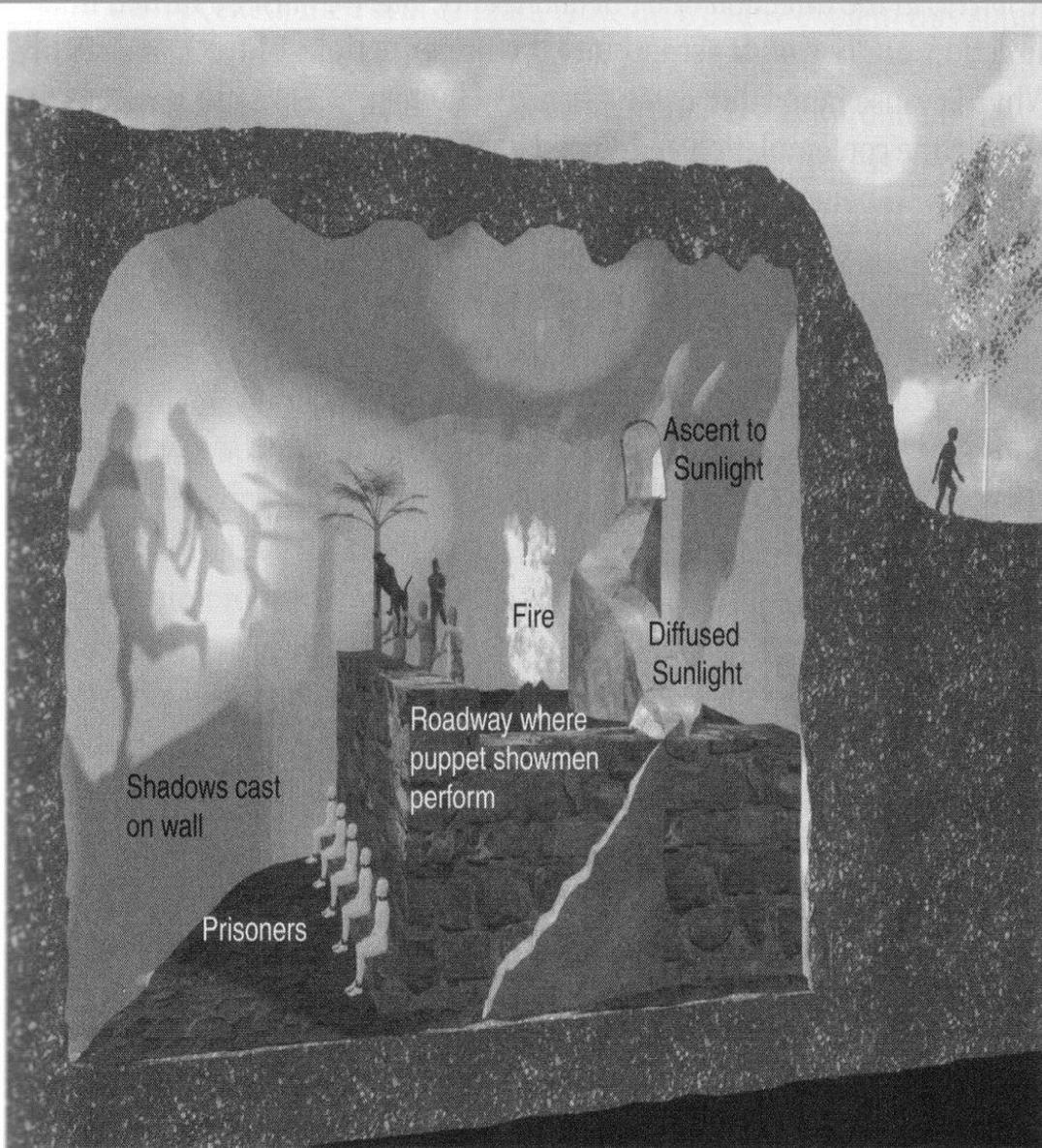
Athenians were threatened by his ideas, so he was tried and put to death for corrupting the youth

Plato

- Socrates best student was **Plato**
- He popularized the ideas Socrates taught him and opened the first institute of higher learning in the Western World



PLATO'S ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE

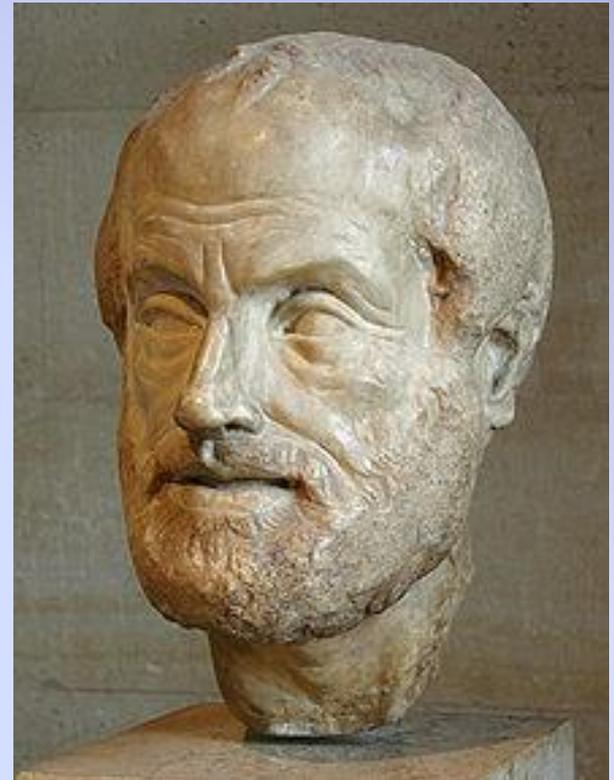


What do you think the cave is a representation of?

What do you suppose Plato is trying to say with this allegory?

Aristotle

- **Aristotle** was the student of Plato
- He created the scientific method, an organized way of figuring things out that is still used today.
 - Ask a question
 - Research answers
 - Form a hypothesis
 - Test you hypothesis
 - Form a conclusion

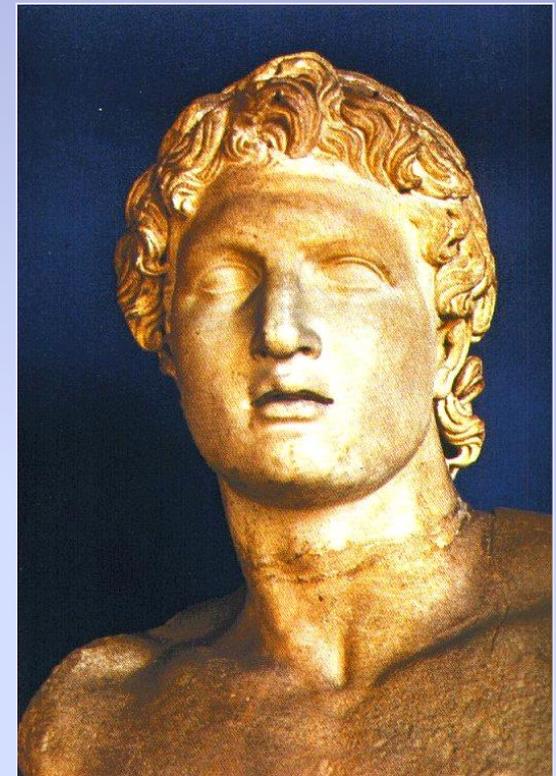


➤ Aristotle was in turn the teacher of another famous Greek, Alexander of Macedonia later to be known as **Alexander the Great**



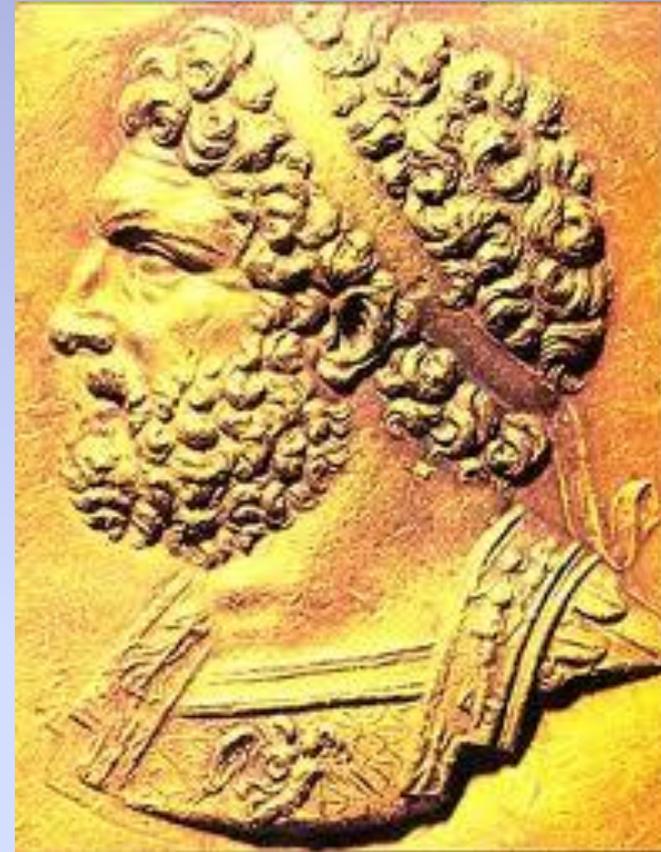
Alexander the Great

356-323 B.C.E.



Phillip of Macedonia

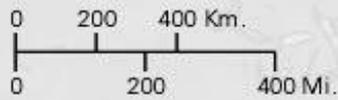
- The father of Alexander the Great, Philip II of Macedonia united nearly all of Greece under his rule in 336 b.c.e.
- He was planning to conquer Persia in retribution for the Persian invasions but was Assassinated before he could



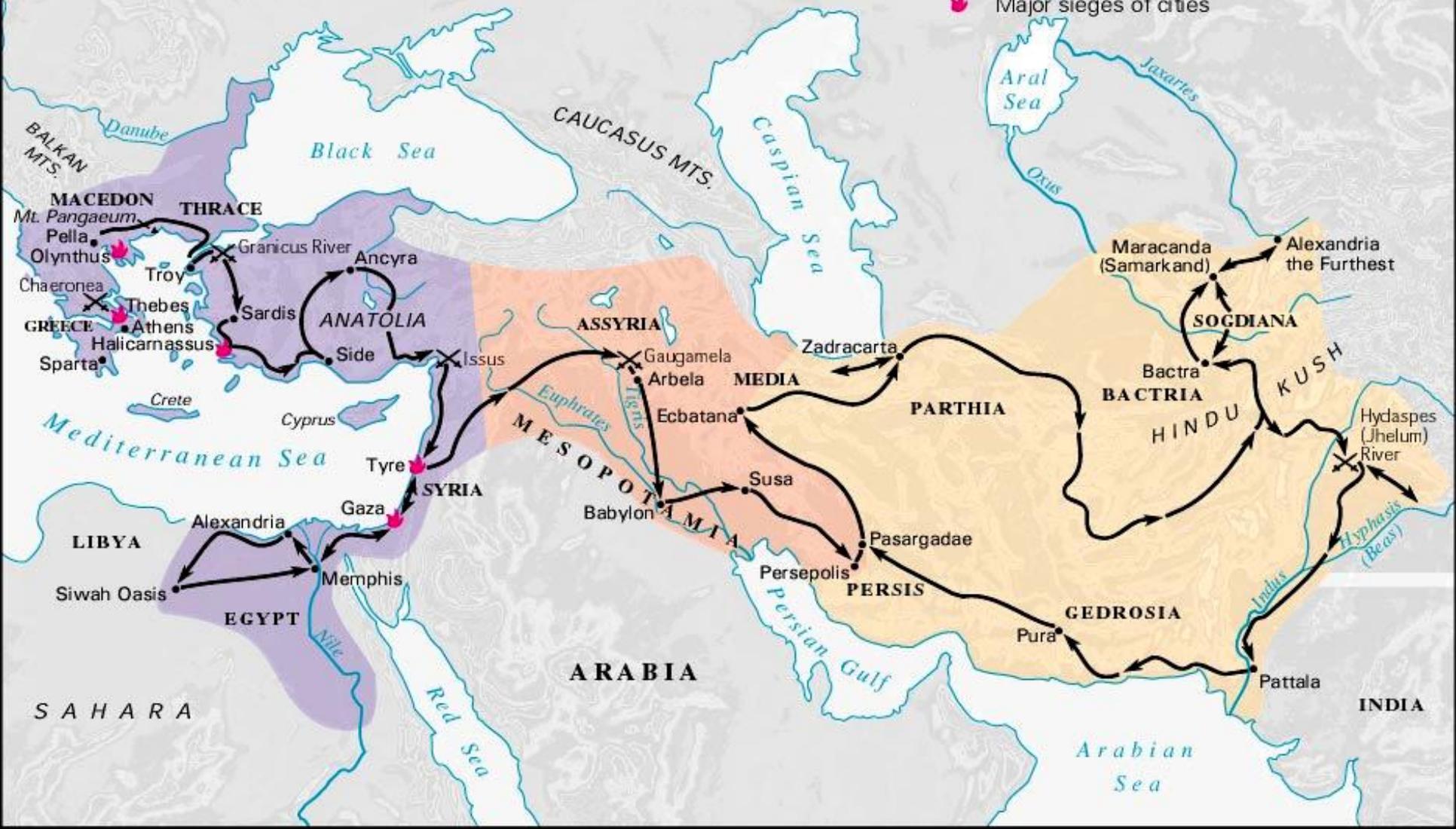
Alexander's Conquest

- Alexander picks up right where his father left off and Conquered all of Persia, Egypt, and even large areas of the Indian Sub Continent





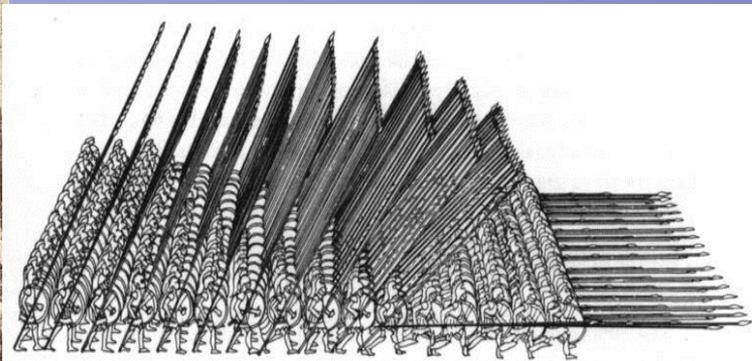
- Alexander's empire in 332 B.C.
- Territory added by 330 B.C.
- Territory added by 326 B.C.
- Route of Alexander's invasion
- ✕ Major battles
- Major sieges of cities



Greek Military Strategy

Alexander and the Greeks were so successful because no one could defeat their fighting style known as the Phalanx

In the **Phalanx** a mass of soldiers heavily armored and carrying shields and 18 ft spears would march at and overwhelm their opponents



The Macedonian phalanx, here shown in its fighting formation of 256 men, the syntagma.



Hellenization

The areas under Alexander's control began adopting Greek ideas, and customs as Greek people and goods spread through out

This led to a general Hellenization of much of the old world, meaning they were becoming more like the hellenistic people in Greece

As a result we refer to this time period as the **Hellenistic era**

The Hellenization of Asia

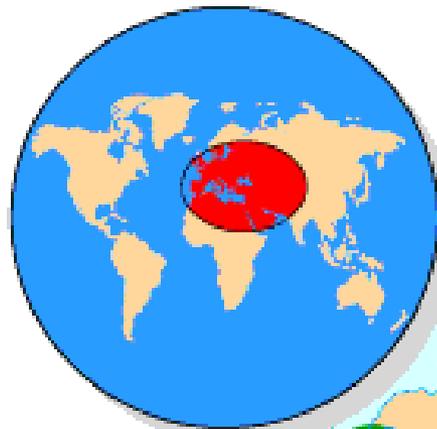
- Major Greek cities founded before 336 B.C.
- Greek cities founded 336 B.C. – 1 B.C.



The Breakup of Alexander's Empire

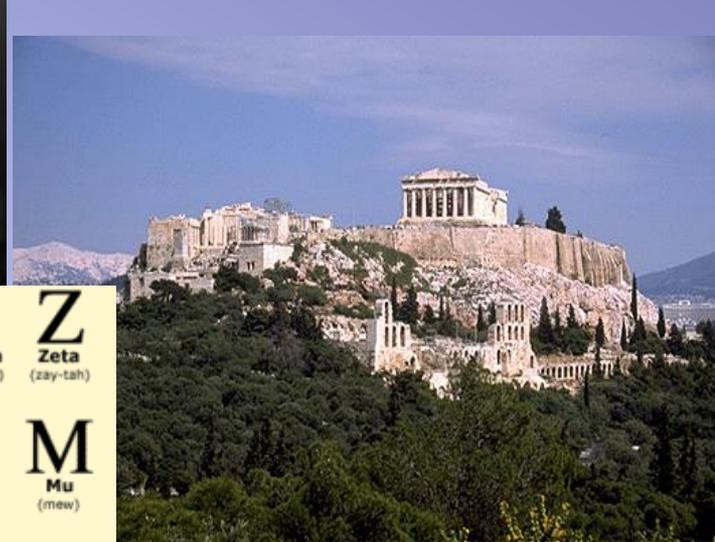


Enter Rome



the Hellenistic world after the death of Alexander, 323 BCE
Roman Empire, c.100 BCE





Α Alpha (al-fah)	Β Beta (bay-tah)	Γ Gamma (gam-ah)	Δ Delta (del-ta)	Ε Epsilon (ep-si-lon)	Ζ Zeta (zay-tah)
Η Eta (ay-tah)	Θ Theta (thay-tah)	Ι Iota (eye-o-tah)	Κ Kappa (cap-pah)	Λ Lambda (lamb-dah)	Μ Mu (mew)
Ν Nu (new)	Ξ Xi (zie)	Ο Omicron (om-e-cron)	Π Pi (pie)	Ρ Rho (roe)	Σ Sigma (sig-mah)
Τ Tau (tav)	Υ Upsilon (up-si-lon)	Φ Phi (fie)	Χ Chi (kie)	Ψ Psi (sigh)	Ω Omega (oh-may-gah)

