



Chapter 25

Geography and the Settlement of Greece

How did geography influence settlement and way of life in ancient Greece?

25.1 Introduction

In this chapter, you will learn about how geography affected the early settlement of ancient Greece. This remarkable culture flourished between 750 and 338 B.C.E. Ancient Greek art, ideas, and writings continue to influence many aspects of the modern world today.

Greece is a small country in southern Europe. It is shaped somewhat like an outstretched hand, with fingers of land that reach into the Mediterranean Sea.

The mainland of Greece is a peninsula. A peninsula is land that is surrounded on three sides by water. Greece also includes many islands throughout the Mediterranean and the Aegean (ih-JEE-uhn) seas.

Mainland Greece is a land of steep, rugged mountains, almost entirely surrounded by turquoise blue seas. The ancient Greeks lived on farms or in small villages scattered throughout the country. These farms and villages were isolated, or separated, from each other by the mountains and seas.

In this chapter, you will explore how Greece's geography influenced settlement and way of life in ancient Greece. You will learn why people lived and farmed in isolated communities. You will also discover how the Greeks used the sea to establish colonies and trade relations with people from other lands.



The ancient Greeks learned to use the sea as a major route for travel and trade.

◀ Farmers in ancient Greece grew olives and grapes on rocky hillsides.