

Greece Geography Activity

A Little Q & A

Directions: Use your reading to answer the following questions. Use complete sentences to write out your answer, paying attention to proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Then, go to the class web site to check your answers.

To reward yourself for continuing to practice good active reading and research skills, give yourself an extra point for every question whose answer you had previously underlined or highlighted in your reading.

1) How did the mountains and the islands influence the development of individual Greek city-states?

A: Greece's mountains and islands formed natural barriers that made it difficult for people to interact and form one large, unified country. Instead, ancient Greece was made up of independent city-states. The mountains also meant that farming was limited and meant that most people lived near the coast.

2) How is the location of Greece on the Mediterranean Sea beneficial for trade and expansion?

A: Greece is located in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, near other flourishing civilizations. Water allowed them to reach many areas for trade and conquest.

3) In what ways did the sea shape Greek culture, myth, economy, and trade?

A: The sea was a main feature in daily life. In order to survive, the Greeks were forced to learn new ways to travel upon the water. The sea was their main highway for trade with other lands and expansion into new territories. The voyages into new and uncharted areas prompted tales of mystical places that grew into Greek myths.

4) Why didn't the Greeks have large herds of animals or large quantities of grain?

A: They did not have enough grazing land or flat fertile areas for growing large quantities of grain.

5) Why are olives such an important crop?

A: Olive trees grew easily in the climate and soil conditions and provide people many things such as a fruit and oil for eating, making cosmetics, and light. Olives were also a good source for trading with other areas.

6) Look up the words "peninsula" and "archipelago." Describe how each of these are important to the study of Greece?

A: The entire Greek mainland is a peninsula with smaller peninsulas dotting its coast. The main, large peninsula placed Greece in the middle of the Mediterranean and helped make the Greeks an ocean-going population of traders. An archipelago is a chain of islands, which describes the rest of the Greek territory off the coast. The islands provided the Greeks with rest stops as they travelled across the seas. They also provided places to set up Greek colonies.

How'd You Do?