Ancient Greece

An Empire United but Divided
Greek Geography

- Located in SE Europe
  - Cities separated from one another by Mountains and water
  - Loose collection of city-states on Balkan Peninsula and islands scattered around the Aegean and Mediterranean Sea
A Sea-faring People

- Easy access to sea allowed Greeks to trade goods and ideas with nearby Civilizations
  - Ex. Traded wine for metals
  - Adopted Phoenician Alphabet
Beginning of Greek Society

• Early Greeks (Known as Minoans) developed on Island of Crete around 1600 B.C.E.
  – Replaces by Mycenaeans around 1400 B.C.E
Homer's *The Iliad*

- Tale of the Trojan War
- Mycenaean versus powerful city of Troy
  - Legend – Paris (Prince of Troy) Kidnaps Helen of Troy from Greek king
  - History – War most likely erupted because of trading dispute
Achilles

- Greek champion who defeated Troy’s Champion Hector
- Semi-Mythical Warlord
  - Said to be a son of the gods
The Fall of Troy

• After 10 years of war the Trojans were defeated
  – Troy was burned to the ground
  – Achilles was killed by Paris by a poisoned arrow that hit his heel
Greek City States

• Ancient Greece organized into loose collection of city states at the beginning