GEOGRAPHY:

¾ of Greece is covered with rugged mountain ranges. These mountains separated the people of Greece and led to the formation of isolated city-states with widely varied cultures, ideas and values. There was no sense of unity in Greece because of this separation. Greece also had no major rivers to rely on so people had to live close to the sea.

The climate in Greece was mild and allowed for good soil and enough rainfall to grow grapes and olives. The people traveled by sea to other places to trade grapes and olives for meat, cloth, tools, weapons, etc. Greeks also relied on the sea for fishing which was another source of food.

EARLY HISTORY OF GREECE:

1. Minoans (2000-1400BC): lived on the island of Crete and were ruled by King Minos. They built powerful ships and were known as great traders. Disappeared due to either a powerful tidal wave or volcanic eruption.
2. Mycenaeans (1600-1200BC): built the first city-states. They were the first Greeks to use bronze to build stronger weapons and tools.
3. Dorians (1200-700BC): illiterate people who did little to advance Greek culture.