**Ancient Greece Background**

I have made a file containing the first half of the first Greece chapter from the textbook “Prologue to the Present.” We didn’t get to use these in class and there were not enough to issue complete sets for both classes. The reading is a little heavy at times but take your time with it and keep a dictionary handy. These questions are a guideline for some of the early history. Text pages have been given for each section.

There is one feature in the text pages I would draw your attention to because it is helpful when trying to get a sense of the events and people and where they fit on the overall timeline. On pages 132-133 you will see a large information table labeled as “Greece: A Developmental Timeline.” Similar tables exist in all chapters of the book and they are a great quick reference guide.

**Recommended viewing:**

It might be helpful to locate a documentary or two on early Greek history just to give yourself some insights on this period of time. There are lots of them on YouTube and other sites.

When we start to study Greece, we are into a time and place in history that is much more apparent in popular media. You may be familiar with movies such as “Troy,” “Alexander the Great,” “300” or “The Odyssey.” Some of these stories have been done on film more than once. “The Odyssey” was even re-told as a Great Depression Era story in a movie called “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”

On page 136 there is a text box labeled “Perspectives on the Past” and it discusses The Trojan War as fact or fiction. The story is told (with the usual creative license) in the movie called “Troy” and I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys a good story. It tells the story of the city of Troy and what happened there. It is based on a book called “The Iliad” and there are a number of big name actors and actresses in it.

Greece Intro pg. 128-130

1. Who was Homer and what did he write?
2. Name the sea that was the heart of civilization in Ancient Greece.
3. In a geographic sense, how is ancient Greece different than Mesopotamia and Egypt?
4. Where did civilization begin in the Aegean and where did it spread to?
5. Why was the sea a major influence on life in Greece?
6. How did the mountains affect life in Greece?

Greece – The Dark Ages pgs. 138 – 139

1. How long did the “Dark Ages” last and why do we call it this?
2. Who were the new people who came from the North and what did the mainland Greeks do to escape them?
3. Where did the former Achaeans themselves go?
4. The Dorians were considered a destructive people. What shows this?
5. What was a result of the Dorians wiping out the farming communities?
6. When and where did the Dorians end up settling?