Ancient Greece Study Guide

Chapter 9-Section 1: Geography and the Early Greeks

Vocabulary

1) **polis**: a city-state.
2) **classical**: an age that is marked by great achievements.
3) **acropolis**: a high hill.

Main Ideas:

1) Geography helped shape early Greek civilization. Remember—the geography of Greece isolated the city-states from each other until the Greeks developed their sailing skills.
2) Trading cultures developed in the Minoans and the Mycenaean civilizations.
3) The Greeks created city-states for protection and security.

Chapter 9-Section 2: Government in Athens

Vocabulary

1) **democracy**: type of government in which the people rule themselves.
2) **aristocrats**: rich, landowners.
3) **oligarchy**: rule by a few people who share power.
4) **citizens**: people who have the right to participate in the government.
5) **tyrant**: a leader who takes power by force.
6) **Pericles**: Brilliant, elected leader of Athens. Encouraged Athenians to take pride in their city and participate in their government.

Main Ideas

1) Aristocrats and tyrants ruled early Athens.
2) Athens created the world’s first democracy.
3) Ancient democracy was different than modern democracy.
Chapter 9-Section 3: Greek Mythology and Literature

Vocabulary

1) mythology: a body of stories about gods and heroes that try to explain how the world works.
2) Homer: blind storyteller who wrote the Iliad—the story of the Trojan War.
3) Sappho: wrote emotional poems.
4) Aesop: writer of fables.
5) fables: short stories that teach a lesson.

Main Ideas

1) The Greeks created myths to explain the world.
2) Ancient Greek literature provides some of the world’s greatest poems and literature.
3) Greek literature lives in and influences our world today.

Chapter 10-Section 2: Sparta and Athens

Vocabulary

1) alliances: an agreement to work together.
2) Peloponnesian War: a war between Athens and Sparta that threatened to tear all of Greece apart.

Main Ideas

1) The Spartans built a military society to provide security and protection.
2) The Athenians admired the mind and the arts in addition to physical abilities.
3) Sparta and Athens fought over who should have power and influence in Greece.

Chapter 10-Section 3: Alexander the Great

Vocabulary
1) Philip II: king of Macedonia who conquered Greece. He was Alexander’s father.
2) phalanx: a group of warriors who stood close together in a square.
3) Alexander the Great: became king after Philip’s death. Expanded his father’s empire.
4) Hellenistic: Greek-like.

Main Ideas

1) Macedonia conquered Greece in the 300s B.C.E.
2) Alexander the Great built an empire that united much of Europe, Asia and Egypt.
3) The Hellenistic kingdoms formed from Alexander’s empire blended Greek and other cultures.

Chapter 10–Section 4: Greek Achievements

Vocabulary

1) Socrates: philosopher and teacher who believed that people must never stop looking for knowledge.
2) Plato: a student of Socrates. Ran the Academy and wrote The Republic.
3) Aristotle: Plato’s student and teacher of Alexander the Great. He believed that moderation was based on reason or clear and ordered thinking.
4) reason: clear and ordered thinking.
5) Euclid: mathematician who studied geometry.
6) Hippocrates: Greek doctor.

Main Ideas

1) The Greeks made great contributions to the arts.
2) The teachings of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle are the basis of modern philosophy.
3) In science, the Greeks made key discoveries in math. Medicine and engineering.