

Answer Key for Highlighting Handout 1

At the same time that the Shang dynasty was ruling much of the Huang He River valley and the Egyptian pharaohs were building the New Kingdom along the Nile, another civilization was beginning, along the northeastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. The civilization was that of the ancient Greeks.

In Greece, there was no great river carrying layers of fertile silt to create rich farmland. Instead of finding themselves in an environment provided by a river valley, ancient Greeks found themselves on a peninsula, a piece of land almost entirely surrounded by the sea, with a rocky landscape that offered few natural resources.

Ancient Greece was located on the southern European mainland. The modern day country of Greece includes not only the mainland portion, but also includes hundreds of islands. The biggest of these islands is Crete, south of the mainland. Northeast of Crete is another large island called Rhodes.

Mountains and hills cover nearly three-fourths of Greece. Western Greece is the most mountainous, and there, travel by land is very difficult. The land is not very fertile, either, but farmers herd goats and sheep on the rugged hillsides.

Eastern Greece has more land suitable for farming. Some of these farmlands are on the peninsula of Attica. Attica also has excellent natural harbors, or sheltered places, for ships. Peloponnesus, a large peninsula southwest of Attica, is a mountainous region outlined by a thin area of fertile soil. Here can be found several rivers, but unlike rivers in Egypt or Mesopotamia, these rivers dry up in the summer.

The climate of Greece also presented a challenge for early farmers. Summers were hot and dry, and winters were wet and windy. Ancient Greeks raised crops and animals well suited to the environment. Wheat and barley were grown, and olives and grapes were harvested. The many hills and mountains provided shrubs to feed the herds of sheep, goats, and cattle.

Because farming didn't produce huge surpluses, and travel across the terrain was difficult, the Greeks came to depend on the sea. People living near the Mediterranean, Aegean, and Ionian Seas became fishers, sailors, and merchants. Because of Greece's location in the eastern Mediterranean, it was a perfect location for trade. Greek sailors were highly skilled, and traveled as far as ancient Egypt to trade their products. Greek merchants competed with traders from other Mediterranean cultures. One of these cultures was the Phoenicians. Traders from all over were eager to exchange their goods for Greece's olive oil, wool, and wine. Those who traded with the Greeks especially prized Greece's olive oil. It added flavor to food, along with its usefulness as a lamp fuel and body lotion.

Name _____

**Cause and Effect
Do with a Partner
Handout 2**

Answer the following questions based on your reading from Handout 1. Then list three causes and three effects in the Cause and Effect graphic organizer at the bottom of this page.

1. What physical features make up nearly three-fourths of Greece?

2. What problems might the Greeks have had living in this environment?

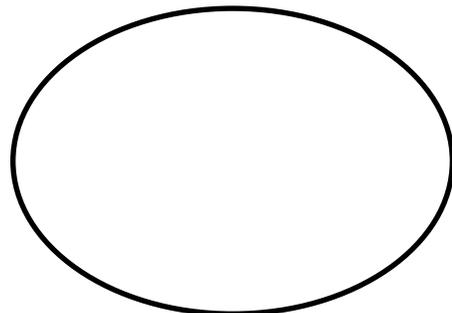
3. How did the Greeks solve these problems to meet their needs?

4. How did the limited amount of crop (fertile) land cause the Greeks to become sea traders?

Causes (3) - Environment



Effects (3) - Lifestyle



Name _____

**Cause and Effect
ELL Assessment
Handout 3**

Directions: Make pictures to represent each.

sea

natural resource

mountains

rocky

islands

fertile

Name _____

Handout 3
ELL Assessment

Directions: Fill in the blanks to summarize the article.

At the same time that the Shang dynasty was ruling much of the Huang He River valley and the Egyptian pharaohs were building the New Kingdom along the Nile another _____ was beginning along the northeastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Greeks found themselves on a peninsula, a piece of land almost entirely surrounded by the _____, with a _____ landscape that offered few _____. The modern day country of Greece includes not only the mainland portion, but also includes hundreds of _____. Mountains and hills cover nearly _____ of Greece. The land is not very _____, either, but farmers herd _____ and _____ on the rugged hillsides. Eastern Greece has more land suitable for farming. Ancient Greeks raised crops and animals well suited to the _____. The many hills and _____ provided shrubs to feed the herds of sheep, goats, and cattle. Because farming didn't produce huge surpluses, and travel across the terrain was difficult, the Greeks came to depend on the sea. _____ from all over were eager to exchange their goods for Greece's olive oil, wool, and wine.

Word Box			
sheep	goats	civilization	fertile
sea	natural resources	environment	traders
rocky	three-quarters (3/4)	islands	mountains

Summary Sheet for Use in Assessment

1. At the same time that the Shang dynasty was ruling much of the Huang He River valley and the Egyptian pharaohs were building the New Kingdom along the Nile, another civilization was beginning, along the northeastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.
2. Greeks found themselves on a peninsula, a piece of land almost entirely surrounded by the sea, with a rocky landscape that offered few natural resources.
3. The modern-day country of Greece includes not only the mainland portion, but also includes hundreds of islands.
4. Mountains and hills cover nearly three-fourths of Greece.
5. The land is not very fertile, either, but farmers herd goats and sheep on the rugged hillsides.
6. Eastern Greece has more land suitable for farming.
7. Ancient Greeks raised crops and animals well suited to the environment.
8. The many hills and mountains provided shrubs to feed the herds of sheep, goats, and cattle.
9. Because farming didn't produce huge surpluses, and travel across the terrain was difficult, the Greeks came to depend on the sea.
10. Traders from all over were eager to exchange their goods for Greece's olive oil, wool, and wine.

ELL Student Example of a Summary on the Geography of Ancient Greece

At the same time that the Shang dynasty and the Egyptian civilizations developed along rivers, the Greek civilization developed along the Mediterranean Sea. Greece did not have many rivers. The Greeks were on a peninsula which has few natural resources and is rocky. Greece has many islands.

Almost three-fourths of Greece is hills and mountains. The land is not fertile either, but is good for sheep and goats. Eastern Greece has more fertile land and rivers. Greeks raised crops and animals suited to the environment. Since Greece is not good for land travel Greeks traveled on the Mediterranean Sea. It was a good area for trade. Greece's goods were wool, olive oil and wine.