

ANCIENT GREECE

Greek civilization is in the south of the Balkan Peninsula, in many islands of the Mediterranean Sea and in the coast of the Asia Minor (now Turkey).

Ancient Greece isn't an unified country because the mountains divide the peninsula into small valleys. Each valley and each island is an independent state. A **city-state or polis** is a city with its own government, laws, money and army. Athens, Sparta, Corinth, Olympia... are poleis. A common culture, religion and language united all the Greeks.

The rulers are usually rich people or aristoi, which means "the best". This form of government is called an **Aristocracy**. Sparta is a famous example of an aristocratic government.

Later, in some poleis, **Democracy** replaced Aristocracy. Citizens make decisions in assemblies and choose their representatives. Athens is a famous example of a democratic government, because it was the first.

Activities:

1. What is a polis?
2. Explain the differences between a democratic polis and an aristocratic polis.
3. What system of government exists in most European countries today?
4. Why is the city of Olympia famous?

5. What characteristics do all the Greek city-states have in common? And what different characteristics does each polis have?

6. What is the famous aristocratic city in Greece? And the first democratic city in the world?

7. Locate and fill the following map with these places: Balkan Peninsula, Mediterranean Sea, Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea, Iberian Peninsula, Italian Peninsula, Macedonia, Asia Minor, Egypt, Crete, Athens, Sparta, Mycenae, Troy, Delos, Olympia and Corinth.



8. Complete this chart:

Greece is on the continent of _____.	The land in Greece is _____.
a) Africa	a) mountainous
b) Europe	b) rolling hills
c) Asia	c) desert