

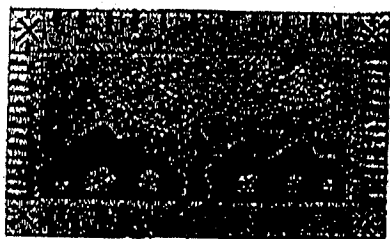
Daily Lives of the Greeks

Name: _____ Date: _____

Using Chapter Four, *Classical Greece*, in *Echoes from the Past* as a source, fill in the following chart.

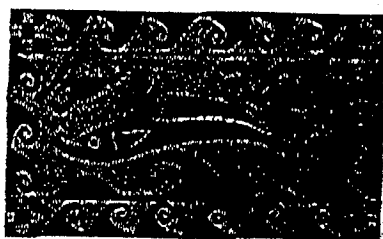
Members of Greek Society	Social, Economic, or Political Role in Greek Society
Women	
Men	
Children (Girls)	
Children (Boys)	
Slaves	

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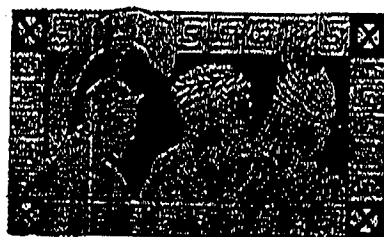
Greek Landscape

WHEN YOU ARRIVE in ancient Greece, you will discover a dramatic landscape: high, snow-capped mountains, shady valleys, and steep cliffs. There is very little flat land for growing crops; it is mostly a narrow strip along the coast. Many Greeks live in small "city-states" built there; others live on one of the thousands of rocky islands rising from the brilliant blue sea. The Greeks are very proud of their rugged, beautiful land.



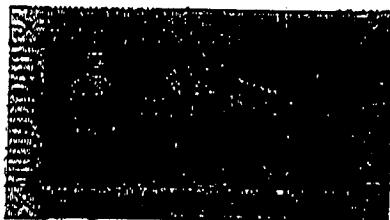
Wildlife

TODAY, there are not many trees on the Greek mountainsides, and the surrounding seas are polluted and dirty in places. But 2,500 years ago, when the ancient Greeks lived, there were thick forests filled with deer, bears, and wolves. Swifts and eagles swooped overhead. There were dolphins, porpoises, and many fine fish in the sea. In spring, the mountain pastures blazed with wildflowers and were fragrant with herbs.



Gods & Goddesses

AS A TIME TRAVELER, you will find out that the ancient Greeks worshiped many gods. Their land was beautiful, but it was also harsh. Summers were very hot, and winters brought icy winds and driving rain. Disease, shipwreck, earthquakes, war (for men), and childbirth (for women) killed people while they were young. That is why Greek men and women said prayers and offered sacrifices to so many gods and goddesses.



Sports & Games

WOULD YOU LIKE to have had the chance to take part in the first Olympic Games? Ancient Greek tradition says they were first held in 776 B.C. Like all Greek festivals, they were held to honor the gods. Over the years, the Games grew into the leading sports festival for the whole of Greece, and winning athletes became heroes. But there were many other local games arranged by different city-states to celebrate their own special gods and festivals.



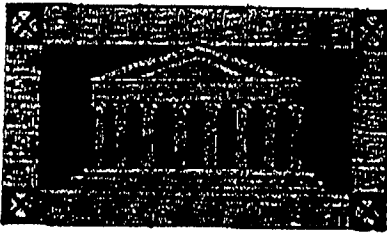
Education

AS A STUDENT in ancient Greece, you might have the chance to meet some of the most famous scientists, scholars, and teachers who ever lived. Their discoveries are still important to modern science. Greeks who could afford it valued learning very highly; boys were sent to study at school, while girls were taught at home. Even ordinary citizens enjoyed plays and stories written by "world class" poets. Many people still admire them today.



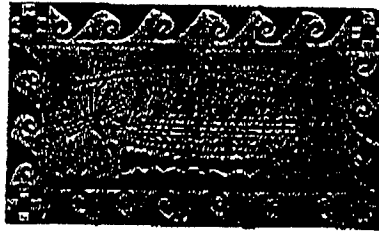
Family Life

WITH LUCK, you will be invited to visit an ancient Greek family that prides itself on its hospitality. What you will see will depend on whether you visit a rich home or a poor one. Ordinary people, in town or country, lived simply; rich farmers and citizens lived in big, well-furnished houses. Often, several generations of a family lived together; grandparents, parents, and children. Anyone who could afford to kept slaves.



City-States

SOME GREEKS were farmers who settled in wild countryside. A few islanders made a living in remote fishing villages. But most Greeks lived in a special type of community known as a "city-state". This consisted of a small, self-governing city, plus the surrounding countryside, which it controlled. There were several hundred city-states in ancient Greece. They were all fiercely independent and often fought among themselves.



Travel & Trade

NOWHERE IN GREECE is very far from the sea, and you will find that the ancient Greeks are skillful sailors. Travel by water is the easiest, though not always the safest, way of getting around. In wintertime, the calm Mediterranean Sea is buffeted by storms, and many pirates lurk, ready to attack. But travel, by sea or along rocky mountain roads, is essential for trade. Greek merchants became rich importing and exporting goods from many lands.



Women's Lives

WHEN YOU WALKED through the city streets, you may have been surprised to see few women: just female servants and market traders. In the country, you would see only peasant women working the fields. Where were all the rich female citizens and farmers? Mostly, they were at home. This was where they studied, or entertained friends, or worked – it was a responsible job, running a big house or a farm. But they could not take part in public life.



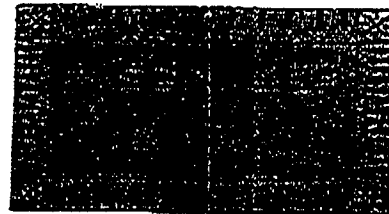
Country Life

YOU WOULD NOTICE that life in the country was very different from life in the towns. There were no busy markets, crowded theaters or sweaty sports centers, and few fine houses or splendid temples. Country people could not hurry out to a nearby stall to buy food; they had to rely on what grew on local farms or on what they could catch when they went hunting in the woods. But they had peace and quiet, fresh air – and less chance of catching diseases.



Arts & Crafts

MUSEUMS TODAY often contain examples of ancient Greek pottery. If you look closely, you will find that it is made of smooth, fine, red clay and painted with dramatic patterns or lively scenes. We know about Greek pottery because a lot of it has survived. But many other skillful Greek craftworkers – jewelers, metalworkers, weavers, sculptors, carpenters – produced goods to the same high standard, as well as simpler everyday items.



Language & Letters

TO THE ancient Greeks, all strangers (including you) were "barbarians." They were uncivilized because they did not speak Greek. For many centuries, the Greek language had not been written down; poems and songs had been memorized and passed on by word of mouth. But, long before the fifth century B.C. (the time of your visit), Greek scribes had devised an alphabet of letters and sounds from the earlier Phoenician language. It is still used today.

