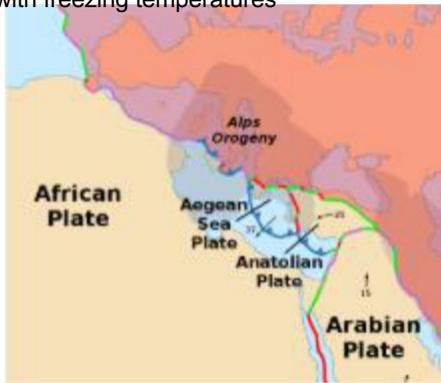


Climate and natural hazards		Map of ancient Greece	
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- The **climate** of ancient Greece was very similar to today – **hot, dry summers** and **cooler, wetter winters**. The northern mountainous areas can be very cold, with freezing temperatures
- The area around the Aegean Sea has had many **earthquakes** throughout history.
- Earthquakes happen when the large **tectonic plates** that make up Earth's outer layer slip against each other. There is a small plate called the **Aegean Sea plate**, which sits under most of the Aegean Sea and the southern part of Greece. When it slips against the larger plates that surround it, earthquakes can happen in the area. In 464 BCE an earthquake destroyed the ancient city of Sparta and 20,000 people were killed.
- There have also been some **volcanic eruptions** (around 1500BCE the volcano on the island of Thera, now known as Santorini, exploded blowing away large part of the island and covering the rest in ash).



### Human geography

- Groups of villages that were near each other in the mountainous areas formed strong trading links. They began to merge together as they grew bigger. Eventually they became a **city-state**. They were separated from other city-states by the difficult mountainous terrain. Hundreds of different city-states formed, some more powerful than others. Each had its **own government** and **capital city**. The capital city was usually on the highest ground in the area. The city-states shared the **same language, culture and religion** which gave them a common identity and created strong links between them.
- **Corinth** was a powerful city-state, located **near many trade routes in the Mediterranean**.
- **Athens** became more powerful and wealthy. It was in the **region of Attica**, which was rich with minerals like **silver and marble**. Athens grew wealthy through trade, the population increased and it became **the largest city-state**.
- **Sparta** also grew in strength. It was **ruled by warriors**, and every man had to be a soldier.
- The city-states that became the biggest, wealthiest and most important were the ones that had **seaports** as travel by sea was the best option for moving people and goods around Greece.
- Many older towns and cities grew in a haphazard way around the central **acropolis (area of high ground with temple for the god of that town or city)**, **agora (large, open space in the centre where people gathered for markets, meetings, games and socialising)** and council buildings. But some newer towns were planned more carefully with streets following a grid pattern.
- Some Greeks were moving to other areas around Mediterranean Sea to escape famine, overcrowding and war. The areas where these people settled became known as **Greek colonies**, where the people lived just as they had done in Greece. Soon they became independent city-states. The colonies became important **coastal trading posts** where goods could travel in and out of the areas further inland. One of the most important goods traded in these colonies was **grain**. Many of Greece's city-states had grown so big that they could not grow enough grain to feed everyone.
- Most Greeks ate some kind of **fish or seafood** every day. Around the coast fishing was a big industry. It was hard work but not too dangerous as Mediterranean Sea is usually calm.
- Greek farmers could grow **crops** on the areas of **flatter land around the coast** and in **valleys between mountains**. They used some of the steep stony **slopes for growing olive trees or grazing sheep and goats**. On the **flatter land barley and wheat** were important crops. **Olives** and **grapes** were also important and valuable. Other crops were **beans, lentils, onions, leeks and garlic**.



### Terrain

- The **Aegean Sea** (part of the **Mediterranean Sea**) was at the centre of ancient Greek civilization.
- The **mainland** of ancient Greece was **hilly and mountainous**. The mountains are not high but steep and the slopes are covered with bare rock. The mainland included the **land around the Aegean Sea**, the land where **modern-day Greece** is and the land to the east which is **modern-day Turkey**.
- The highest mountain is **Mount Olympus at 2917 metres** high.
- It was the large **peninsula** of land that runs from the **southeastern corner of Europe** down into the Mediterranean Sea. The ancient Greece had a **long rugged coastline**. The sea surrounds this strip of land on three sides. The peninsula is connected at the north end to the rest of Europe. Lots of smaller peninsulas span out from the mainland peninsula, and there are **many small natural harbours** along the coast.
- There were also **over 1,400 islands** in the Aegean Sea that were part of ancient Greece. Some, such as **Crete and Rhodes**, are large and have many towns. Some are tiny islets that are too small to live on. Some of the islands are made up of mountains, extinct volcanoes and rocky cliffs. Others have more gentle slopes that people can farm.
- Natural resources available in ancient Greece: **gold, silver, iron, copper, lead and marble**

