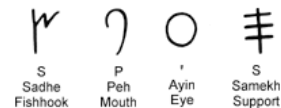
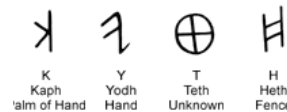


EARLY GREEK CIVILIZATIONS

MINOAN CRETE AND MYCENAE

The PHOENICIANS

- Reached Mediterranean coast ca. 1200 BC
- Important MERCHANTS and sea explorers
- Invention of the ALPHABET
 - a writing system that assigns a single symbol for each phoneme
 - ca. 1050 BC
 - Precursor to the alphabet we use today



The HITTITES



- Centered in ANATOLIA
- Indo-European language
 - early adopters of IRON weaponry
- raided Mesopotamia from 1600–1100 BC
- finally destroyed by the SEA PEOPLES

MINOAN CIVILIZATION

- ca. 2000 BC–1400 BC
- CRETE, centered on the city of KNOSSOS
- MEDITERRANEAN POLYCULTURE –
 - more intensive than single crop agriculture
 - olives and grapes as well as grains
- Primarily TRADERS,
 - trade in TIN (part of BRONZE), wine, oil
 - Spread as far west as Spain

Minoan Religion



- Female priestesses
- Goddess worship
- Sacred bulls

Minoan Culture

- Literate:
 - Script: LINEAR A
 - Skilled potters:
 - Peaceful themes
 - Sea themes
 - Skilled artists
- Peaceful, artistic society





MYCENAEAN GREECE

- Earliest GREEKS
 - Indo-European speakers
- Emerged, ca. 2000 BC.
- Became dominant, ca 1600 BC
 - Conquered Crete, ca 1400 BC
- Literate: LINEAR B

MYCENAEAN CULTURE

- a WARRIOR culture
- Burial mounds not big TEMPLES





The Fall of Mycenae

- Mycenaean civilization **DISAPPEARED**
- ca. 1200–1100 BC
- **WHY?**
 - Invasion of other Greek-speakers – the **DORIANS** – from the North
 - Economic collapse

The GREEK DARK AGES

- Populations began to decrease ca. 1200
 - Cities completely abandoned by ca. 1100
 - People lived in small, rural, agricultural tribes
- ILLITERACY

Hence “Dark Ages” –
a period of no records, history is lost

But? What about the Iliad?

- Archaeology:
 - Heinrich Schliemann (1822–90), amateur archaeologist and treasure-hunter
 - Found ruins Troy and Mycenae by using clues from the *Iliad*



ARCHAIC AGE GREECE

- Greeks continued to spread, forming COLONIES
- **TRADE** continued, including with Phoenicians
 - ca. 800 BC learned the **ALPHABET**
 - Learned **IRON** technology – cheaper, stronger, more effective → bigger surpluses
- Literacy and iron → new ARCHAIC AGE

The EIGHTH CENTURY GREEK RENAISSANCE

- 776 BC, the first OLYMPIC GAMES
 - every 4 years
 - religious festival at Olympia, dedicated to ZEUS
 - sports emphasized skills needed for war
- Oracle at Delphi
- Hesiod's epic poetry
 - *Theogony* – a description of the gods
 - *Works & Days* – account of RURAL LIFE
- Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*

GREEK RELIGION

- POLYTHEISTIC
- Different cities focused on specific gods
 - Gods of SKY, SEA and WAR
 - LOVE and AGRICULTURE goddesses



THE TROJAN WAR

- City of Troy (ILION)
 - in IONIA (Asia Minor), present day Turkey
- Long war with Mycenaeans
- Utterly destroyed ca. 1200 BC
- War over trade and resources?

TRANSMISSION OF THE LEGEND

- Transmitted ORALLY
 - traveling poets passed along the story
 - memorized not just interpreted
- ca. 800 BC, writing rediscovered
 - evolved oral form finally written down



DOMINANT CULTURAL ARTIFACT
OF EARLY GREECE