

Notes
Quiz #11
1.22.2015

Ancient Greece

City-States

- *City-states* were small cities, surrounded by fields that ruled themselves.
- More loyal to their city-state than to Greece
- The **mountains** and **seas** divided the land, forming natural barriers between city-states
- The most famous city-states were Athens and Sparta.

Sea

- Used it for trade, travel, and food
- Merchants, sailors, pirates and fisherman all made their living

Farming

- Farming the rocky land was not easy.
 - There were no predictable flooding rivers, no broad fertile plains.
- Along the fertile coast, farmers grew **wheat** and **barley** on their small plots. **Grapevines** and **olive trees** did well in the thin soil and hot dry summers.
- The hillsides made good grazing land for **sheep** and **goats**.

Religion

- In some of the Greek myths, the gods controlled nature and humans were often tested by gods
- The gods lived among the clouds on **Mt. Olympus** in northern Greece.
- In ancient Greek myths, a god or goddess could be a powerful friend/ally or a terrible enemy/foe.
- They rejected the idea that humans were slaves to the gods, as many other ancient cultures thought.

Olympics

- Athletic games became a way to **honor the gods**
- At the foot of **Mount Olympus** believed to be the home of the gods, the Greeks began hosting athletic games in honor of mighty Zeus .
- The earliest records of contests go back to 766 BC
- So important, they stopped wars!

Greek government

- Polis:
 - a city-state of ancient Greece
 - a small state run by citizens
- Each city-state knew its own needs.
 - each should make its own rules
 - have its own form of government
 - keep its own army.
 - Each city-state should be free to decide what gods to worship.
 - Citizens could help make laws and share in governing
- Citizens
 - Adult Men born in Greece
 - Serve on juries
 - fight to defend the polis
 - make laws to protect the polis

That means....

- Women, foreigners, and slaves could **not** be citizens.