Mapping Greek Influence

Read, locate, and trace change across the Mediterranean.

AWH.C.6.1 "Locate on a historical map of the Mediterranean area, Ancient Greece, tracing the extent of its influence to 300 BC, including the locations and historical significance of architectural sites (e.g., Knossos, Periclean Athens..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each place you could locate on a map, circle words that tell you where it is, and number the places in the order the passage introduces them. Use your marks to plan the historical map you will draw.

From Crete to the Indus

1. The Aegean Sea opens between mainland Greece on the west and Anatolia on the east. Athens stands in southeastern mainland Greece, near the coast. South of Athens, across the Aegean, lies Crete, a long island. On Crete's north coast, the palace at Knossos was a center of Minoan life long before the age of Alexander. Its storerooms and complex passages reveal a powerful Bronze Age society with wide sea connections. Knossos belongs on a map of the Greek world's earlier history, but Minoan culture was not the same as the Greek-speaking societies that rose later on the mainland.

2. In fifth-century BC Athens, public buildings expressed the city's wealth and civic identity. The Acropolis, a high rocky hill inside Athens, held major temples. The Parthenon stood on that hill and honored Athena, the city's patron goddess. It was built during the leadership of Pericles, when Athens directed an alliance of Greek city-states and used its resources to rebuild the Acropolis. A map should place the Parthenon on the Acropolis within Athens, not as a separate city. These buildings show the cultural power of Periclean Athens, even though Athens did not rule the entire Greek world.

3. After Alexander of Macedon conquered a vast empire in the fourth century BC, Greek language, settlers, and building styles spread far beyond mainland Greece. By 300 BC, centers of Greek influence reached east across the Aegean into Anatolia, southeast into Syria, and south into Egypt. Alexandria, a city founded by Alexander on Egypt's Mediterranean coast, became an important Greek-speaking center. Alexander's campaigns had reached the Indus River valley, far east of the Mediterranean; an arrow beyond a regional map's eastern edge can show that reach. His empire broke apart after his death, so cultural influence does not mean a single Greek government controlled every marked place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where would you place Knossos relative to Athens on a Mediterranean map? What makes it part of an earlier chapter of the region's history?

2. How would you locate the Parthenon on a map that marks Athens and the Acropolis? What did the building express about Periclean Athens?

3. Starting in mainland Greece, which direction would you cross the Aegean to reach Anatolia? Why should a map of Greek influence by 300 BC include Anatolia?

4. Where would you place Alexandria relative to Crete on a Mediterranean map? Why does it help show the extent of Greek influence by 300 BC?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In the box, draw your own simplified historical map of the Mediterranean region by 300 BC. Add a north arrow; place Greece, Athens, Crete, Knossos, the Acropolis, the Parthenon, Anatolia, Syria, Egypt, and Alexandria; then draw arrows tracing Greek influence from Greece toward Anatolia, Syria, and Egypt, with an arrow at the eastern edge labeled "toward Indus River valley."

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · AWH.C.6.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each place you could locate on a map, circle words that tell you where it is, and number the places in the order the passage introduces them. Use your marks to plan the historical map you will draw. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where would you place Knossos relative to Athens on a Mediterranean map? What makes it part of an earlier chapter of the region's history?	**Place Knossos south of Athens, on Crete's north coast. It was a Minoan palace of the Bronze Age, long before Alexander.**
2	How would you locate the Parthenon on a map that marks Athens and the Acropolis? What did the building express about Periclean Athens?	**Place the Parthenon on the Acropolis, inside Athens. It honored Athena and expressed the city's wealth and civic identity.**
3	Starting in mainland Greece, which direction would you cross the Aegean to reach Anatolia? Why should a map of Greek influence by 300 BC include Anatolia?	**Cross eastward. Greek language, settlers, and building styles had spread into Anatolia by 300 BC.**
4	Where would you place Alexandria relative to Crete on a Mediterranean map? Why does it help show the extent of Greek influence by 300 BC?	**Place Alexandria south of Crete, on Egypt's Mediterranean coast. It was an important Greek-speaking center.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The map has a north arrow pointing up. Greece and Athens are west of the Aegean. Crete and Knossos are south of Athens, with Knossos on Crete's north coast. The Acropolis and Parthenon are marked within Athens. Anatolia is east of the Aegean, Syria is southeast of Anatolia, and Egypt is south of Crete. Alexandria is on Egypt's Mediterranean coast. Arrows from Greece reach Anatolia, Syria, and Egypt. An arrow at the eastern edge reads "toward Indus River valley."

Accept approximate positions on a student-drawn map if the directional relationships are correct. The arrows represent the reach of Greek influence, not the borders of a single Greek state in 300 BC.