

Land Shaped Greece

Read how mountains and water influenced ancient Greek life.

3.6.b “describing the unique geography of ancient Greece;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that describe Greece's land or water. In the margin, number three details that affected where or how Greeks lived.

A Land of Mountains and Seas

- ① Ancient Greece lay on a rocky peninsula in southeastern Europe. Water surrounded it on three sides. The Aegean Sea was to the east, the Ionian Sea was to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea was to the south. Many islands sat in nearby waters. Greeks could travel by boat from one coast or island to another.
- ② High, steep mountains covered much of the land. The mountains separated small valleys and plains. Travel over land was often hard, so communities did not easily visit one another. Instead of forming one large city, Greeks built many separate city-states. Each city-state had its own government and way of life, although the people shared language and many beliefs.
- ③ Long coastlines gave many communities access to the sea. Some people fished, traded, and sailed between islands. Farmers grew olives, grapes, and grain where soil and water allowed. The land did not have wide, rich river valleys like those in some other ancient places. Greece's mountains, seas, islands, and coasts shaped where people lived and how they worked.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name the three seas that were around ancient Greece.

2 How did the mountains affect travel between Greek communities?

3 Why did Greece have many separate city-states instead of one large city?

4 How did Greece's long coastlines help some people do their work?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you live in an ancient Greek community near the sea and mountains. Write three sentences explaining where you would live and how the land or water would affect your daily life.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that describe Greece's land or water. In the margin, number three details that affected where or how Greeks lived. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name the three seas that were around ancient Greece.	The Aegean Sea, the Ionian Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.
2	How did the mountains affect travel between Greek communities?	The mountains made travel over land hard, so communities did not easily visit one another.
3	Why did Greece have many separate city-states instead of one large city?	Mountains separated valleys and plains, making travel and contact between communities difficult.
4	How did Greece's long coastlines help some people do their work?	People could fish, trade, and sail between islands.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would live near the coast because boats could carry people and goods to other places. I would fish and trade with nearby islands. The steep mountains would make it harder to visit communities farther inland.

Accept three connected sentences that accurately use at least two Greek geographic features and explain an effect on living or working. Students may choose coasts, islands, mountains, valleys, plains, or limited farmland.