

# 5.1

## Early Greece



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Identify the influences on Minoan culture and how the civilization prospered.
- Summarize how the Mycenaeans ruled the sea trade and started the Trojan War.
- Describe the works of Homer and their influence on Greek culture.

# **The Minoans**

**Named after the legendary King of Crete  
Minos, they were the first European  
civilization**

**They engaged in seaborne trade between  
Africa, Asia, & Europe**

**Developed several systems of writing from  
hieroglyphs to script**

**The success to their civilization was based  
on trade such as timber, food, wine,  
& wool**

# More on the Minoans

Kings built vast palaces at **Knossos**, Europe's oldest city

They also built **shrines**, areas devoted to honor gods & goddesses.

They would often decorate walls with **frescoes**- paintings in watercolor done on wet plaster

The Minoan culture collapsed either from a volcanic eruption or invaders known as the **Mycenaeans**- The first Greek speaking people

# Speaking of the Myceneans!

They were a culture who learned skills from the Egyptians & the Minoans

They lived in **City-States**- a political society that includes a city & its surrounding land & villages

Best known for the **Trojan War**! A war between Mycenae & Troy!

The goal was to control the **straits**- narrow passages of water- in the region for economic purposes



# Homer & Greek Legends

**Homer-** A Greek poet who wandered from village to village singing of heroic deeds

One of his epic tales was **The Iliad-** The tale of Achilles & the Trojan War

Another was **The Odyssey-** The tale of Odysseus & his epic journey home from the Trojan War

These poems & epics would influence the world for thousands of years