



# Ancient Greece

- Global History
- Mrs. Majask



- Essential Question:

- What role did geography play in the development of classical Greece?

After the river valley era, a number of classical civilizations developed in the Mediterranean and in Asia

The first major classical civilization was ancient Greece

Classic cultures created high levels of achievement in art, science, & technology that impacted future ages

# Impact of Geography on Greece:

Identify 1 geographic feature & propose how it might impact the culture of Greece



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# Greece's lack of natural resources & location on the Mediterranean Sea encouraged Greek trade with neighboring societies



## Ancient Greece and Trade

2000–1200 B.C.

 Greece in 1300 B.C.

 Flow of trade

 EGYPT Culture region

**Exports**

 Pottery

 Wine

 Olive oil

**Imports**

 Metals

 Precious stones

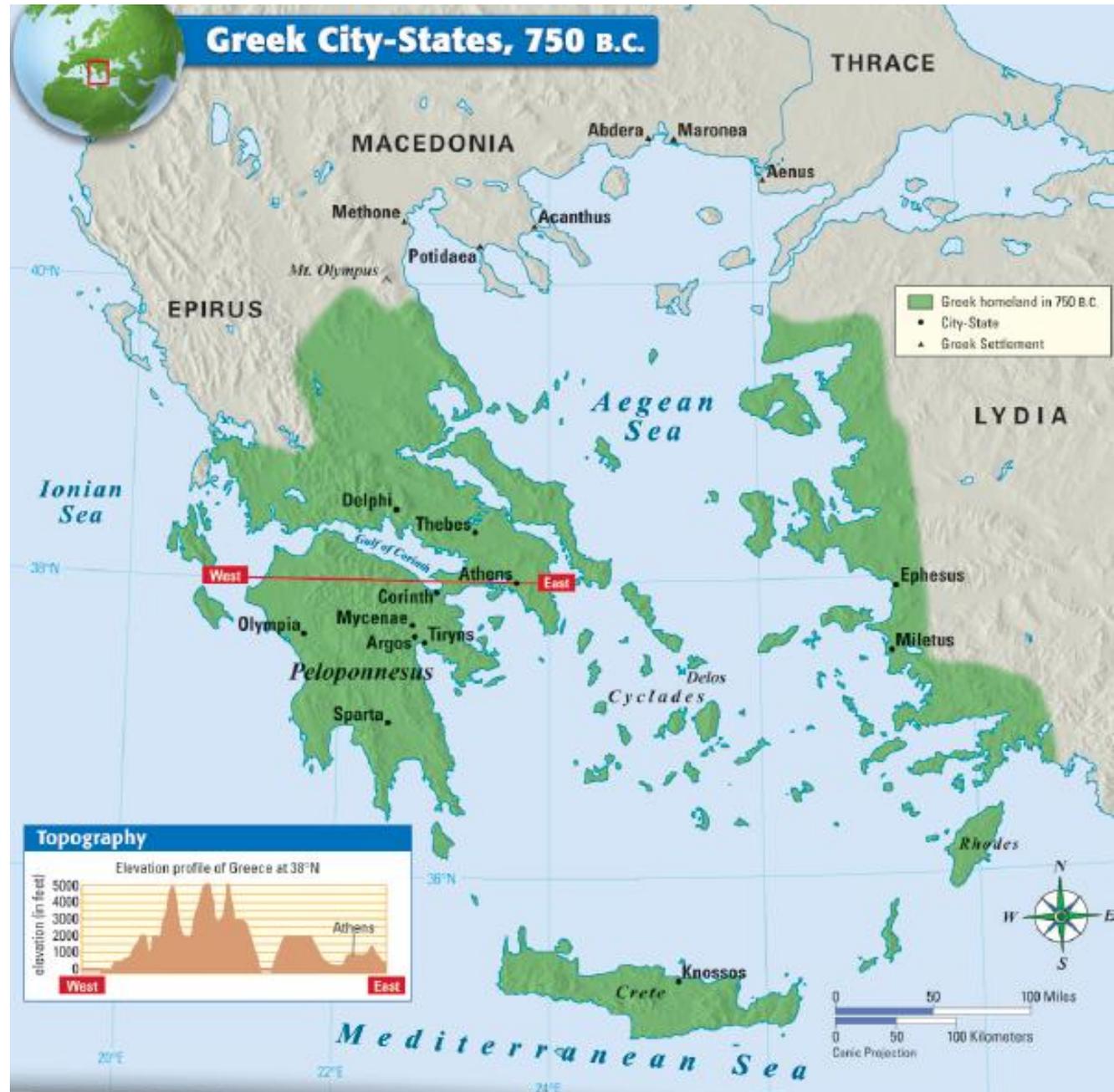
 Grain

**D** Sea trade connected the Greeks with other cultures throughout the Mediterranean world. From which regions did the Greeks import grain?

Mountains covered about 75% of Greece which divided the people & made unifying the Greek people nearly impossible



The Greeks developed independent city-states, called polis, within each valley & its surrounding mountains



# Greek Culture

- Despite their lack of unity, the Greeks shared some common characteristics:
  - Greeks shared the same language
  - Greek writing was influenced by the Phoenician alphabet & became the basis for Latin

## Greek

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Greeks were polytheistic & believed that the gods were immortal but had human qualities; Religion became the basis for Greek mythology



Zeus

King of the gods

Athena

Goddess of wisdom

Aphrodite

Goddess of love

Apollo

God of sun & music

Ares

God of war

Hades

God of underworld

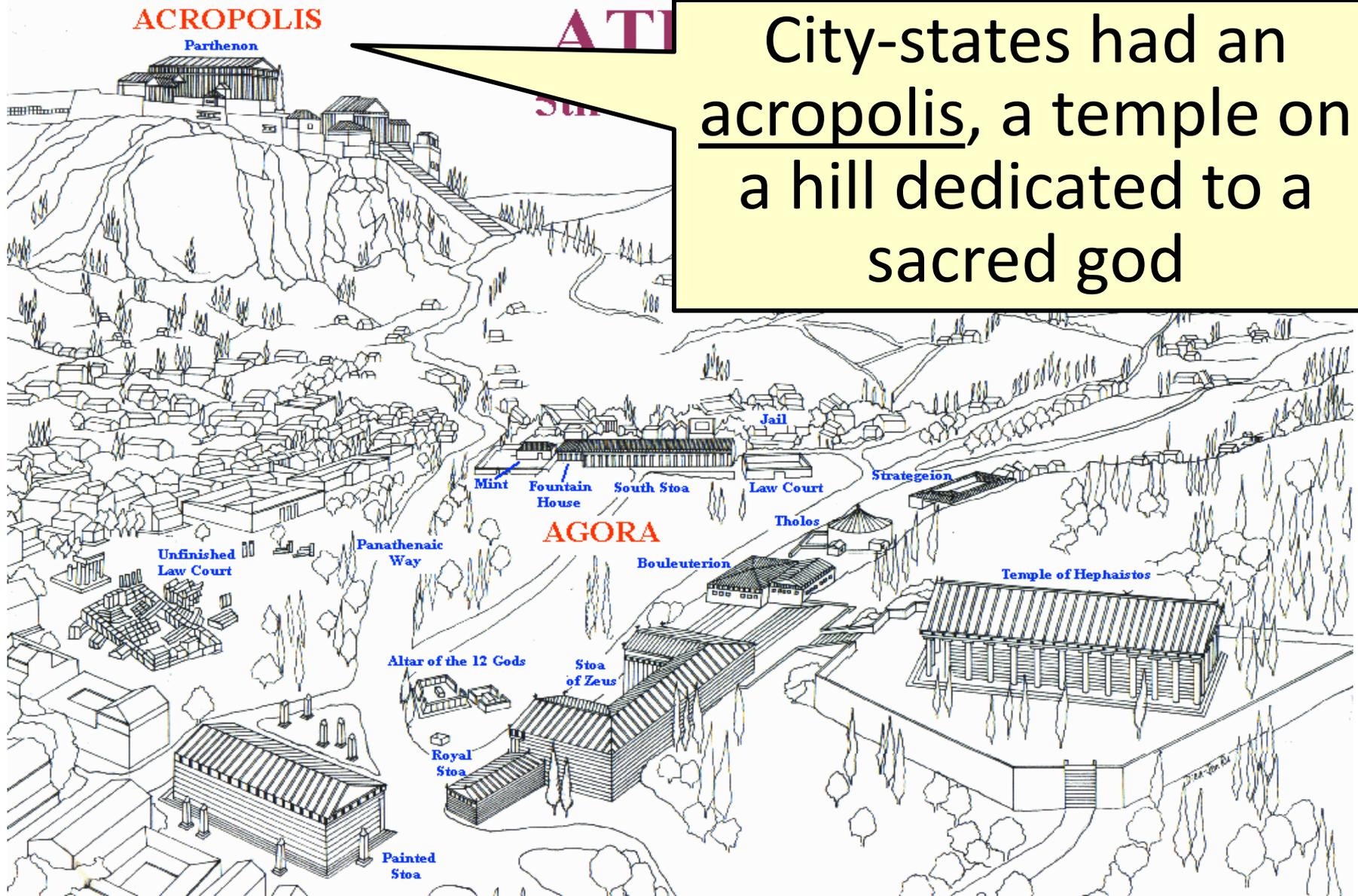
Hera

Goddess of family

Poseidon

God of the seas

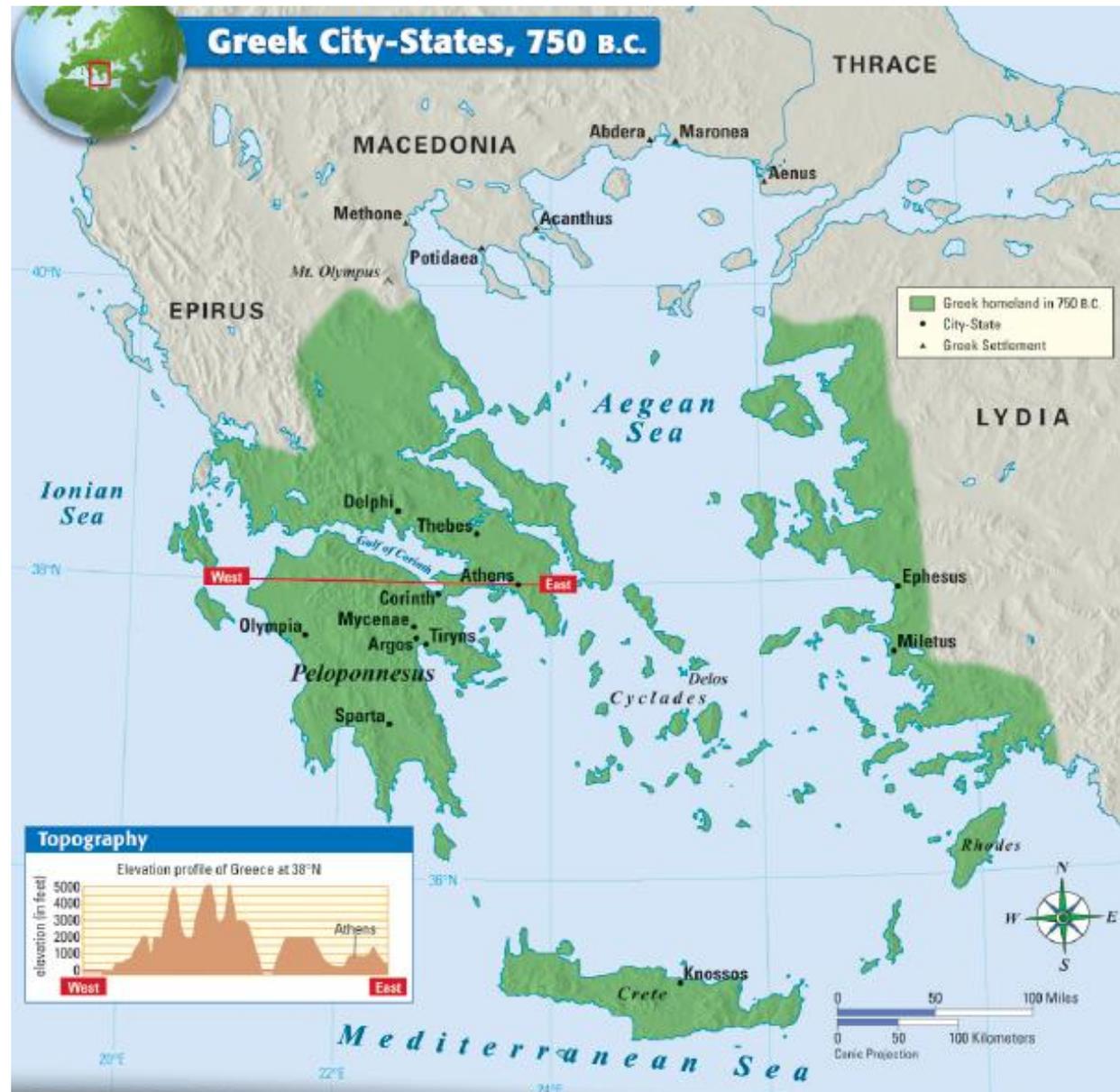
Most Greek city-states had an agora that was the center for trade & government



City-states had an acropolis, a temple on a hill dedicated to a sacred god

# Differences Among Greek City-States

Despite similar language & religion, the Greek polis were very different from each other, especially how they were governed



# Differences Among Greek City-States

Some polis had a monarchy, a gov't ruled by a king

## Monarchy

- State ruled by a king
- Rule is hereditary
- Some rulers claim divine right
- Practiced in Mycenae by 2000 B.C.

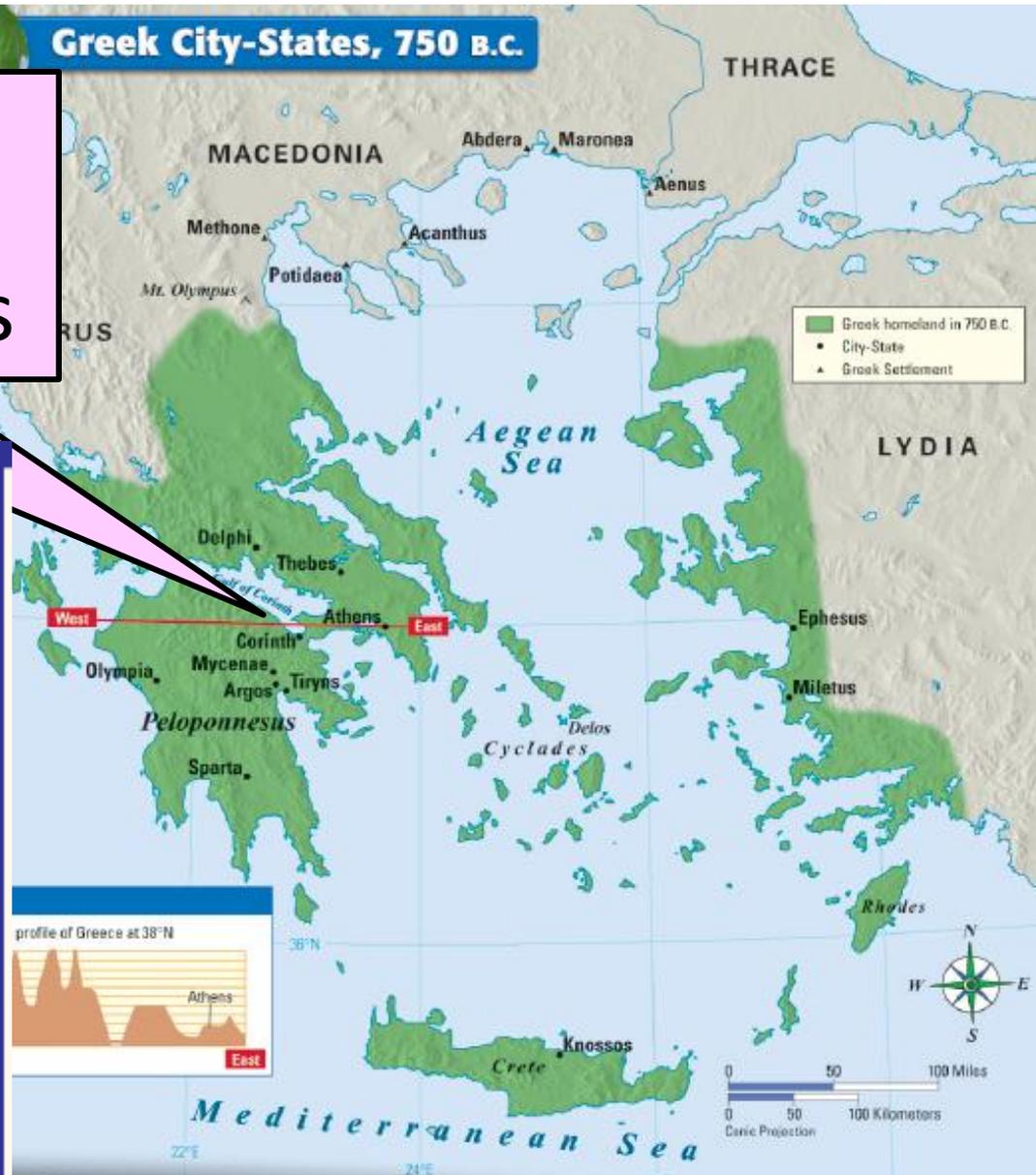


# Differences Among Greek City-States

Some polis had an aristocracy, a gov't ruled by elite nobles

## Aristocracy

- State ruled by nobility
- Rule is hereditary and based on family ties, social rank, wealth
- Social status and wealth support rulers' authority
- Practiced in Corinth

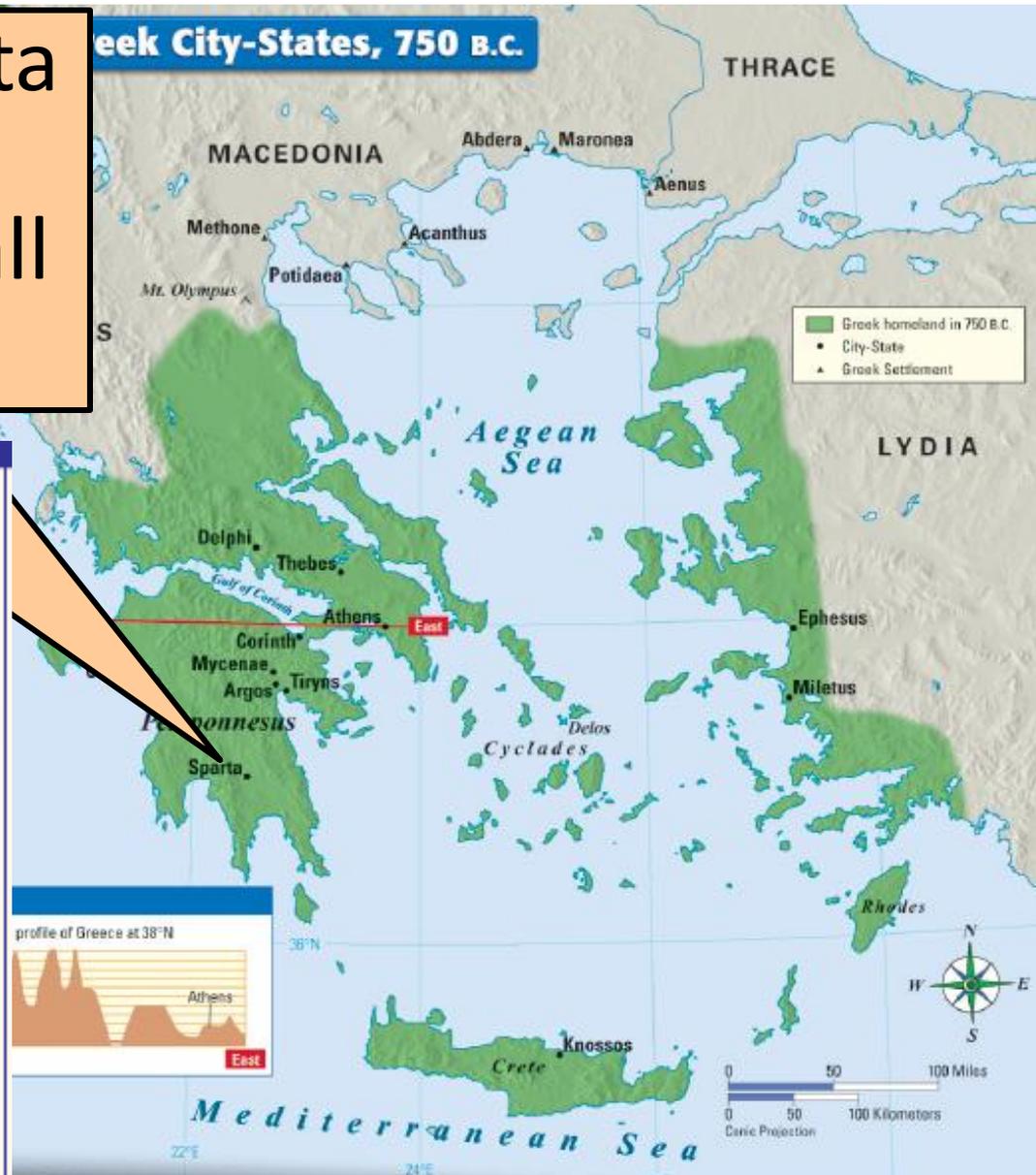


# Differences Among Greek City-States

Some polis like Sparta had an oligarchy, a gov't ruled by a small group of citizens

## Oligarchy

- State ruled by a small group of citizens
- Rule is based on wealth or ability
- Ruling group controls military
- Practiced in Sparta by 500 B.C.

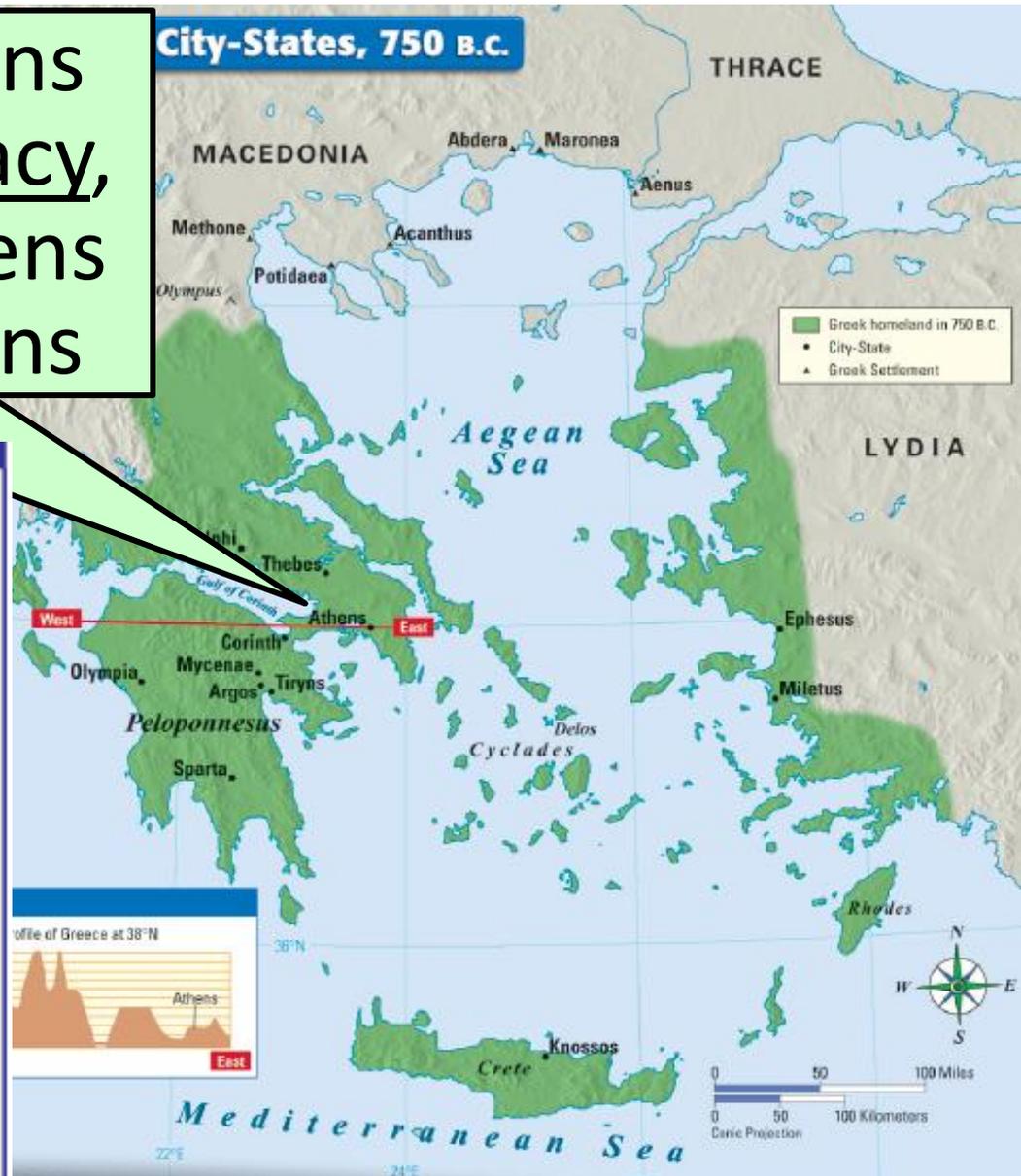


# Differences Among Greek City-States

Some polis like Athens had a direct democracy, a gov't ruled by citizens who vote on decisions

## Direct Democracy

- State ruled by its citizens
- Rule is based on citizenship
- Majority rule decides vote
- Practiced in Athens by about 500 B.C.

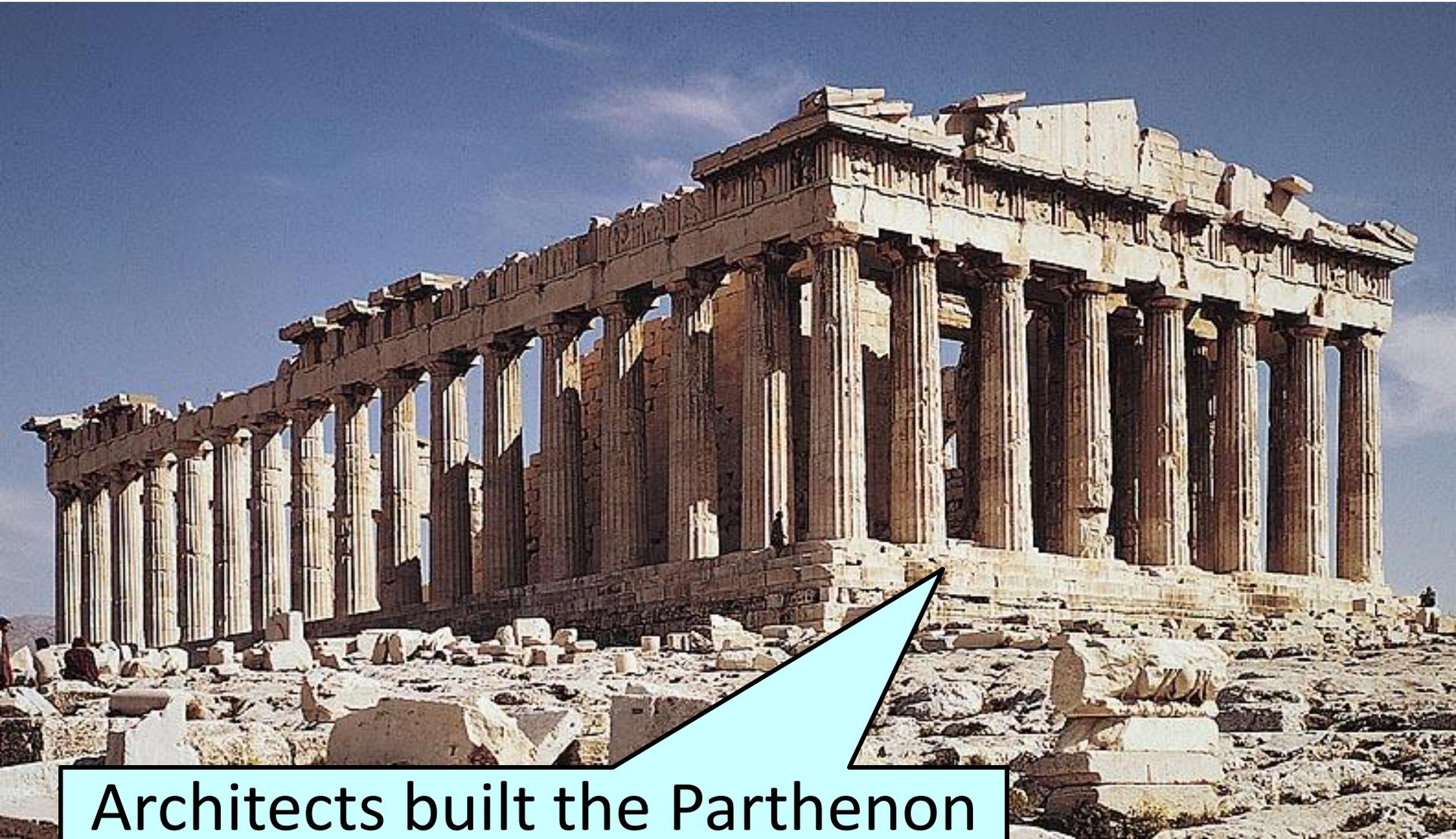


# The Greek city-states Athens & Sparta represented the differences among polis

- Athenian society focused on wealth & culture:
  - Athens had a direct democracy in which both rich & poor citizens could vote & hold public office



Athenian society focused on wealth & culture

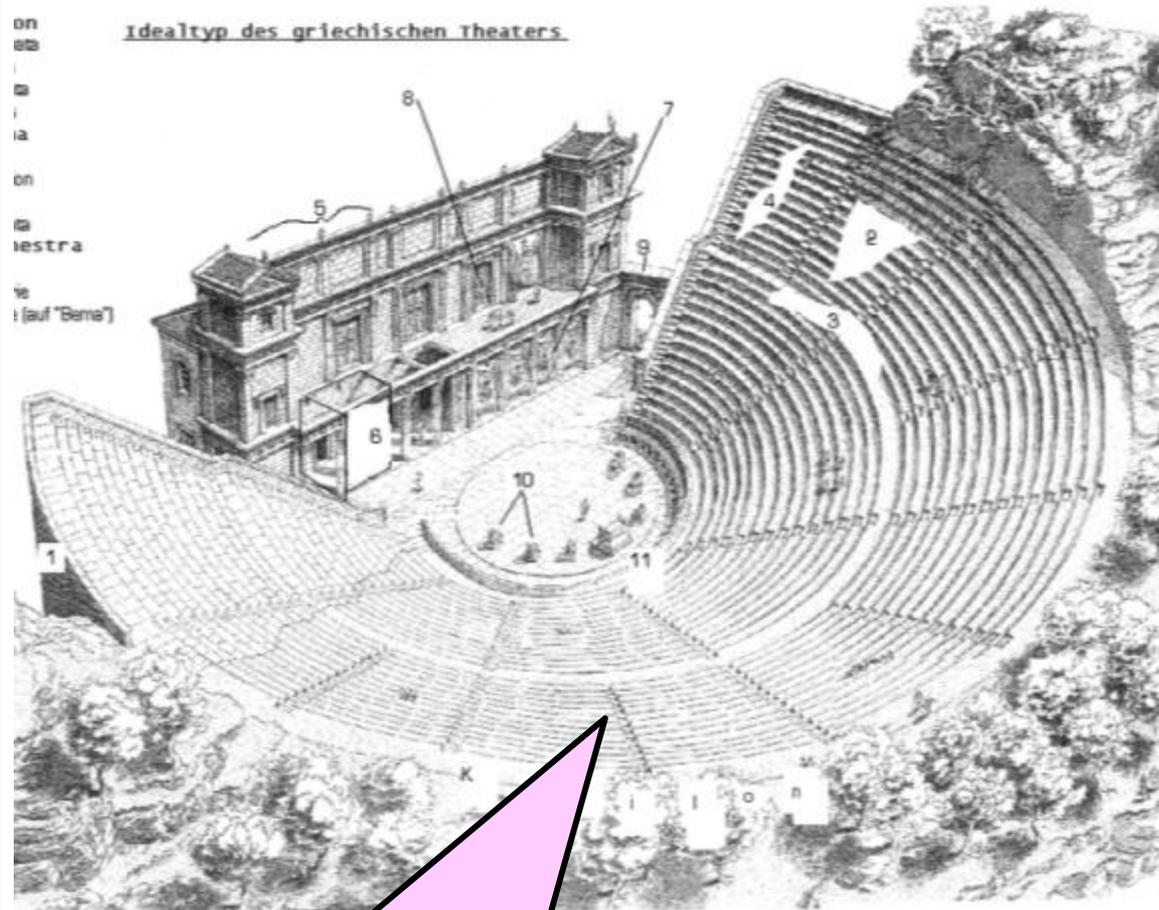


Architects built the Parthenon to honor the goddess Athena

# Athenian society focused on wealth & culture

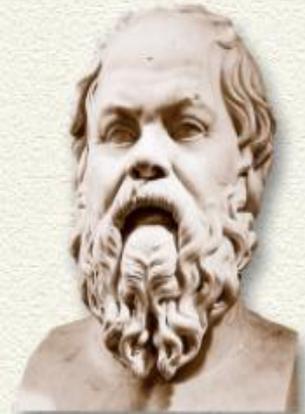


Artists created realistic sculptures



Theater had both comedies & tragedies

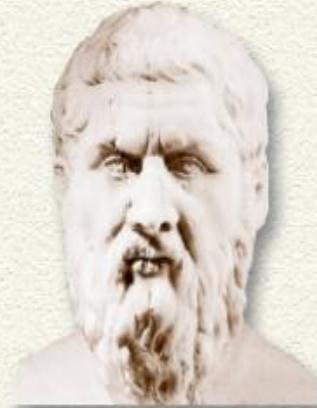
# Athenian society focused on wealth & culture



**Socrates**  
470–399 B.C.

Socrates encouraged his students to examine their beliefs. He asked them a series of leading

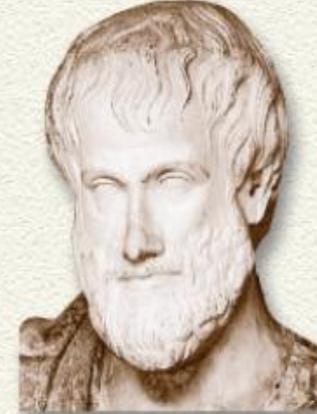
questions to show that people hold many contradictory opinions. This question-and-answer approach to teaching is known as the Socratic method. Socrates devoted his life to gaining self-knowledge and once said, "There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance."



**Plato**  
427–347 B.C.

Born into a wealthy Athenian family, Plato had careers as a wrestler and a poet before he became a

philosopher. After Socrates, his teacher, died, Plato left Greece. He later returned to Athens and founded a school called the Academy in 387 B.C. The school lasted for approximately 900 years. It was Plato who once stated, "Philosophy begins in wonder."



**Aristotle**  
384–322 B.C.

Aristotle, the son of a physician, was one of the brightest students at Plato's Academy. He came there as a

young man and stayed for 20 years until Plato's death. In 335 B.C., Aristotle opened his own school in Athens called the Lyceum. The school eventually rivaled the Academy. Aristotle once argued, "He who studies how things originated . . . will achieve the clearest view of them."

Philosophers Socrates, Plato, & Aristotle questioned assumptions & the use of logic to find answers to questions

# The Greek city-states Athens & Sparta represented the differences among polis

- Spartan society focused on military strength, not freedom & learning
  - Spartan men served in the military until 60 years old
  - Boys began military training at age 7
  - Women ran family estates while men trained or fought



# Spartans showed their strength during the Persian Wars



Athens & Sparta competed for influence in Greece & developed a strong rivalry that eventually led to the Peloponnesian War



Sparta defeated Athens, but the war weakened the Greeks

# Closure Activity

- Where would you rather live:  
Athens or Sparta? Why?