**Chapter 7, Section 1:**

**The Geography of Greece**

**Geography Shapes Ancient Greek Life:**

* Mainland Greece is a peninsula that juts out into the Mediterranean Sea.
* Southern tip forms a second peninsula called the Peloponnesus
* Mountains cover 70-80% of Greece making transportation difficult
* Farmed in the valleys and colonized other areas to get more farmland.
* Surrounded by seas; Ionian Sea to the west, Aegean Sea to the East, and the Mediterranean Sea to the South
* Landowners hold high place in society because they could defend their homeland
* Only resources were stone harbors

**Trade Helps Greece Prosper:**

* **Used seas for transportation**
* **Produced surplus olive oil, wine, wool, and pottery**

**Minoans:**

* **1st civilization in Europe**
* **Settled on the island of Crete**
* **Palace at Knossos with indoor toilets**
* **Large navy**
* **Excellent fishing**
* **Good farmers**
* **Had olive oil, grains, honey, timber and wool**
* **Best potters in the world**
* **Engaged in the sport of Bull leaping hinted, liked sports and the theater.**
* **Polytheistic**
* **Volcanic explosion on the island of Thera created earthquakes and choking ash killed many along the coast and eventually they were overthrown by the Mycenaeans.**

**The Earliest Greeks:**

* **The 1st Greek civilization was built on the Peloponnesus and named after its most important city called Mycenae.**
* **Mycenaean civilization collapsed around 1200 BC**
* **In time, the culture revives. An alphabet is developed by the Greeks because of contact with Phoenician traders. Greeks also learn about using coins from other from other traders on the Mediterranean Sea.**