Mycenaeans

Some of the people who settled on the Greek mainland around 2000 B.C.

Trojan War

The Mycenaeans fought a ten-year war against Troy, an independent trading city located in Anatolia.
Dorians
A new group of people that moved into the war-torn countryside. The Dorians spoke a dialect of Greek and may have been distant relatives of the Bronze Age Greeks.

Homer
The blind poet that composed the epic poem The Iliad.
Epics

Narrative poems celebrating heroic deeds.

Myths

A rich set of traditional stories developed by the Greeks about their gods.
Which of the cultures on your chart do you think contributed the most to Greek culture? Explain.

*Sample Answer:*
Mycenaean—Strong rulers; Dorian—No writing.
*Minoan and Mycenaean culture contributed most, forming the core of Greek religion, art, and politics.*

What impact did nearness to the sea have on the development of Greece?

*Seas linked different parts of Greece, as well as the surrounding world, together.*
What aspects of culture did the Mycenaeans adopt from the Minoans?

*Their writing system and artistic designs.*

Why were the epics of importance to the Greeks of the Dorian period?

*The Greeks of this time lacked writing, so they learned about their history through the spoken word.*
**DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** How did the physical geography of Greece cause Greek-speaking peoples to develop separate, isolated communities?

*Mountains divided Greece into discrete subregions whose populations developed somewhat independently.*

**ANALYZING CAUSES** Other than the explanation offered in the legend, why do you think the Greeks went to war with Troy?

*Sample answer: Conflict over trade routes.*
MAKING INFERENCES The Dorian period is often called Greece’s Dark Age. Why do you think this is so?

Dark age refers to a period of decline, such as that endured by Dorian Greece.

WRITING ACTIVITY Write an expository essay explaining why the Greek epics and myths are so well known and studied in today’s society.

Show knowledge of early Greek epics and myths.
Connect ideals and values from the epics and myths with modern ideals and values.
WRITING ACTIVITY REVOLUTION
How did the Renaissance revolutionize European art and thought? Support your opinions in a three-paragraph essay.

*Essays should discuss how Renaissance scholars looked to classical writers for inspiration.*

*Note the ways Renaissance artists revolutionized art by using perspective, a more realistic style, and glorifying individuals.*