The ancient Greeks lived in an area along the northeastern Mediterranean Sea, with a wide variety of topography: mainland, peninsulas and many islands. Because of this location, it was natural that the Greeks became active in trade by sea.

The first civilization in ancient Greece was located on the island of Crete. Named after a King Minos, this culture became known as the Minoans. Even these early people were sailors who traded in the Mediterranean. Eventually the culture came to an end when a nearby volcano on the island of Thera erupted and destroyed much of the island.

It is thought that early Mycenaeans arrived in Greece from the Middle East around 2000 BCE. Their culture grew, similar to the Minoans, but the Mycenaeans were more war-like. They took control of the city of Troy, reaching it by sea. The Trojan War occurred during this period.

The age of the city-states was between 1100 to 700 BC. Only a few cities had kings, and others were moving towards democracy, where each person had a vote in matters of state. The wealth of the Greeks grew as they traded more widely in the Mediterranean. Athens was the greatest city of its time. As time went on, in the years of 600 BCE, the Greeks sailed around the Mediterranean establishing colonies.

As the Persians grew in strength as a civilization, they tried to conquer Greece. Alexander the Great fought both the Persians and the Greeks and expanded his empire over a huge area that included the Middle East to the borders of India. He founded many cities and several were named Alexandria after himself.
Activities for ANCIENT GREECE Map

Label the following bodies of water drawn in on the map:
   Mediterranean Sea    Aegean Sea    Sea Of Crete
Using a blue colored pencil, shade the coastlines.

Label the island of Crete.

Label the following cities and add others if you like:
Knossos    Athens    Sparta    Argos    Troy    Delphi

Label the following areas:
Thrace    Euboea    Lydia    Peloponnesus

Outline the extent of Greek trade in the Mediterranean Sea.

Outline the extent of the Empire of Alexander the Great on the final map.
Ancient Greece

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Map of Greek Trade in the Mediterranean

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Activities for Map of Greek Trade in the Mediterranean

Label the following bodies of water drawn in on the map:
- Mediterranean Sea
- Atlantic Ocean
- Black Sea
- Aegean Sea
- Adriatic Sea
- Danube River
- Nile River

Using a blue colored pencil, shade the coastlines.

Label the islands of Cyprus and Crete

Shade and label the Alps Mountains.

Label the following areas, and add others if you like:
- Iberia
- Italy
- Thrace
- Egypt

Using a red pencil, draw arrows to show the directions of Greek trade.
The Extent of ALEXANDER the GREAT’s EMPIRE

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Activities for Alexander the Great Map

Label the following bodies of water drawn in on the map:
Mediterranean Sea    Caspian Sea    Arabian Sea
Red Sea    Persian Gulf    Black Sea
Aral Sea    Tigris River    Euphrates River
Danube River    Nile River    Indus River

Using a blue colored pencil, shade the coastlines.

Shade and label the Arabian Desert and the Zagros Mountains.

Label the following cities and add others if you like:
Babylon    Alexandria (eastern and western)
Tyre    Issus
Persepolis

Using an orange pencil, outline the extent of the Empire of Alexander the Great.
The Extent of ALEXANDER the GREAT’s EMPIRE

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