



The Homeric World Study Guide

Developing Skills for GCSE OCR Classical Civilisation

L Harrow

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Key Sites

The dating of the Mycenaean age

You may have heard of the 'Stone Age', 'Bronze Age' and 'Iron Age'. These terms were developed by a Danish archaeologist, Christian Thomsen, in 1819. Since their introduction 200 years ago there have been many refinements and discoveries. However, these terms are still used today, and the Mycenaean age falls within the Bronze Age (between around 3200 BC and 1100 BC).

Timeline BC

6000–3200	Stone Age	Stone Age hunters came to Greece. Early farmers arrived.
3200–1100	Bronze Age	Weapons of bronze and other metalworkings gave the name to this age. Three cultures developed, distinct yet related and overlapping. Indo-European was spoken and an early form of Greek.
2600–2000	Cycladic Culture	
2000–1400	Minoans	
1600–1100	Mycenaeans	
1200–750	Iron Age (including the Dark Ages, not because of lack of light but because we are 'in the dark' as to what happened at this time)	A period of wars and invasions. A people called the Dorians became dominant on the mainland, using iron weapons. The Greeks developed a simple alphabet. Writing began again and Homer lived. His stories told of events which happened in the Bronze Age and were passed down orally, possibly by bards.

The name *Mycenaean* was given to a group of powerful people living in fortresses like little cities, referred to as *citadels*. They did not call themselves Mycenaean and the name is given to them, as many of the citadels share some similarities with Mycenae, excavated in 1874–1876 by Heinrich Schliemann.

The Mycenaean did not form one 'country' or 'nation'. The citadels were all independent. We know the Mycenaean had had contact with the Minoans, whose important base was on the island of Crete, because they produced similar *artefacts* (objects). They both had beautiful wall paintings, *frescoes*, in bright colours; they had similar-style pottery.

Activity 1

A simple comparison of the Minoans and Mycenaean can be seen on YouTube:
[zzed.co.uk/11261-minotaur-mycenaean](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzed.co.uk/11261-minotaur-mycenaean)

1. Make a list of similarities and differences between the Minoans and the Mycenaean.
2. What happened in the Dark Ages?



The location of key sites

Below is a map of some key Mycenaean sites existing from 1400–1100 BC. Greece is a very hilly country and most of the accessible land is around the coastline. Most Mycenaean sites are around the edge of Greece but located a few kilometres inland, at a safe distance from the sea.

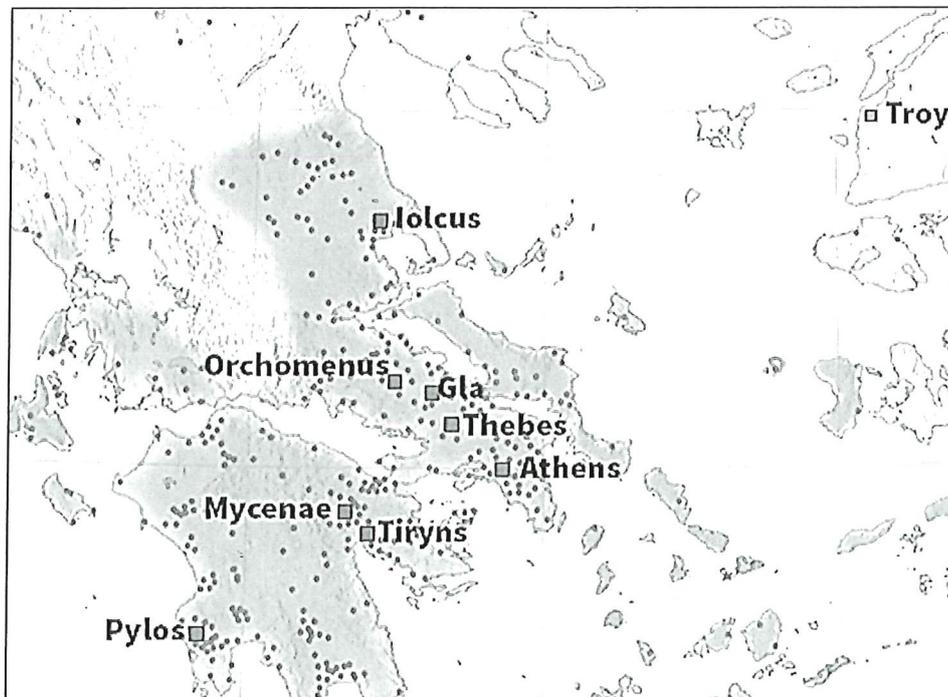
Sample Activity 1

Why are sites not placed on the coast? Can you think of **two** reasons why?

SAMPLE ANSWER 1: Rough seas and bad weather might be a danger to a site and could lead to damage. Sites might also be attacked by raiders who had access to the coast by boat.

SAMPLE ANSWER 2: Being just inside the coast allowed the Mycenaean to control who had access to the sea from inland. It also allowed them time to prepare their defence against raiders such as pirates.

Commentary: If asked for two reasons, only give two reasons. It is considered unfair for candidates who give three or four reasons to expect the two best ones to be awarded marks. Only the first two will count.



Mycenaean builders therefore chose their sites carefully. Here are some points a builder might consider:

Feature	Reason
Hill	Would add height to fortification walls, adding protection
Flat-topped	Easier to add buildings to a flat summit
Fertile surrounding area	For growing crops
Constant access to water	Essential for inhabitants
Proximity to rock quarries	Easy access to building materials

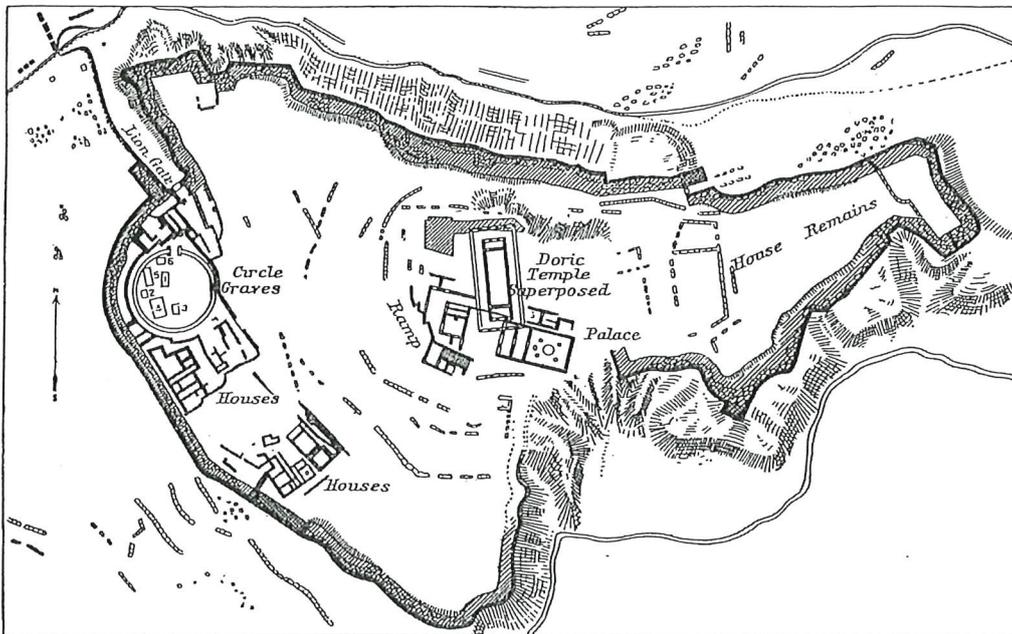
Mycenaean sites and mythology

The people in a citadel were ruled by a king, or *overlord*. The king was looked upon as a link to the gods. It was important for kings to show they were close to the gods and to prove that their citadel was founded by heroes or gods. For example, the legendary founder of Mycenae was Perseus, who killed the Gorgon monster Medusa. He asked giants called Cyclopes to build the walls. They built walls with stones so big the Mycenaeans believed no human could have built them. The walls are now referred to as *Cyclopean walls*. According to Homer's *Iliad*, Agamemnon 'lord of men' was king of Mycenae. Heinrich Schliemann thought the stories of Homer to be true though the dating does not support this.

Independent Learning 1

Find out about the legendary founders of: Tiryns, Pylos, Orchomenos.

Mycenae (Prescribed Material)



Guided Activity 1

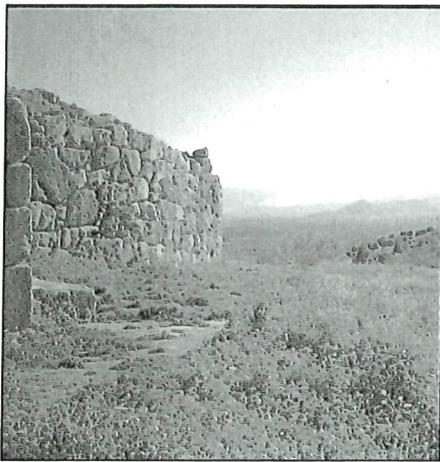
In an examination you may see different aerial views or plans. Below is an aerial view of Mycenae. Try to identify the key features: look for the Lion Gate at the bottom of the picture. It is near the Grave Circle A. At the top (L) is the palace complex, and the site is surrounded by the walls.



The Cyclopean Walls (Prescribed Material)

The site of Mycenae was on the top of a hill and rose above the fertile plain of Argos in the Peloponnese. The very top of the hill was not originally flat but had been levelled off to allow the palace to be built. The walls were a later addition to the site. For some reason, protective walls were needed, but this was not until the fourteenth century (1399–1300) BC. The walls were not built by the Cyclopes, but by around four men for each stone using earth ramps and rollers. The limestone used was sourced from quarries nearby. The walls were built from huge rough limestone boulders weighing about the same as a rhinoceros (2 tonnes). They were roughly fitted without any clay or other mortar holding them together. The look was a rather irregular wall but it was just as impressive at the top of the hill and just as effective as a defence as the height was possibly around 12 metres, twice the height of a giraffe.

The walls, which were changed again in the middle of the 1200s BC, were actually made in two rows, an inner and outer, filled with smaller rubble in between. They stretched 900 m around the site and were around 5.5–8 m thick, allowing people to walk on the top. There were lower outer walls making terraces.



Sample Activity 2

Below is an image of the Cyclopean walls at Asine. In what ways are the walls similar to those at Mycenae? Make two points.

SAMPLE ANSWER: Like Mycenae, the walls at Asine are constructed of stones of a huge size and roughly cut. In addition, there is no mortar holding either of them together.



Guided Activity 2

If you were an invader, attacking Mycenae in the 1200s BC, what impression would you get on seeing the walls of Mycenae? You might like to consider the impression of height; the size of the stones; the mythology surrounding the building of the walls. You might be amazed as to how they stand without mortar.

Sally ports (Prescribed Material)

It would have been difficult to get over the huge walls, not only for attackers but also for defenders. So, gaps were later made, probably with the walls needing to be rebuilt as a result, to allow the inhabitants to jump out to attack an enemy. The military term for this is a *sally*. A gap in the walls to enable a sally to happen is called a *sally port*. There were two at the eastern end set into the north and south walls. The north-eastern corner of the site was only brought within the walls during the final development of the site, around about 1200 BC, so the sally ports were a later addition.

Activity 2

Suggest one reason why you think the inhabitants wanted to add walls and sally ports.

Sally ports were designed not only to allow people to slip in and out of the fortress, unseen by enemy sentries, but also perhaps to get water from the spring nearby.

The image to the right is the south sally port. It does not look very secret but this is because the ground outside it is difficult to access for an invading army. With the sally ports being only 2.5 m wide, it was not easy for lots of troops to rush out of them. At each end of the passage was probably a heavy wooden door. Today there is a metal gate.



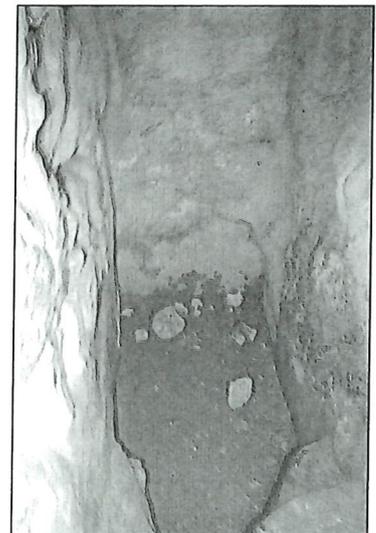
Activity 3

Give one advantage and one disadvantage of a sally port at Mycenae.

Passage to the underground cistern and the cistern (Prescribed Material)

Mycenae was situated near a spring and so fresh water was available to the inhabitants. Later, however, they probably wondered what they would do if there were a siege. Maybe other sites had experienced this. With a siege situation probably imminent, the inhabitants made plans to get a water supply.

Next to the sally port at the north was a passageway and stairs. It led to an underground cistern which held water. Notice how both the ports and passageway have pointed roofs. The Mycenaean had not developed arches so used *corbelling*, whereby increasingly bigger stones were used on top of each other until they met at the top.



The cistern itself was not large, but with it being deep underground (18 m) the steps down to it could flood if there was a lot of rain. The lower steps are even lined with a form of cement to stop leaking. At this later stage, the cistern was fed by gravity-fed clay pipes from the springs to the east and also, as originally, from the roof. To get to it you had to go along a passage, down 18 steps north-west, along a horizontal passage 2.5 m wide, which came to 20 steps going west, three steps north-west, and then 60 steps north-east. These were all cut through the stone of the hill. The cistern was at the bottom. It was a relatively small rectangular box.

Activity 4

Can you think of three reasons why the inhabitants needed fresh water?



The Lion Gate (Prescribed Material)

Dating from around 1250 BC, probably one of the most famous images of Mycenae is its entrance referred to as the *Lion Gate*. Even around AD 150, the Greek traveller Pausanias visited the ruins of Mycenae and saw this gate.

There still remain, however, parts of the city wall, including the gate, upon which stand lions. These, too, are said to be the work of the Cyclopes, who made for Proteus the wall at Tiryns.

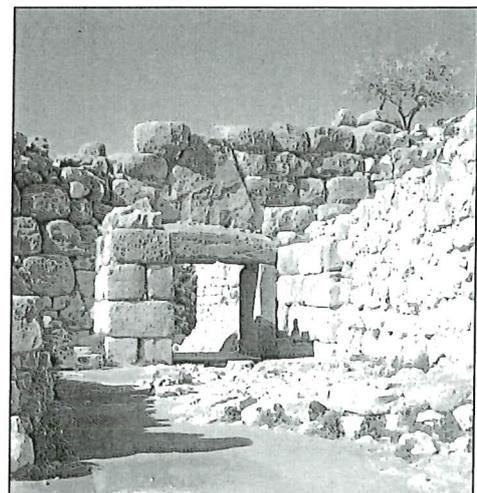
(Pausanias *Guide to Greece* 2.16.5)



The entrance gate is at the end of a long passageway and ideal for defence. Modern archaeologists use Cyclopean in less general terms than the description by Pausanias. While Pausanias says that all of the fortifications of Mycenae, including the Lion Gate, were built by the Cyclopes, only parts of these walls are actually built in Cyclopean masonry. Although the stones either side of the passageway are large, the walls to the Lion Gate are in *ashlar* masonry. These stones have been cut, probably with a saw, to form neater, rectangular shapes. The Cyclopean walls are mostly uncut and made of limestone. The entrance stones are made of *conglomerate*.

The wall to the right in the image (above), which has been rebuilt, was part of a *bastion*, a projecting part of a fortification, making a high fighting platform to fire weapons on any invaders below.

In Mycenaean times armies carried shields on their left arms. As they approached the Lion Gate, their right sides would have been exposed to the fire of weapons.





Independent Learning 2

Collect close-up images of the carving above the entrance. Label the images.

The gate itself is formed of blocks. The stone blocks to the sides are called *jamb*s. There would have been a huge door as we can still see where it would have hung. The top of the entrance is called a *lintel*. It is formed of one block of stone. So that the walls did not put too much pressure on the lintel, a triangular space was left above it. The space was filled by a carving in limestone which weighed about 20 tonnes (three T-Rex dinosaurs!). The carving is called a *relief* because it is not just a picture as the figures project slightly from the background. The carver has used the space well. The animals, lionesses, have their paws on the step of a central pillar (or altar with a pillar above) and their heads, now gone, would have looked out on an approaching invader. There are various interpretations of the carving. They may represent:

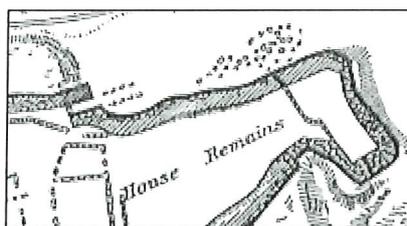
1. symbols of the royal family who lived here
2. a Mycenaean mother goddess
3. the unification of two royal families
4. guardian lionesses

To the right is a panther from a temple on the island of Corfu. It was made much later than the Lion Gate but gives us an idea of what the heads might have looked like at Mycenae.



Postern gate (Additional Information)

The only other entrance to the citadel was a smaller and simpler version of the main entrance. *Postern* means back or side entrance. It was to the north of the citadel and should not be confused with the sally port.



In times of attack, this was a way in for local farmers and other citizens.



Guided Activity 3

To what extent was the Postern gate similar to the Lion Gate?

You might consider: passageway, jamb, lintel, shape above the lintel. As a counterargument you might comment on the size.





Activity 5

Check that you know what the following mean by writing a description for each one.

cistern	
corbelling	
Cyclopean	
lintel	
postern	
sally port	
relief	



Activity 6

How safe do you think the inhabitants felt living inside the walls of Mycenae?

Grave Circle A (Prescribed Material)

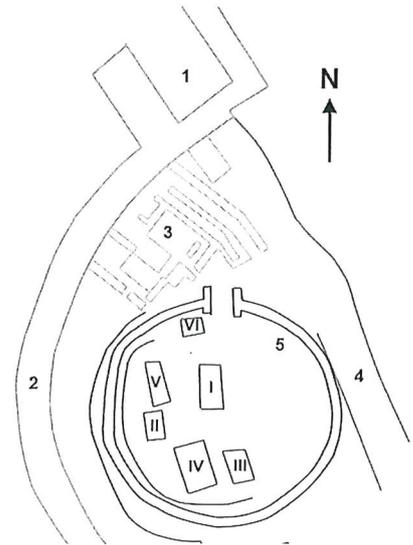


Once inside the walls, a ramp led up towards the palace. Directly to the right of the Lion Gate as a visitor entered is Grave Circle A, which is a circular area 28 m across with graves inside a low wall. These are **not** circular or round graves. Originally the grave area was outside the walls, but it was later included when the walls were redone in 1250 BC. Some scholars think that the rulers at the time wanted to claim that the people in the graves had been heroes and royal ancestors. Certainly, judging by what was found, the people in the graves had been rich. The graves were there long before 1250 BC. They date to around 1550–1450 BC.

In the Grave Circle are several graves. These consist of deep holes or *shafts* where several people were buried. There are six shafts which can hold several people, probably from one household. Altogether there are 19 people buried in the graves in the Circle A: nine men, eight women, and two small children. The graves were marked with a tombstone called a *stèle* (plural: *stelai*).

Grave Circle A with Shaft Graves Plan

1	Lion Gate
2	Walls
3	Granary (for corn)
4	Ramp to palace
5	Grave Circle A

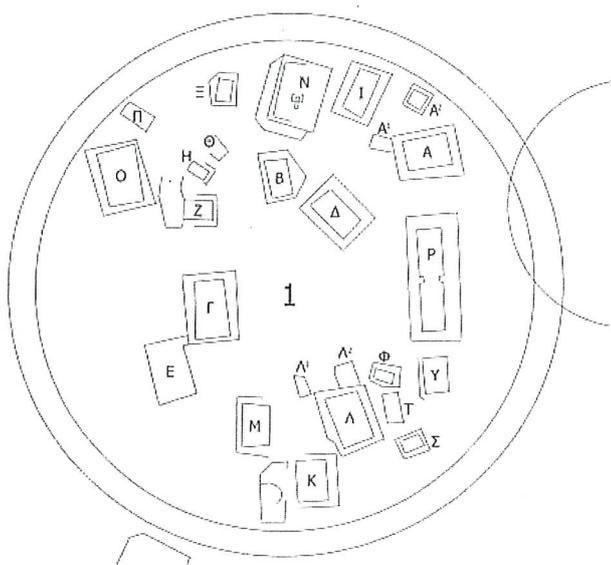
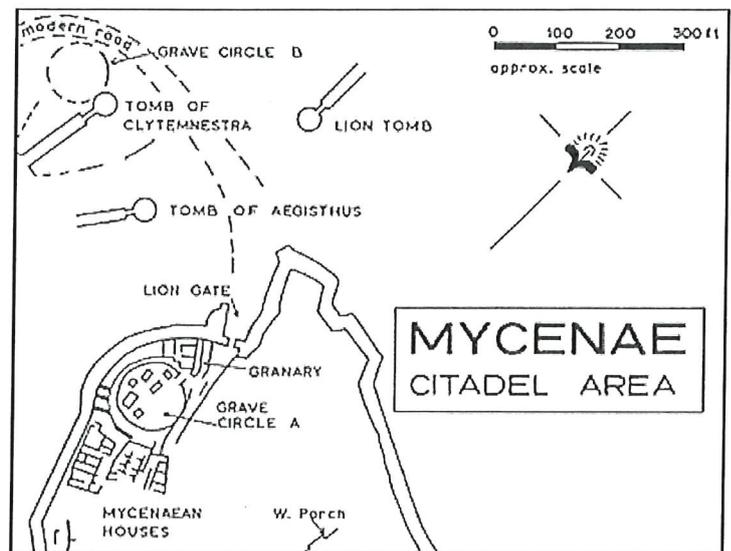


There were six shafts found in Grave Circle A. They are labelled in Roman numerals 1–VI. Grave shaft V is where the archaeologist Schliemann found a mask which he thought was of Agamemnon. We will look at burial in more detail later.

Grave Circle B (Prescribed Material)

The graves in Grave Circle B (1) are labelled with Greek letters of the alphabet.

Greek	English
A, B, E, I, K, M, O, T, Y, Z	A, B, E, I, K, M, O, T, Y, Z
Γ	G
Δ	D
Η	E
Θ	TH
Λ	L
Π	P
Ρ	R
Σ	S
Φ	PH



In 1876, Schliemann thought there was only one grave circle, but in 1952 another much older circle (1600–1500 BC) was discovered at some distance from the citadel. Grave Circle B is 28 m across with 14 shaft graves, deeper than Grave Circle A. The people buried in Grave Circle B were not so wealthy. There are also smaller *cist* graves, box-like graves designed to hold one person.

Guided Activity 4

In what ways are Grave Circle A and Grave Circle B similar? Make a table and consider: diameter, wall, types of graves inside, types of people buried.



The Greek Myth of Agamemnon and his link to Mycenae

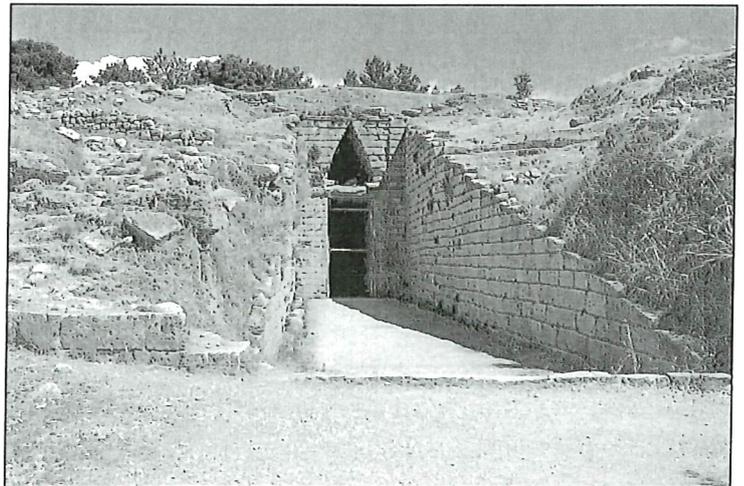
According to the story, Agamemnon was a king of Mycenae, the son or grandson of King Atreus of Mycenae. His wife was Clytemnestra and they had five children. When Helen, his brother Menelaus's wife, was taken to Troy by Paris, Agamemnon commanded Greek armed forces to undertake the Trojan War. When Agamemnon returned from Troy, he was killed by Aegisthus, the lover of his wife Clytemnestra. She then married Aegisthus.

Agamemnon explains what happened in the *Odyssey*:

Son of Laertes, sprung from Zeus, Odysseus of many devices, neither did Poseidon hit me on board my ships, when he had roused a furious blast of cruel winds, nor did enemies do me harm on the land, but Aegisthus brought about death for me and fate and slew me with the aid of my accursed wife, when he had invited me to his house and made me a feast, even as one slays an ox at the stall. So I died by a most pitiful death, and round about me the rest of my comrades were slain unceasingly like white-tusked swine, which are slaughtered in the house of a rich man of great might at a marriage feast, or a joint meal, or a rich drinking-bout. [...] And I sought to raise my hands and smite down the murderess (Clytemnestra), dying though I was, pierced through with the sword. But she, the shameless one, turned her back upon me, and even though I was going to the house of Hades would neither close my eyelids with her fingers nor to close my mouth. Homer *Odyssey* 11.409–426

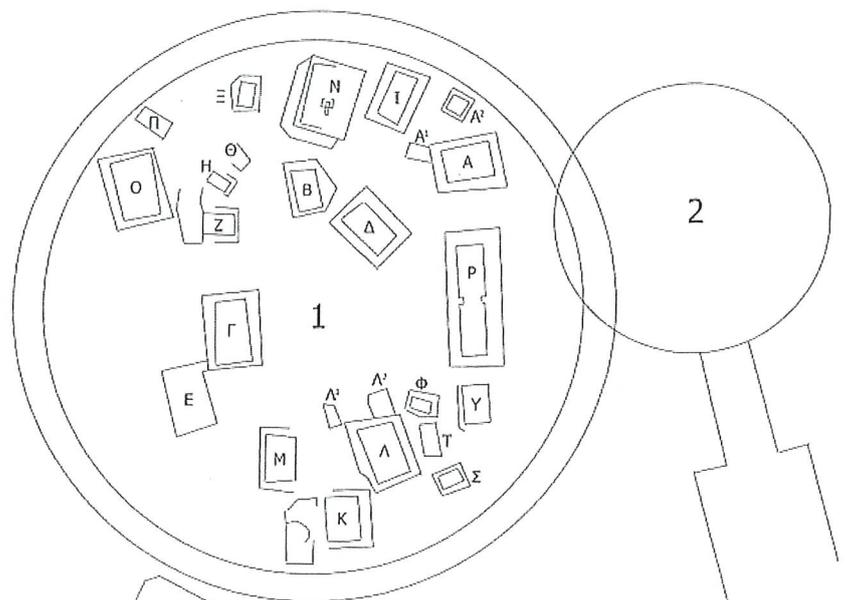
Tomb of Clytemnestra (Prescribed Material)

As the Mycenaean period progressed, types of burial changed. This will be discussed in more detail later. Around 1400 BC, domed tombs were being built. The Greek word for a dome is *tholos* and so this type of tomb is called a *tholos tomb*. When the tombs were excavated they were assumed at the time by local villagers to be the tombs of the royal family from the story of Agamemnon. Below is the supposed Tomb of Clytemnestra.



The inside chamber of the tomb was formed by a circle 13 m across with rings of stone gradually narrowing until at the top was a roof stone or *cap stone*. The height was also 13 m. This gives the effect of an old-style beehive, and some books may call these *beehive tombs*. The chamber was approached by a long passage called *dromos*. The chamber was covered in soil to form a mound of earth.

In the plan above, the Tomb of Clytemnestra (2) can be seen as overlapping Grave Circle B (1). This shows that the tomb was built after the Grave Circle and that tholos tombs came after shaft graves.



Tomb of Aegisthus (Prescribed Material)



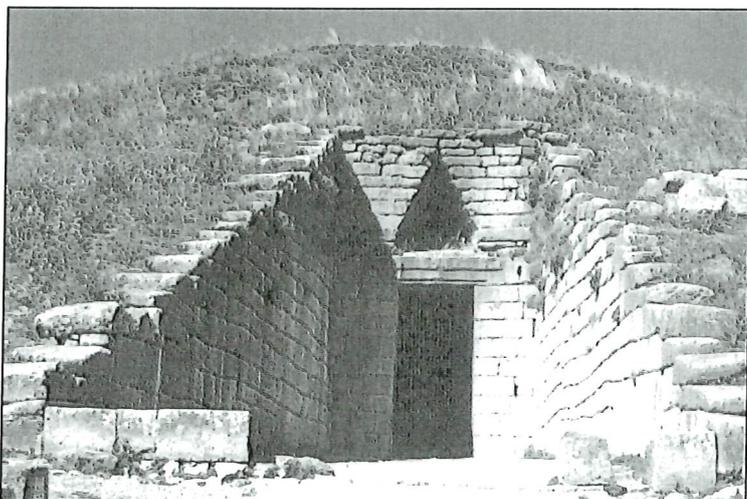
The images above show the tholos tomb of Aegisthus. The dome has collapsed, revealing the round chamber inside.

Activity 7

In what ways is the Tomb of Aegisthus similar to the Tomb of Clytemnestra?



Treasury of Atreus (Prescribed Material)



Another important tholos tomb is the tomb with the name *Treasury of Atreus*. It is a tomb but the Greek travel writer Pausanias assumed it was a place to store valuables, a treasury.

In the ruins of Mycenae is a fountain called Persea; there are also underground chambers of Atreus and his children, in which were stored their treasures. There is the grave of Atreus, along with the graves of such as returned with Agamemnon from Troy, and were murdered by Aegisthus after he had given them a banquet. Pausanias, *Guide to Greece*, 2.16.6

Of all the tombs this one could possibly, from a dating point of view (1300–1200 BC), be a tomb for the legendary king Atreus. It is much more impressive than the other tombs because it is larger and the stonework is of a better quality. Some facts:

dromos	6 m wide 36 m long Cement floor
walls	10 m high at inner end Conglomerate
doorway	5.4 m high 2.7 m wide 5 m deep
entrance	Half columns in green stone from near Sparta Carved in zigzag pattern Relieving red triangular stone above; corbelling
tholos	14.5 m across 13.2 m high; corbelling and capstone

Activity 8

A tour of the tomb can be seen on YouTube. Try to remember the technical terms.
[zzed.co.uk/11261-tomb](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzed.co.uk/11261-tomb)

In what ways was this tomb impressive?

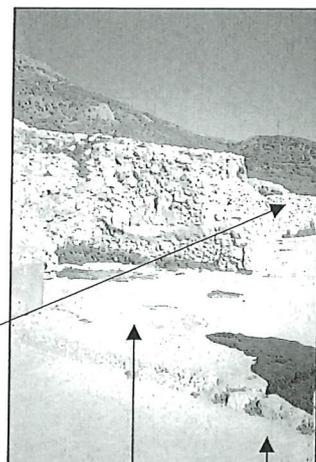
The palace (Prescribed Material)

The kings or overlords who lived in Mycenaean citadels occupied these sites not just as fortifications but as somewhere to live as well. The placement of the palace complexes was usually at the top of the hill. This was not just for defensive reasons but because the royalty who lived there wanted literally to show their own higher social status. Therefore, Mycenaean palaces dominate their sites.

The palace centred around the *megaron*, an important part of the palace which was divided into three. The largest part was a space with a roof supported by four pillars, outlines of which are seen in the picture below (left). The king's throne would have been to the back or right. The ring in the middle is for an open fire. Scholars do not agree on what was above the fire. Some say a flat or sloping raised roof to let the smoke escape and to protect the decorations. Some say a small open hole. In front of the throne room was a front room, an *anteroom*, and then a porch.



Throne room

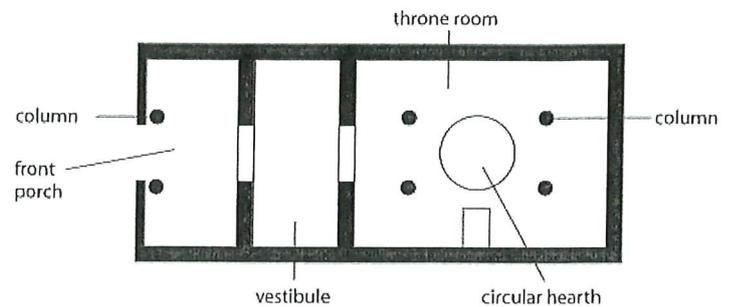


Anteroom

Porch

The women's quarters were probably up some stairs behind. In general, women's quarters were behind the megaron but did not open onto the main room so there was a corridor running around. Other rooms off the corridor were used as storerooms. So a person could get to the rest of the palace without passing through the megaron. This is important to know for reading Homer in Section B.

The walls of the throne room were thicker at the bottom to support the rest of the wall, so that created a sort of high ledge running around the megaron. The ledge was quite high though at about 1.5 m. A side door from the corridor into the megaron was possibly set in the wall on the ledge. Seven or eight steps were needed to approach the door from either side. This served as a sort of service door used by servants when the main doors were shut. Pierced into the top of the walls of the megaron were probably portholes or skylights, and these would have given some light to the corridor.



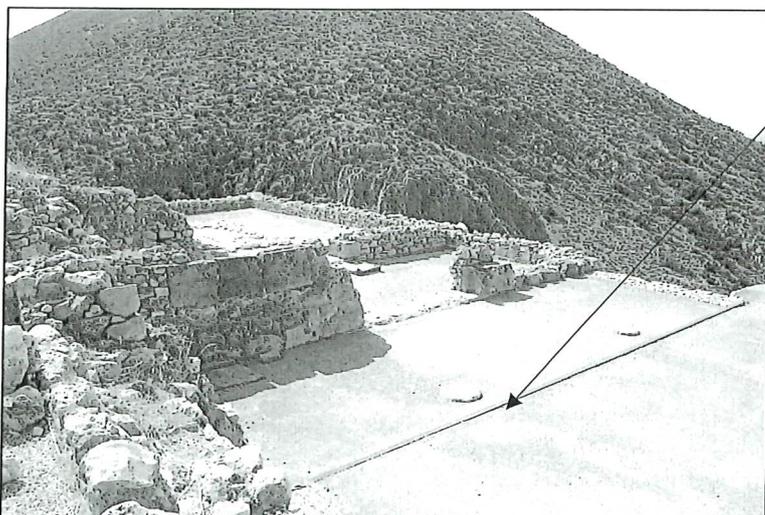
Activity 9

The picture below shows the outline of the megaron at another Mycenaean site called Pylos. Identify the following:

1. Central hearth
2. Supporting pillars
3. Corridor
4. Anteroom



In front of the porch at Mycenae, which had a roof supported by columns, was a large open courtyard. It was accessed by a staircase.



We shall see what life was like in the palaces later on.



Independent Learning 3

Having studied the site, now read the information from the following link to a prescribed visual source: [zzed.co.uk/11261-ancientgreece](https://www.zzed.co.uk/11261-ancientgreece) Add any further notes and information to your notes. This link could also be used for revision purposes.

Guided Activity 5

Homer describes Mycenae as 'well-built'. How far do you agree with this assessment? In your answer you should consider details about: the walls; the Lion Gate; the tholos tombs; the palace complex; the water supply.

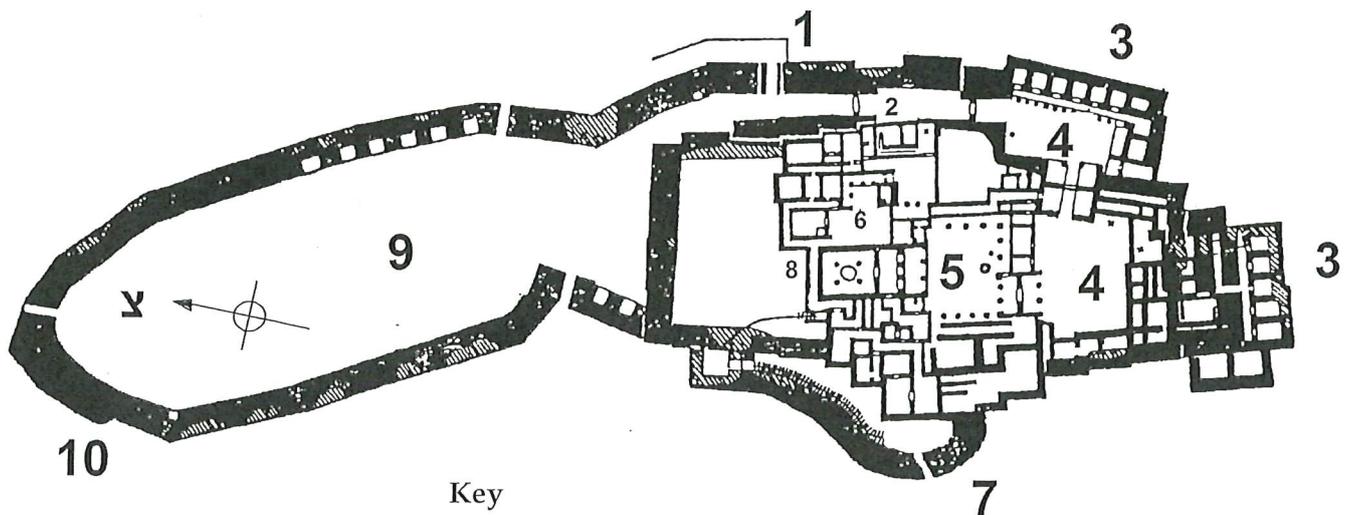
Remember, the phrase *How far* means that you should have a counterargument. There must be at least one counterargument to be considered for the higher level of marks. Two is preferable.

Weaknesses in the building might be at the sally port, the postern gate.



Tiryns (Prescribed Material)

Tiryns is about 1.5 miles from the sea. Like Mycenae, Tiryns was built on a hill, which was about 18 m high. As can be seen from the plan below, the site is long and thin, being about 300 m long and 45 m wide at its narrowest and 100 m at its widest. The site itself is much older than Mycenae.



1	Cyclopean ramp
2	Gates
3	Galleries
4	Large courtyard
5	Palace courtyard
6	Palace and megaron
7	West gate
8	Back entrance from palace to area of middle citadel
9	Lower citadel
10	Cyclopean walls

Activity 10

For a drone's eye view see: [zzed.co.uk/11261-drone](https://www.zzed.co.uk/11261-drone)



Defences (Prescribed Material)

The wall, originally 10 m high, is Cyclopean, being built in the same way as the walls at Mycenae: two outer *skins* of huge stones filled with rubble and earth between them and with a walkway at the top which had a small brick wall made of sun-dried mud bricks. The 700 m of walls were put around the site around 1400 BC. Notice the 'bulge' on the western side (7 on plan). This was constructed in the 1200s BC. It was obviously felt that more secure defences were needed. Pausanias was impressed:

The wall, which is the only part of the ruins still remaining, is a work of the Cyclopes made of unwrought stones, each stone being so big that a pair of mules could not move the smallest from its place to the slightest degree. Long ago small stones were so inserted that each of them binds the large blocks firmly together. Pausanias, *Guide to Greece*, 2.25.8

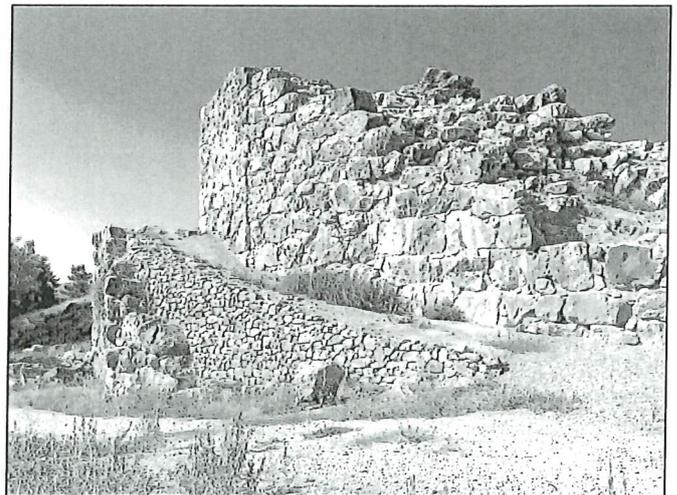
Activity 11

Homer calls Tiryns 'well-girt'. This means 'firmly encircled'. Do you agree? Give reasons.



Cyclopean ramp (Prescribed Material)

The main approach to Tiryns was up a man-made ramp now called the *Cyclopean ramp*. It is 4.7 m wide and so was wide enough for chariots to drive up. If invaders were to approach, they would have been vulnerable on their right side. Always carrying shields on their left arm, they were unprotected on the right side where defenders were standing above them on the walls. In addition, at the top of the ramp was a sharp right-hand turn which made it difficult for invading troops to manoeuvre.



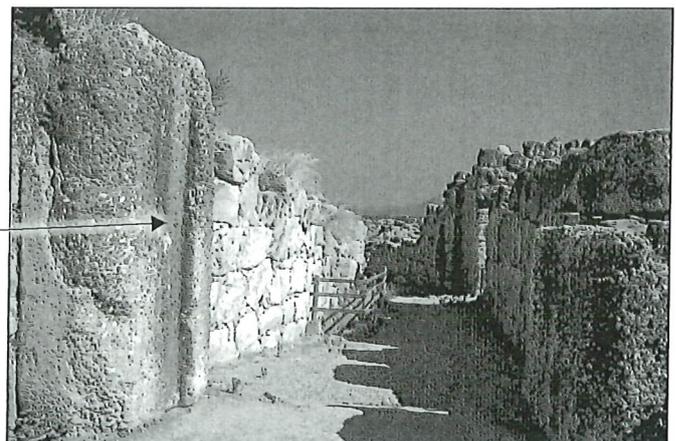
Gateways (Prescribed Material)

East Gate (1 on plan)

The original gate to Tiryns was through a break in the eastern walls. At this point the walls are 7.5 m thick. Archaeologists believe, from evidence of slots in the door jambs, that there were double doors of wood with brass plates to reinforce them. Once through the walls, a visitor would be faced with a passageway leading left and right. To the right the passage led to the lower citadel.

Middle Gateway (2 on plan)

Turning left and going 50 m along was another entrance. This was almost the same measurements as the Lion Gate at Mycenae, about 3 m high and 3 m wide. Like the Lion Gate, the door jambs were of one piece of stone. The holes in them indicate another set of double doors. There were also very big bolts as the *boltholes* can be seen in the picture. These are 15 cm across.



Middle Gateway looking back to the East Gate

Passing through the Middle Gateway a visitor entered a covered passage. This is called a *barbican*. The passage narrowed and finished at another smaller gateway which led to the palace complex. The entrance to Tiryns is the most complex of all Mycenaean entrances. The gates and passages meant that invaders could be trapped between the entrances and easily picked off by defenders.

West gate postern (7 on plan) (Additional Material)

West gate postern

The west gate, which is really a postern, was put in quite late on when the bulge in the walls was added. The walls were extremely high. The corbelled gate, only 2.5 m high, was put in at the bottom and a 65-step curving staircase gave access to the citadel. This was also easy to defend as defenders only needed to throw missiles down on the invaders climbing the stairs.



Activity 12

Check that you know what the following mean by writing out a description for each one:

boltholes	
corbelling	
jamb	
lintel	
postern	
ramp	
well-girt	

Guided Activity 6

If you had tried to invade Tiryns, how successful do you think you would have been? In your answer you may like to consider: the site on a hill; the height and thickness of the walls; the Cyclopean ramp; the gateways to the east and the west gate. Your answer could also be adapted to a similar question asking you to imagine yourself as a defender of one of the sites.

Activity 13

Which site had better defences for its inhabitants: Mycenae or Tiryns?

Galleries (Prescribed Material)

East gallery

The east gallery (right) was built into the walls to the south-east. The gallery has a corbelled roof and there are six square rooms, evenly spaced along the narrow passageway.

They were cool enough, out of the sun to be used for storing food, but we are not sure of their use.

The best preserved gallery of the citadel is the south gallery. It is 1.65 m wide and cuts through the external wall that is 11 m thick in that area. The side openings led to corbelled rooms which might have been used as cisterns or storerooms.



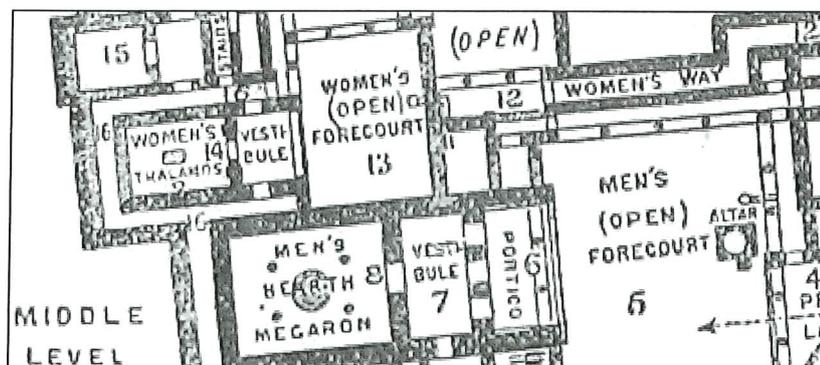
Palace (Prescribed Material)

The palace at Tiryns was just as complex as the one at Mycenae but at its heart was the megaron, 25 m by 12.5 m. The throne room is 11.8 m by 9.8 m.

Activity 14

Look at the plan of Tiryns on p. 16 Identify the megaron and draw the plan. Label the plan: throne room with hearth (3 m across) and pillars, anteroom and porch.

Outside the megaron was a large palace courtyard (below 5) and in order to reach that a visitor had to pass through two other courtyards. This ensured only the very few could meet the royal family. Ceremonies could be held in the palace courtyard. As with Mycenae, a corridor ran around the outside of the megaron. The plan below is from 1892 and shows a smaller women's megaron next to the main one. Modern archaeology has shown that men and women did not live separate lives and that the smaller megaron may have been the private residence of the royal family rather than just for women.

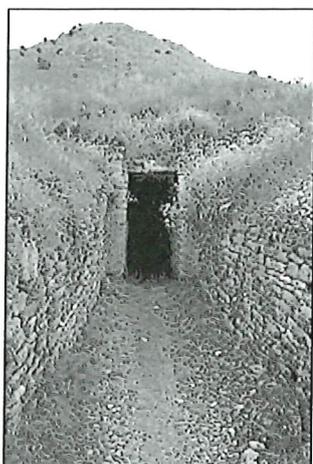


Activity 15

The scholar Griffiths-Pedley noticed that Tiryns had two of several features. How many 'doubles' can you think of?

The tholos tomb (Prescribed Material)

In 1913 a tholos tomb was excavated about 1 km from the citadel of Tiryns. The *dromos* of the tomb, which was constructed after the raising of the beehive mound, is 13 m long and nearly 3 m wide. The walls of the *dromos* are made of roughly cut limestone slabs. The entrance portal of the tomb was decorated with wall paintings of spirals. There would have been double doors to the tomb. The lintel is a single slab measuring 3 m x 2 m. Inside the tholos is 8.5 m across.



Guided Activity 7

Look back at the description of the tholos tombs at Mycenae and then answer the following questions:

1. What does *tholos* mean?
2. What is a *dromos*?
3. How similar is the *dromos* at Tiryns to the *dromos* of the Treasury of Atreus?
4. Which tomb is bigger: the one at Tiryns or the Tomb of Clytemnestra?
5. If you look up in both tombs what would you see?

Activity 16

How far do you agree that the tholos tombs at Tiryns and Mycenae were impressive? Give details from the tholoi (plural of tholos) you have studied.

Activity 17

Have a look at this amateur film of Tiryns zed.co.uk/11261-Tiryns
Test yourself on how many places you can recognise (though the dog might be the star!).

Additional Mycenaean sites

Activity 18

The specification states: 'Learners should study other ancient sources *in addition* to those prescribed when exploring the topics in this component to give a wider contextual background. [...] learners will be given credit for referring to any appropriate sources, not only those listed in the specification document.'

Below are images from other Mycenaean sites. You need to be able to apply your knowledge of Mycenae and Tiryns to answer the questions.

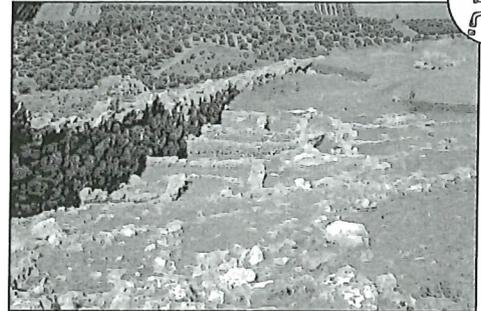
Midea

Sample Question

Suggest two ways in which the site of Midea is similar to Mycenae.

SAMPLE ANSWER:

Both Mycenae and Midea are sited on the top of a hill.
Both sites are surrounded by fortification walls (Cyclopean walls).

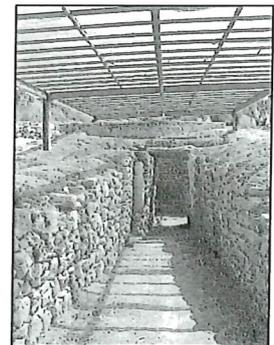


Dendra

The tombs at Dendra are thought to be the burial places of the rulers of Midea.

Activity 19

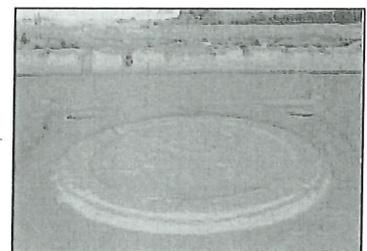
1. What name is given to this type of tomb?
2. Suggest two ways in which this tomb is similar to the tomb of Clytemnestra at Mycenae.



Pylos

Activity 20

1. What was a megaron?
2. Explain what the circle in the picture is.



Guided Activity 8

Using evidence from the Mycenaean sites you have studied, show how the Mycenaeans were expert builders.

This type of question expects you to give details from Mycenae and Tiryns, but for the highest marks you should try to give details from at least one other site. You could include Midea, Dendra or Pylos, from which some remains have been discussed.