

# Knowledge Map: Mycenaean Age – Key Sites (Overview)

This component is based around life in ancient Greece just over three thousand years ago. The Culture half of the topic covers the ancient civilisation known as the Mycenaean Age. You will study some of the main Mycenaean sites and the items that made these places so remarkable. From tiny objects like rings, to huge, city walls, you will study a variety of source material to find out what life was like at the time.

1

## Map of Mycenaean Key Sites

Below is a map of the key Mycenaean Age sites: Mycenae, Tiryns, and Troy.



2

## Timeline of Major Events in the Mycenaean Age

Below is a timeline of the major events of the Mycenaean Age.

1675BC	First burials in 'Grave Circle B' at Mycenae.	Early
1600BC	First burials at 'Grave Circle A' Destruction of Akrotiri	
1400BC	Start of major building at Mycenaean sites Treasury of Atreus built Development of the city of Tiryns End of Minoan Age	Palatial
1375BC	Shipwreck of Ulu Burun	
1350BC	Tombs of Clytemnestra and Aegisthus built Cyclopean Walls of Mycenae built	
1300BC	Western wall of Mycenae strengthened Eastern gate and palace built at Mycenae	Later
1250BC	Further strengthening of walls and defences of Tiryns Building of galleries at Tiryns Lion Gate built Destruction of Troy VIIa Decline of major Mycenaean sites	
1200BC	Destruction of Troy VI Damage to Mycenae from fire	
1075BC	Final destruction at Mycenae from fire	

## Concept and Dating of the Mycenaean Age

3	Mycenaean Age	It is a general term that describes the time when many separate city states in the Greek world were powerful. Mycenae was the most powerful.
4	City States	As we have learnt, Ancient Greece was not a unified country but was a collection of separate city states, but they did have shared values around culture, buildings, and administration.
5	Duration of Mycenaean Age	The Mycenaean Age is a period in Ancient Greece that runs from 1600BC to 1150BC.
6	Bronze Age	This period is what is known as the Bronze Age. It is named this period as this was the first time that tin and copper were mixed together to make the alloy bronze, which is a much stronger material than the sum of its parts.
7	Minoan Age	This is a period that preceded the Mycenaean Age, and in fact, crosses over into the early Mycenaean Age. It is a period based on Crete and its influence over neighbouring areas. It ran from around 3500BC to around 1400BC.
8	Dating the Mycenaean Age	In order to date the Mycenaean Age, historians looked at pottery styles in Greece, comparing them to those in Egypt where historical records were kept more accurately. Carbon objects such as wooden objects and timbers, are also dated by measuring the level of radioactivity present.
9	Mycenaean Age: Phase 1	The early period of the Mycenaean Age is from 1600BC to 1400BC. Our focus is on the burial grounds made in shaft graves.
10	Mycenaean Age: Phase 2	The palatial period of the Mycenaean Age is from 1400BC to 1250BC. Our focus will be on the building of the great palaces in this period.
11	Mycenaean Age: Phase 3	The later period of the Mycenaean Age runs from 1250BC to 1150BC. Our focus will be on the decline of the period and its key buildings.
12	Dating the Mycenaean Age	In order to date the Mycenaean Age, historians looked at pottery styles in Greece, comparing them to those in Egypt where historical records were kept more accurately. Carbon objects such as wooden objects and timbers, are also dated by measuring the level of radioactivity present.

## Mycenae

13	Mycenae	The most famous city of the Mycenaean Age.
14	King Agamemnon	In mythology, Mycenae was the home of King Agamemnon, the King who led a Greek army against the city of Troy after his brother, King Menelaus of Sparta, lost his wife, Helen, to Paris.
15	Location of Mycenae	The city is built on a hill, which is 40-50m above the plain that it surrounds. It is a small area by modern standards, and has a perimeter of around 900m.
16	Mythical Beginnings (Mycenae)	The Greeks believed that the hero, Perseus, the man who killed Medusa, first founded the city. According to myth, he was given help in building it by the mythical race of giants called the Cyclopes.
17	Famous Mycenae Sites	The Palace, the Sally Port, the passage to the underground cistern, the underground cistern, the Cyclopean walls, the Lion Gate, Grave Circle A, Grave Circle B, Tomb of Clytemnestra, Tomb of Aegisthus, Treasury of Atreus

## Tiryns

18	Tiryns	The city of Tiryns is another important Mycenaean site and is just 10 miles from Mycenae.
19	Mythical Beginnings (Tiryns)	The ancients believed Tiryns to be older than Mycenae and founded by Proitos, the brother of Acrisius, who was Perseus' grandfather. It is also supposedly the birthplace of Heracles.
20	Famous Tiryns Sites	The main entrance, the Cyclopean ramp, the galleries, the palace, defences, tholos tomb

## Tier 3 Vocabulary

Mycenae	The name of main city in Mycenaean Age
Mycenaean	The name of the period of Greek history that runs from 1675BC to 1150BC
Tiryns	The name of a Greek city in the Mycenaean Age
Agamemnon	The King of Mycenae
Perseus	Mythical founder of Mycenae