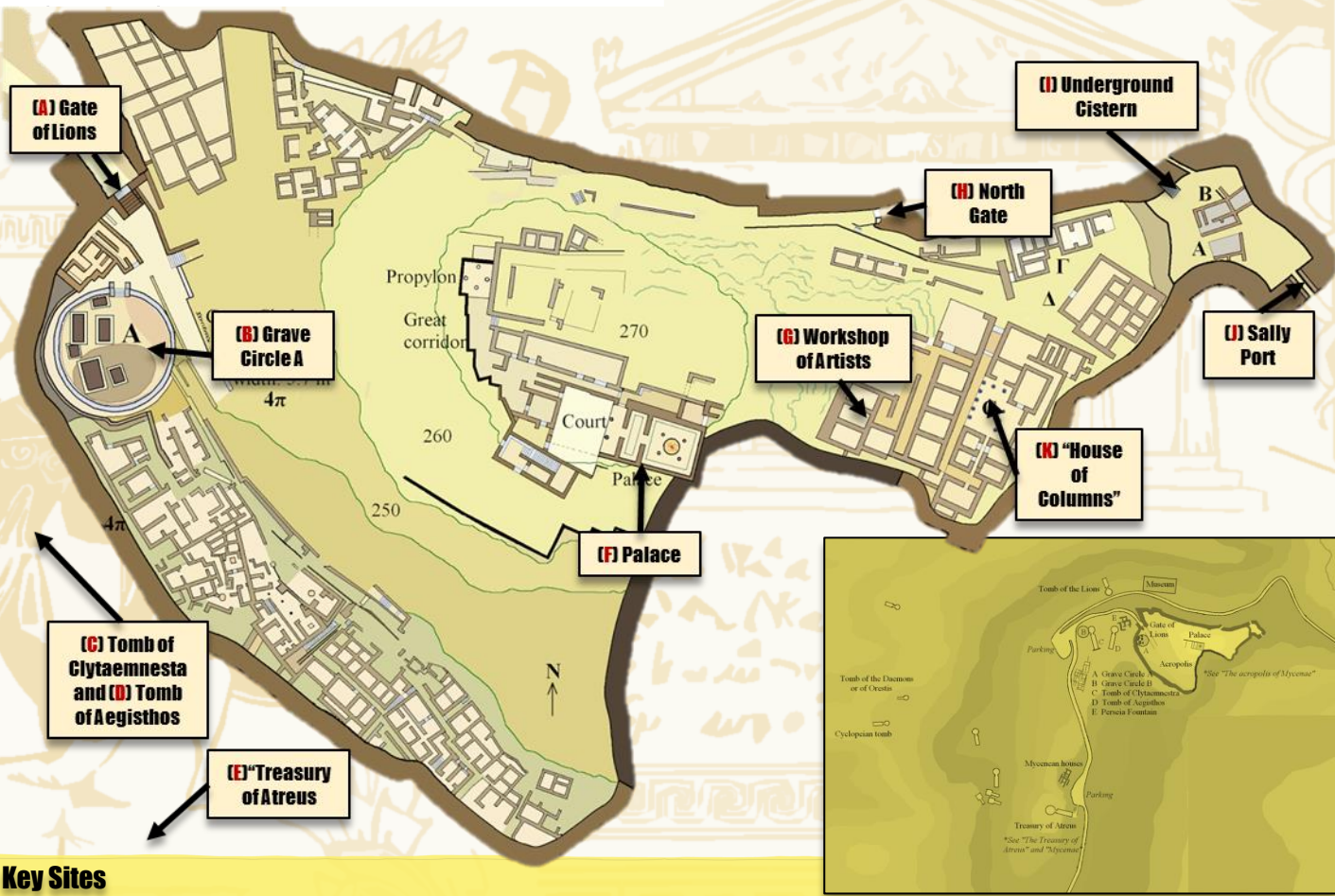


2 Knowledge Map: Mycenaean Age – Mycenae

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 Plan of Mycenae
Below is a plan of the Mycenae and its key historical sites.



Key Sites

2	(A) Lions Gate	The Lion Gate is probably the most famous feature of Mycenae and is one of the most impressive pieces of masonry in the Ancient world. This was the main entrance into the city and has two lions that dominate the archway at the top.
3	(B) Grave Circle A	Grave Circle A is a circular graveyard that contains tombs and is surrounded by a low wall. It is 28m in diameter and is thought to have been a royal burial site.
4	(C) Tomb of Clytemnestra	This tomb lies outside the city walls and is a tholos tomb in that it is domed. Clytemnestra was the wife of King Agamemnon. In Greek myth, she kills Agamemnon. The tomb is around 13m in diameter, and 13m high.
5	(D) Tomb of Aegisthus	Like the Tomb of Clytemnestra, the Tomb of Aegisthus was a tholos tomb. Aegisthus was the second husband of Clytemnestra. It is similar in size to the tomb of Clytemnestra.
6	(E) Treasury of Atreus	The Treasury of Atreus is also housed outside the city walls. It is also a tholos tomb, but also acted as a treasury for Mycenae. Atreus was the father of Agamemnon.
7	(F) Palace	The palace sits at the very top of the hill containing Mycenae. The hill did not have a natural flat surface so the top of the hill had to be artificially levelled. There were various terraces cut into the hill making it look even more dramatic.
8	(G) Workshop of Artists	A large art workshop that produced pottery. Art flourished during this period and continued much of the traditions passed on by the Minoan civilisation.
9	(H) North Gate	The North Gate was an additional entrance into the city.

10	(I) Underground Cistern	Accessed through an underground passage that goes under the perimeter wall, there is an underground cistern 18m below ground level. It was used as a means to access water should the city be under siege.
11	(J) Sally Port	A Sally Port is an important part of the defenses of the city as they were secret passages that allowed defenders to rush out and attack unsuspecting enemies. There are two in Mycenae at either end of the city. They use a technique known as corbelling .
12	(K) House of Columns	A large building complex east of the Palace on the Acropolis of Mycenae. It is a remarkable piece of architecture as it covers three tiers of terraces.

Tier 3 Vocabulary

Masonry	Stone work
Stele	Carved stone tombstones
Tholos	A large domed tomb in the shape of an igloo; also known as a beehive tomb
Cistern	A tank used to store water
Corbelling	A method of spanning two structures by using increasingly larger blocks of stone