

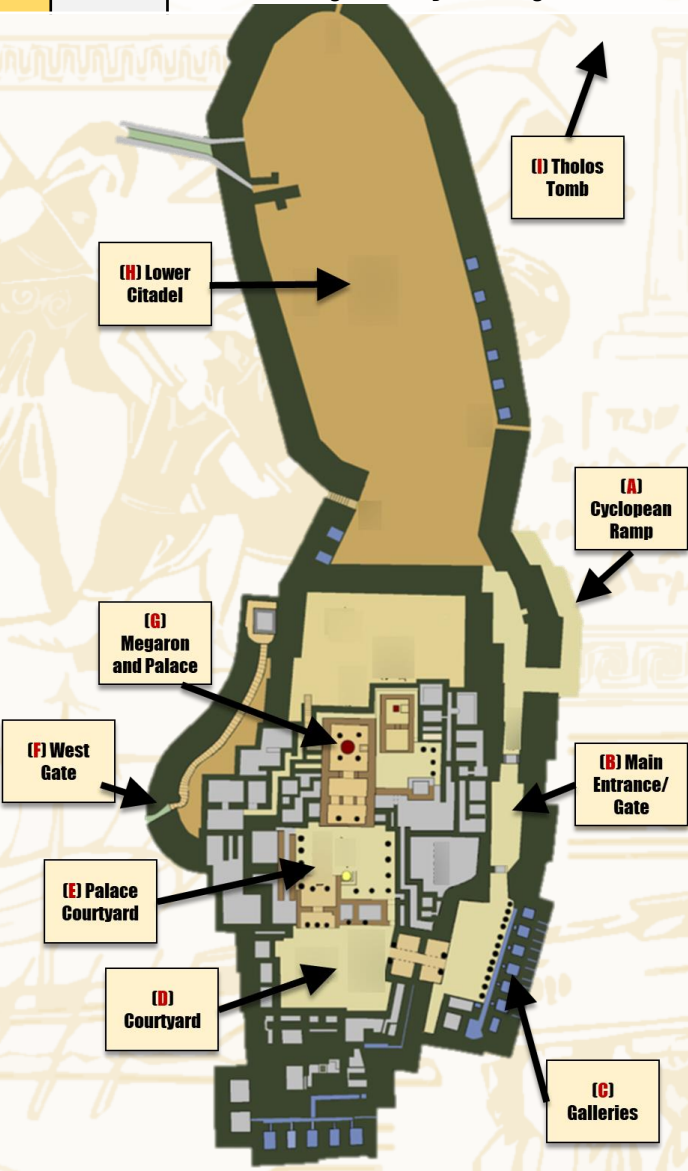
Knowledge Map: Mycenaean Age – Tiryns

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

2 Location of Tiryns Tiryns is located on a hill 18 metres above the surrounding land. It is 300m long, and between 45 to 100m wide.

3 Age of Tiryns The earliest buildings date from around 2500BC, but the main buildings, including the palace, were built around 1400BC – the height of the Mycenaean Age.



Key Sites

4	Cyclopean Walls	The walls of Tiryns, like those at Mycenae, were thought to have been built by the Cyclopes. They are around 7m high, and 10m at their peak.
5	(A) Cyclopean Ramp	The main approach to the walls was via the Cyclopean Ramp. This was on the east side of the city and led to the main gate. The ramp was named after the Cyclopes, again, because of its size.
6	(B) Main Entrance/Gate	The eastern gate was the main entrance into the city and is about 3m wide. There is a further inner gate, that would be used to trap attackers in by closing the two gates on them.
7	(C) Galleries	The Galleries are some of the famous features of the city. They are built into the outer walls of the city and are created using the corbelling technique. They were up to 30m long and were used to store grain and/or ammunition.
9	(E and G) Palace Courtyard and Palace	The palace was built on the highest part of the city and it had its own defensive walls. A grand entranceway led to the megaron.
10	(F) West Gate	This gate was added at a later date and was the second entrance, or exit, from the city.
11	(G) Megaron	The megaron was a structure built around 4 huge pillars and contained the king's throne. The floor was plastered and had images of octopi and dolphins on it. The walls were also covered in with plaster, and had frescoes painted onto them of wealthy families and hunting scenes.
12	(H) Lower Citadel	The lower part of the city where houses for the population were built.
13	(I) Tholos Tomb	Just over half a mile from Tiryns there is a tholos tomb built into the hillside. It is about 6m tall and 6m wide, with an entrance 1.5m in height. It has a superb corbelled roof.

Tier 3 Vocabulary

Masonry	Stone work	Corbelling	A method of spanning two structures by using increasingly larger blocks of stone
Stele	Carved stone tombstones	Citadel	Another name for a city; one that is usually walled like a fortress.
Tholos	A large domed tomb in the shape of an igloo; also known as a beehive tomb	Megaron	The central hall of a palace used for banquets, worship, and meetings.
Cistern	A tank used to store water	Fresco	A painting originally made on damp plaster in which the colours become fixed as the plaster dries.