


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.

Clothing			Trade		
1	Lack of Evidence	As clothes are made from materials that decay over time, no actual clothing remains from the Mycenaean Age. We gain an understanding of what Mycenaean people wore from frescoes and art.	8	Trade Links	The major Mycenaean cities developed strong trade links with many areas around the Mediterranean Sea and beyond. This was essential for commodities such as minerals and metals that Greece does not have a natural supply of.
2	Wool	The vast majority of clothing in the Mycenaean Age were made of wool from sheep or goats, or from linen which is made from the flax plant.	9	Trade Routes	Much of the trade was done by sea as travel on land was slow due to the mountainous landscape of Greece. The roads that existed were pretty basic and little could be carried along them.
3	Dyes	The clothes made were often dyed with natural products with the colour being locked in through the addition of a substance such as vinegar or urine. This helped preserve the dye when the garment was washed.	10	Trade Journeys	Trade journeys would usually take some weeks to complete and could be very hazardous. Trips could only be carried out from early-spring to early-autumn. Most of the trips would see traders 'island hop'.
4	Colour of Dyes	The table below outlines where the colours for dyes originated:	11	Trading Partners	Most of the trade was with areas to the east. Such as the islands in the Aegean Sea, Egypt, or the Middle East. There was occasionally some trade with Italy. There is some suggestion that amber and tin was traded with Britain.
	Yellow	Onion skins; saffron (a spice)			
	Red	Insect eggs, madder (a plant)			
	Blue	Indigo (a plant)			
	Purple	Shellfish ink	12	Bartering	Bartering is the system used by the Greeks and their trading partners where goods are exchanged for other goods. There is no evidence that money existed at this time.
5	Women's Clothing	Women were regularly shown in wrap-around skirts made up of a number of layers. They were often colourful and would have been worn with an underskirt. Women are also depicted in art as wearing robes, cloaks, shawls, ornate headbands, and ankle bracelets.		Imports	The types of goods imported by the Mycenaean is outlined below, and where they are from:
6	"The Mycenaean Lady"	A fresco known as the Mycenaean Lady shows a thoughtful woman in a typically Mycenaean garment holding a necklace. It is a prescribed source and needs to be studied.	13	Gold	Macedonia, Egypt, Thasos (Greek Island)
		Amber		Denmark, Northern Europe	
		Ivory		Africa, Syria	
		Lapis Lazuli Gems		Africa	
		Silver, Lead		Attica (area around Athens)	
		Copper		Attica, Syria, Cyprus, Sardinia	
		Ostrich Eggs		Africa	
		Tin		Britain, Turkey, Afghanistan, Spain	
Glass	Egypt				
7	Men's Clothing	Men often wore a braided, short-sleeved tunic, with a robe over it. There is evidence that they wore something akin to a kilt. Leather boots were also worn as shown as the Warrior Vase, but many would have gone around in barefoot.	14	Exports	The main exports for Mycenae and similar cities appears to be pottery. Examples of Mycenaean pottery have been found in Israel, Egypt, Syria, Albania, and Macedonia. Some Mycenaean amphorae have been found throughout Greece.
Tier 3 Vocabulary			15	Ulu Burun Shipwreck	Around 1375BC, A Mycenaean ship sunk off the coast of southwest Turkey. Its cargo reveals a lot about trade at the time. It contained the following products either being imported or exported:
Island Hop	Moving from island to island during trade routes due to the ships only being able to cover short distances as they were powered by rowers.				10 tonnes of copper and 1 tonne of tin – this would have been used to make bronze.
Bartering	The system of exchanging goods rather than money to purchase things.				150 jars of a type used in the Middle East, filled with olives, and one with glass beads.
Fresco	A painting originally made on damp plaster in which the colours become fixed as the plaster dries.		Other items included wooden logs, elephant tusks, hippopotamus teeth, tortoise shells, oil lamps and pottery, amber, drinking cups, weapons, food (including nuts, olives, and spices), a trumpet, and wooden tablets (used for writing).		