

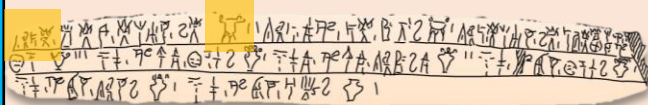
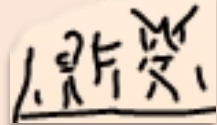



This component is based around life in ancient Greece just over three thousand years ago. The Culture half of the topic covers the ancient civilisation known as the Mycenaean Age. You will study some of the main Mycenaean sites and the items that made these places so remarkable. From tiny objects like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

Linear B Tablets

1	Linear B Tablets	Linear B Tablets are a series of inscribed clay tablets from the Mycenaean Age. Essentially, they are a form of writing on which symbols were drawn onto damp clay and left to harden creating a semi-permanent record.	11	Agriculture	Linear B tablets tell us a lot about agriculture and food production. A tablet from Knossos tells us about wine production. It mentions 420 vines and the storage of 14000 litres of wine. Another records the delivery of 518 litres of oil.
2	Range of Linear B Tablets	They have been found at some of the major palaces of the time with the best examples from Pylos and Knossos on the island of Crete. Over 1000 were discovered at Pylos.	12	Animals	Many animals are mentioned in the tablets: horses, plough oxen, goats, and pigs. Some plough oxen are even named such as Dusky, Dapple or Whitefoot.
3	Use of Linear B Tablets	The tablets operated in three key stages:	13	Wanax	Some of the tablets record how cities were run. There appears to be a chieftain or king called a wanax at the top of each society. This corresponds to the word 'anax' in Homer, which means 'lord'.
	Stage 1	Inscribe detail onto small hand-held tablet (some as small as 3cm)			It appears that this position only existed in Mycenaean Times,
	Stage 2	Transfer information to a larger thin horizontal tablet called a leaf tablet.	The chieftains had royal lands, special garments (often purple in colour), and freedom from some taxes.		
	Stage 3	Transfer these inscriptions to a larger tablet measuring 30cm.	14	Lawagetas	Beneath the wanax was a lawagetas, and it has been suggested that they would have been a military official.
			15	Hequetai	Beneath both the wanax and the Lawagetas was the hequetai which were the noble classes. These were landowners who often owned slaves.
4	Symbols	The 'language' used in the tablets were symbols, much like hieroglyphics in Egypt. There were symbols for syllables to words, ideograms (pictures for words), symbols for vowels, and symbols for each consonant as well.	16	Workers	The workers were the lower classes and fulfilled a variety of roles. There is mention of female religious workers and women who ground corn, spun thread, and were waitresses. Often they are mentioned as being from other parts of the world suggesting they may well have been slaves.
5	Ideograms	As mentioned above, ideograms were pictures that represented whole words. A good example of this is animals, with extra strokes on the ideogram represented the gender of the animal.			Other workers mentioned include headband makers for horses, musicians, sweepers, bakers, fire-kindlers, perfume makers, and stonemasons.
			17	Military	Military commodities are often referred to in the tablets. Those from Pylos, tell us that officials had to provide bronze for spears, arrows and ships. The tablets also tell of chariot parts needed, as well as a request for 600 rowers, suggesting they feared an attack.
6	Records	The linear B tablets are vitally important documents. There is no literature that was written in this period, so without these tablets we would know nothing of certain aspects of life, such as where cities are and where the workers came from.	18	Religion	Offerings made to gods are mentioned in one tablet. Aside from gold items, some of which are offered at the shrine of Zeus, other offerings were made. Controversially, it is suggested that two men and eight women are mentioned as offerings for gods Zeus, Hermes, and Hera, indicating that human sacrifice may have been something in Mycenaean times.
7	Gods	The tablets also reveal the names of several Olympian gods. Zeus, Poseidon, Hermes, Hera and Artemis appear on tablets. Female versions of Zeus and Poseidon, known as Diwia and Posidaia, appear, but do not exist beyond the Mycenaean Age.			
8	Origins of Greek Words	The origins of some Greek words can be found within the tablets with little change in spelling. For example, the Greek word for gold is chrusos, which was written in linear B as kuruso.	Tier 3 Vocabulary		
9	Word for Tripod	The word tripod is one of one the prescribed sources. It is a very good example of how the linear B tablets have the syllabic version of a word, and the ideogram.	Linear B Tablet	An inscribed clay tablet from the Mycenaean Age that uses ideograms and syllabic symbols.	
10			Ideogram	A picture found on a linear B tablet that represents a whole word.	
			Tripod	The prescribed source found in a linear B tablet that is depicted in both syllabic and ideogram form.	
			Wanax	The Mycenaean word for a chieftain or king.	
	Tri-po-de (syllable form)		Anax	The word used in Homer's work to describe a lord.	
	Tripod (ideogram form)		Lawagetas	The leader of the people in Mycenae, who was also probably the leader of the army.	
			Hequetai	The nobles in Mycenae; they were probably also important troops in the army.	