

Chapter 4-Prehistoric Aegean Art

- The sea was a natural defense barrier maintaining some stability, also Crete and the Aegean islands were trade crossroads for the Mediterranean and brought prosperity

Cycladic Art- (3000- 1600 BCE) (images)

4-1, 4-2

- Islands that circle around Delos
- Cycladic civilization produced stylized statuettes/ nudes, musical instruments

Minoan- (1900- 1375 BCE) (images)

4-3, 4-5, 4-7, 4-11, 4-14

- The Island of Crete- Minoans-were non-military
- mixed-use palaces with complex ground plans
- Early Minoan (Crete) culture fostered an open trade, trading their olive oil and wine
- Earthquakes around 1450 weakened the Minoan cities
- Through their frescos and pottery they depicted their love of nature and especially the sea life
- The Minoan culture declined (do not know why) around 1400 BCE, some think that it was from the earthquakes, others think the focus of culture shifted to the mainland of the Mycenaeans

Mycenaean- (1400-1100 BCE) (images)

4-17, 4-18, 4-20, 4-21, 4-22, 4-23

- The Greek Mainland was definitely influenced by the Minoans of Crete
- Homer described Mycenae as “rich in gold”
- Greeks, later in the historical age, viewed the citadels (fortified palaces) of Tiryns and Mycenae. Believed that mere mortals could not have made them, and attributed their construction to the mythical Cyclopes, a race of one-eyed giants. Historians still refer to the rough-cut, massive stone blocks as Cyclopean Masonry.
- Massive citadels, fortification reveal their defensive character as opposed to the open Cretan palaces
- Corbeled vault in the hallway of the Tiryns palace, no mortar used and held in place only by the weight of the blocks, some of the smaller wedge-type blocks and some clay filling some of the edges
- Mycenaean mercenaries made stops in Crete to and from Egypt
- With the destruction of the Mycenaean palaces around 1200BCE, Greece was plunged into a “Dark Age”, where most art (paintings, carvings, building and even writing almost disappeared

Vocab

Cyclopean masonry-

True Fresco-

Repousse-

“Megaron”- (main chamber, Minoan palace)-

Funerary Mask-

“Citadel”-

Labyrinth-

Caryatids-

Kore/Kouros-

Questions:

How does Ancient Greece differ in contrast to the religion and government of Ancient Egypt?

How does the geography of Aegean lands contrast to the fertile valleys of Mesopotamia and Egypt?

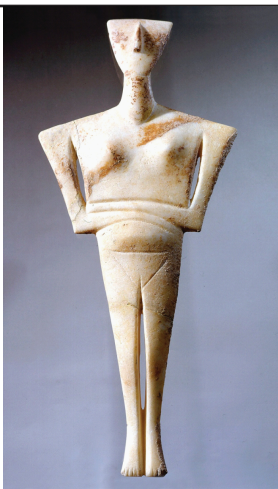



What are some characteristics of art from the Cycladic Islands?

Give an example of a piece of work that shows the Minoan civilization's interest in the Bull.

Contrast the Minoan civilization to that of the Mycenaean culture. Be sure to explain how geography had a huge affect on their culture.

Chapter 4

N = name D = date (century) P/S = Period/Style A = artist or architect
 Pa = Patron L = original location C = context N = notes of importance

4-1		<p>N:Figurine of a Woman D:2500-2300 BCE P/S:Prehistoric Aegean A:Unknown Cycladic Sculptor Pa:Cycladic Citizens L:Syros, Greece C: - _____ was readily available -most represent _____ with arms crossing abdomen - from a grave site, _____ offerings, feet too small to stand, so most likely _____ mimicking the body it was placed on -don't know meaning or function</p> <p>N: -abstract forms that call to mind _____ art -vary in size from a _____ inches to life size -very popular in the art collector world, collectors in the past several decades have had a high demand for cycladic figurines (mostly due to the modern art movements stressing _____ and _____), Because of this, there has been looting at historical/archeology sites and many have been sold on the black market, the originality and content never authenticated</p>
4-2		<p>N:Male Lyre Player D:2700-2500 BCE P/S:Prehistoric Aegean A:Unknown Cycladic Sculptor Pa:Cycladic Citizens L:Keros, Greece C: -marble was readily available - from a grave site, funerary offerings, don't know meaning or function</p> <p>N: -abstract forms that call to mind 20th Century art - _____ headed instrument -very popular in the art collector world, collectors in the past several decades have had a high demand for cycladic figurines (mostly due to the modern art movements stressing simple shapes and forms), because of this. there has been looting at historical/archeology sites and many have been sold on the black market, the originality and content never authenticated</p>
4-3		<p>N:Palace at Knossos D:1700-1400 BCE P/S:Prehistoric Aegean A:citizens of Knossos Pa:King Minos L:Crete, Greece C: -the golden age of Crete, when the first great _____ civilization emerged -elaborate _____ were administrative, commercial, and religious centers -their size and number attest to the _____ and _____ of the Minoans</p> <p>N: -contained staircases, courtyards for pageants, ceremonies, and games, storerooms, offices, shrines, theaters, living quarters, reception rooms, -they gave thought to _____, and there are terracotta _____ that run under the building, had _____ levels</p>
4-5		<p>N:Stairwell in Palace at Knossos D:1700-1400 BCE P/S:Preh. Aegean A:citizens of Knossos Pa:King Minos L:Crete, Greece C: -the golden age of Crete, when the first great Western civilization emerged -elaborate palaces were administrative, commercial, and religious centers -their size and number attest to the power and prosperity of the Minoans</p> <p>N: the pillars bulbous, cushion-like _____ and distinctive shafts go from wider at the top to narrower at the bottom, the _____ of what we see at Egyptian and later Greek Doric order</p>

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4-7



N:Bull-Leaping in Palace at Knossos **D:**1700-1400 BCE **P/S:**Preh. Aegean
A:Unknown Minoan Artist **Pa:**King Minos **L:**Crete, Greece
C: -the dark skin of the _____ and light skin of the _____ was the accepted norm to distinguish the sexes
-young man is _____ over bull in a brave act
-this is _____, meaning the pigment was added while the plaster was still wet
N: -artist uses _____ lines to suggest movement & power, also stylized figures with their _____ waists and highly animated, although they imple the profile view with body & full-view eye (Egypt and Mesopotamia), the Minoan figures have an _____ with their long curly hair & self-confident bearing, their curving lines suggest the elasticity of the _____ and _____ being

4-11



N:Marine Style Octopus Jar **D:**1500 BCE **P/S:**Preh. Aegean, Minoan
A:Unknown craftsman **Pa:**Minoan Citizen **L:** Palaikastro (Crete), Greece
C: -depictions of _____ inspired artwork within the sea going culture
N: -the arms _____ across the curving vessel emphasizing its volume
-artist _____ typical decoration and made octopus silhouetted against the white background, something that would remain _____ in the _____ world for the next millenia

4-14



N:Snake Goddess **D:**1600 BCE **P/S:**Preh. Aegean, Minoan
A:Unknknown Craftsman **Pa:**Minoan citizens **L:**Crete, Greece
C: -unlike Egypt and Mesop., there are no temples or monumental statues of _____, _____, or _____ that have been found in Minoan Crete, only _____ sculptures in the round
-the exposed breasts might indicate that it is a _____, and her power over the animals could indicate her _____
- _____ reminiscent of the Minoan culture, another example of how humans fashion their _____ in their own image
N: -1'1 1/2" high, glazed earthenware

4-20



N:Lion's Gate **D:**1200 BCE **P/S:**Preh. Aegean, Mycenaean
A:Unknown Builders **Pa:**Agamemnon **L:**Mycenae, Greece
C: -attackers would have to enter the gateway through a _____ foot channel that would have been defended on _____ by the Mycenaeans
- _____ to Mycenae
N: -formed with two great _____, capped with a _____, above the lintel a _____ arch is filled with a limestone slab where two lions have been carved in high relief and stand on either side of a Minoan-type column
-called a relieving _____, since it relieves some of the weight off of the lintel
-the idea of placing monstrous guardians _____ the entryway of palaces, tombs, and sacred places has its _____ in Egypt and Near East

Chapter 4

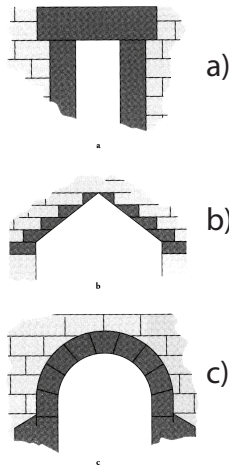
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4-17



N: walls of citadel at Tiryns, Greece **D:**1400-1200 BCE **P/S:**Preh. Aegean
A:Unknown Mycenaean **Pa:**Mycenaean Citizens **L:**Tiryns, Greece
C:-by _____ Mycenaean became the dominate culture in the region
 -Greeks, later in the historical age, viewed the citadels (fortified palaces) of Tiryns and Mycenae & believed that mere _____ could not have made them, and attributed there construction to the mythical _____, a race of one-eyed _____. Historians still refer to the rough-cut, massive _____ as Cyclopean Masonry.
 -Massive citadels, fortification reveal their _____ character as opposed to the _____ Cretan palaces
 -Corbeled _____ in the hallway of the Tiryns palace, no _____ used, held in place only by the _____ of the blocks, smaller wedge-type blocks and some _____ was used to fill some of the edges
N: - _____ foot thick walls, massive and monumental

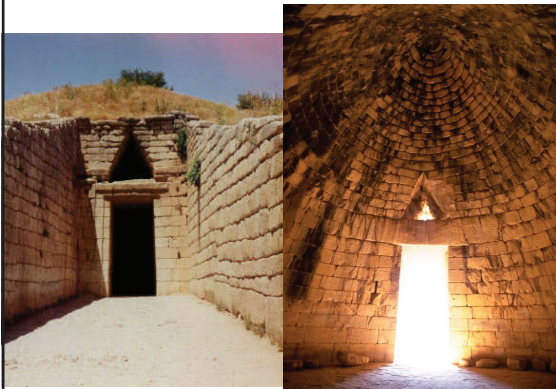
4-18



3 Methods of spanning an entryway

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

4-21
4-22



N:Treasury of Atreus **D:**1300 BCE **P/S:**Prehistoric, Greece
A:Mycenaean Craftsman **Pa:**Unknown wealthy citizen **L:**Mycenae, Greece
C: -wealthy Mycenaeans were buried in _____-shaped tombs covered by huge earthen _____, called tholos _____
 -approached by a long passageway, has a _____ triangle like the Lion's Gate, built like a stone _____
N:Vault of the tholos of the treasury of Atreus **D:**1300 BCE **P/S:**Preh. Aeg.
A:Mycenaean Craftsman **Pa:**Unknown wealthy citizen **L:**Mycenae, Greece
C: -built like an igloo, starts at the bottom with a _____, then ends with a _____ at the top, same principal as the corbeled gallery of Tiryns, but much more _____ to construct the dome
 - _____ feet high vault, it is the _____ vault without interior supports that had ever been built, was not surpassed until the _____ created Pantheon _____ years later, using _____ construction

4-23



N:Funerary Mask **D:**1600-1500 BCE **P/S:**Preh. Aegean
A:Mycenaean Craftsman **Pa:**Royal Myseneans **L:**Mycenae, Greece
C: -laid their dead to rest on the _____ of the shaft graves, and masks were placed over their faces-recalls the _____ funerary practice
 -women were buried with their _____ and men with their _____ and golden cups
 - _____ (repousse) golden mask, has been compared to the mask of king _____, but is more primitive
 -they did decifer between old and young, male and female, so perhaps could have been _____ of the dead
N: - _____ known instance in Greece to try to render the human face
