

## Formation of the Greek People

### A. Pelasgians (6000-2000)

1. Earliest inhabitants of Greece
2. So called by Herodotus
3. Barbarians, non-Hellenes, non-Greeks
4. Inhabited Attica and Peloponnesus
5. Farmers, small villages
6. Invaded and destroyed in 2000 B.C. by invaders from the North, Eastern Asia – Ionians, Hellenes, Aryans, Greeks, Mycenaeans

### B. Minoans (2800-1400 B.C.)

1. Island of Crete, barbarians
2. Ruled by King Minos – Minoan Civilization
3. Knossos (Cnossos), capital city
  - a. Unfortified city – Navy
  - b. Excavated by Sir Arthur Evans around 1900 A.D.
  - c. Palace – with a central court yard on a N-S axis
  - d. Frescoes – bright colors, peaceful, no portraits
  - e. Baths and drains
  - f. Bull horns
  - g. Minotaur – half bull and half man, lived in a labyrinth, fed 7 young boys and 7 young girls from Athens
  - h. Bull jumping
  - i. Tapered columns
  - j. Throne Room
  - k. No temples
  - l. Mother Goddess
4. 1450 B.C. Mycenaean invasion
5. 1400 B.C. Earthquake at Thera, destruction of Minoan Civilization

### C. Mycenaeans (2000-1600-1100)

1. Hellenes, Mycenaeans, Ionians, Greeks, non-barbarians
2. Entered Greece around 2000 B.C., destroyed the Pelasgians, created a fortified city of Mycenae – Mycenaean Civilization
3. Heinrich Schliemann – excavated Troy and Mycenae in 1870 A.D.
  - a. City walls – 15' thick and 50' high
  - b. Gold masks
  - c. Lion Gate
  - d. Tholos tombs with corbel-vaulted ceilings
  - e. Megaron – entrance porch, a vestibule (lobby), and a large hall with a central hearth and a throne
4. Male gods
5. Invaded Crete in 1450 B.C.
6. Invaded and destroyed Troy in 1200 B.C.
7. 1100 B.C. Dorian Invasion

- a. Dorians – Hellenes, Greeks, Greek speakers
- b. Destroyed Mycenaean Civilization – every Ionian city except Athens
- c. Ushered in the Dark Ages from 1100-700 B.C. – resulting in democracy, Greek religion, and intellectual communities