

# THE FIRST GREEKS

Greece is a hot, dry, country in southern Europe with a craggy, mountainous landscape. Its long, jagged coastline, peppered with bays and inlets, juts out into the Mediterranean Sea and is surrounded by hundreds of islands. Around 40,000 years ago, the first inhabitants started moving into the area.

## THE STONE AGE

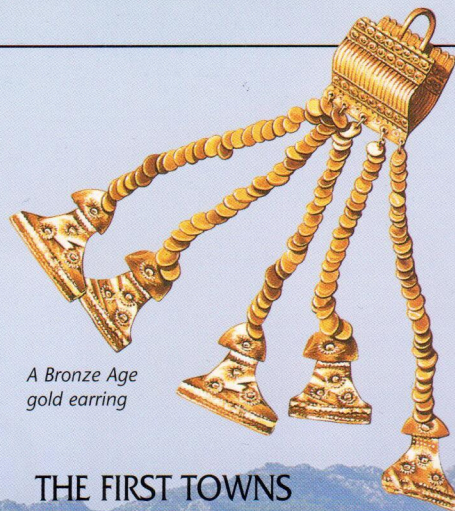
The first Greeks lived in caves and used tools of bone and flint. They hunted bison and reindeer - which have long since died out in southern Europe - and gathered wild plants. This period is known as the Stone Age.

## THE FIRST FARMERS

Some time before 6000BC, farmers settled in eastern Greece. They grew wheat and vegetables, and kept sheep. The landscape wasn't quite the same as it is now: it was much more wooded, and the only good farming land was in narrow valleys and coastal plains. So people relied on fishing for extra food.

## THE BRONZE AGE

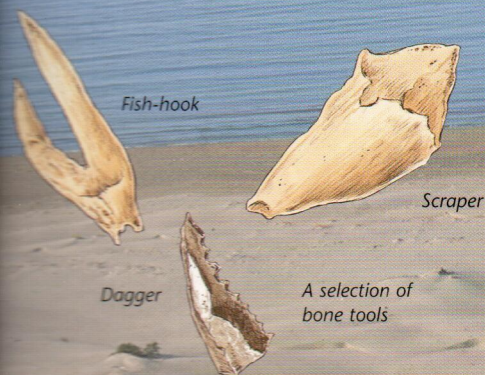
Around 3000BC, people in Greece discovered how to make bronze by mixing copper and tin. They used it to make tools and weapons that were hard and sharp. This made farming and building easier. This period, from around 3000BC to 1100BC, is known as the Bronze Age.



A Bronze Age gold earring

## THE FIRST TOWNS

As farming became more efficient, many farmers grew more food than their families could eat. This extra food could be exchanged for other goods, such as tools or pottery. Some people began to make a living as craftsmen, making objects instead of farming. The population increased and some villages grew into towns.



Fish-hook

Scraper

Dagger

A selection of bone tools



### INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can see carved figures from the Cyclades, as well as pots shaped like animals, go to [www.usborne-quicklinks.com](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com)