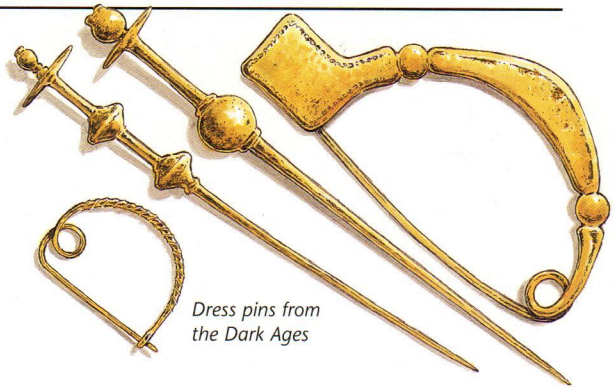


THE DARK AGES

The period in Greece from 1100 to 800BC is sometimes described as the Dark Ages, as we know very little about what was happening - although new excavations are starting to reveal more. The Greeks lost the art of writing, so they left no written records, and foreigners, such as the Egyptians, hardly mention them either.



Dress pins from the Dark Ages

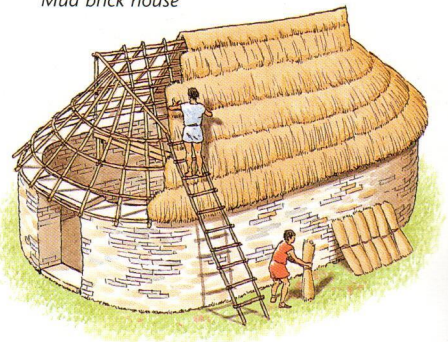
GREECE IN DECLINE

By the beginning of this period, the population in Greece had fallen hugely. This was most probably due to the widespread famine and warfare that hit the region at the end of the Mycenaean period. The palaces were destroyed, and a whole way of life crumbled with them. Old styles of metalwork and pottery died out, and skills such as fresco-painting and gem-cutting were forgotten.

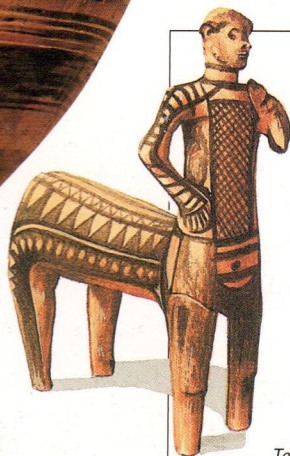
DAILY LIFE

Most people were very poor and probably grew just enough to eat. They would have lived in small huts made of mud brick, with thatched roofs. As these materials do not last long, few buildings from this period have survived.

Mud brick house



Vase in the new geometric style that developed in the Dark Ages



Terracotta centaur from Euboea

EUBOEA

One exception to this picture of poverty was on the large island of Euboea (now called Evia).

As early as 900BC, the Euboeans were trading abroad, but wars between the two main cities on the island eventually brought an end to this prosperous culture.



The island of Euboea