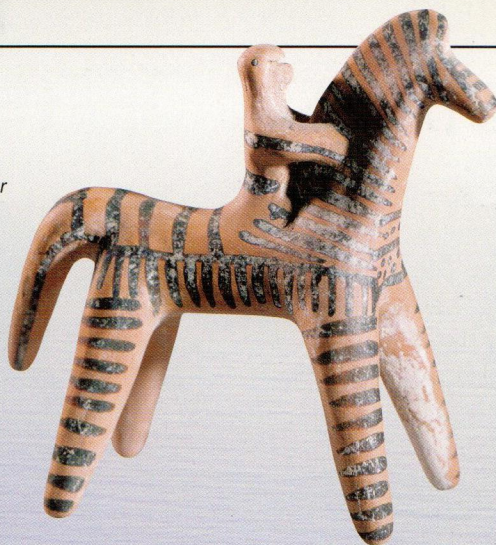


This pottery model of a horse and its rider was made in Greece in about 600BC.



THE FIRST COLONIES

As early as 1000BC, groups of people had begun leaving the Greek mainland, in search of new land overseas. They were driven by different things: famines, struggles between states, and overcrowding as the population grew.

The areas where these people settled, known as colonies, soon grew into independent states. The first of these, Ionia, was on the coast of Asia Minor (now Turkey). Later groups settled all around the Mediterranean, from France to the Black Sea. The colonies were often in places with a natural port and good farmland, where the locals were friendly.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Trade grew between the Greek cities and their colonies, and with the Phoenicians from the eastern Mediterranean (see page 31). Merchants sailed from port to port, buying and selling goods. The Greek colonies acted as staging posts for Greek trade with foreign lands.

This photograph shows the ruins of a fortress on the Ionian coast, where the Greeks established their first colonies.

THE GRAIN TRADE

Many of the Greek cities could not grow enough to feed all their people, so grain - mainly barley - was the most crucial import. Athens had to import as much as two-thirds of all its grain from abroad, mostly from Greek colonies around the shores of the Black Sea.

