

TRAVEL BY LAND AND SEA

The Greek interior is rugged and mountainous. Some remote areas can be perilous and difficult to pass in winter, even now, but in ancient times it was far worse, as there were hardly any roads. With a coastline full of natural ports and inlets, it was much easier to travel by sea - although it was laden with all kinds of dangers nevertheless, either from the weather and natural difficulties, or from other sea voyagers.

PIRATES, STORMS AND SHIPWRECKS

People who didn't have their own ship could pay merchant seamen to take them, but all sea journeys were fairly risky. Once the ship had set sail, dishonest sailors might rob their passengers, or the ship might be attacked by pirates. Piracy was a real and constant fear, until the 5th century BC, when the Athenian navy began to patrol the Aegean and reduced the number of attacks. Another potential danger was that of being sunk in a storm. Marine archaeologists have explored the remains of several ancient wrecks off the Greek coast.

THE KYRENIA SHIP

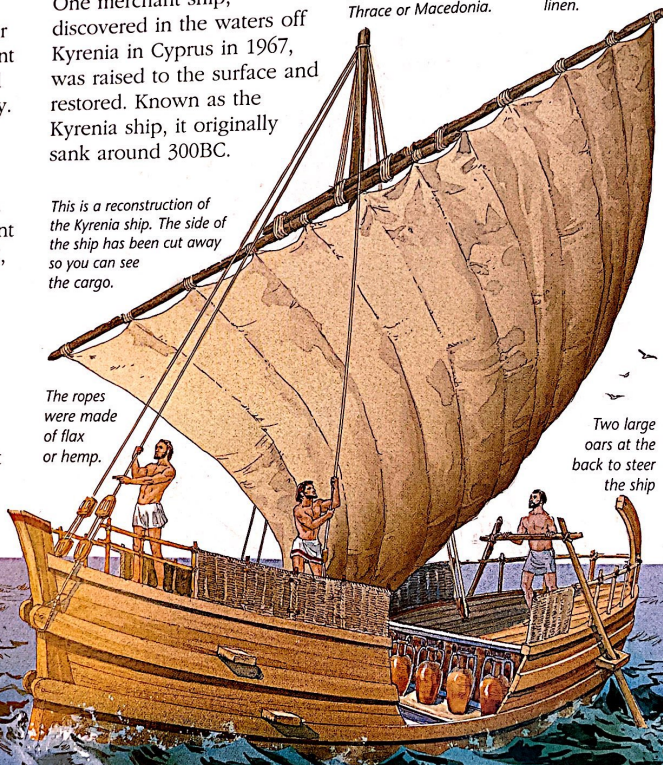
One merchant ship, discovered in the waters off Kyrenia in Cyprus in 1967, was raised to the surface and restored. Known as the Kyrenia ship, it originally sank around 300BC.

This is a reconstruction of the Kyrenia ship. The side of the ship has been cut away so you can see the cargo.

The ropes were made of flax or hemp.

The mast was made of spruce wood and the hull of pine. This timber had to be imported from the woods of Thrace or Macedonia.

The large, square sail was made of linen.



Two large oars at the back to steer the ship