Text 2:

Mycenaean Civilization

Topic 5: Ancient Greece
Lesson 1: Early Greece
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During prehistoric times, groups of peoples speaking related Indo-European languages moved into Europe and Western Asia. Among them were the Mycenaean who moved into southeastern Europe and the Aryans who migrated into India.
Trade by Sea Brings Wealth

Mycenaean civilization dominated the Aegean world from about 1400 B.C.E. to 1200 B.C.E.

Like the Minoans, the Mycenaens were sea traders

They reached out beyond the Aegean to Sicily, Italy, Egypt, and Mesopotamia
Trade by Sea Brings Wealth

The Mycenaeans learned many skills from the Minoans, including the art of writing.

They, too, absorbed Egyptian and Mesopotamian customs, many of which they passed on to later Greeks.
The Mycenaeans lived in separate city-states on the mainland. In each, a warrior-king built a thick-walled fortress from which he ruled the surrounding villages. Wealthy rulers amassed treasure, including fine gold ornaments that archaeologists have unearthed from their tombs.
The Trojan War

The Mycenaeans are best remembered for their part in the Trojan War, which took place around 1250 B.C.E.

The conflict may have had its origins in economic rivalry between Mycenae and Troy, a rich trading city in present-day Turkey, that controlled the vital straits connecting the Mediterranean and Black Sea.
The Trojan War

In Greek legend the war had a more romantic cause.

When the Trojan prince, Paris, kidnaps Helen, the beautiful wife of a Greek king, the Mycenaeans sail to Troy to rescue her.

For the next 10 years, the two sides battle until the Greeks finally seize Troy and burn the city to the ground.
The Trojan War

For centuries, most people regarded the Trojan War as pure legend.

Then, in the 1870s, a wealthy German businessman, Heinrich Schliemann set out to prove that the legend was rooted in fact.

As Schliemann excavated the site of ancient Troy, he discovered that the city had been rebuilt many times and included at least nine layers.
The Trojan War

At the layer dating to about 1250 B.C.E., he found evidence of fire and war.

Exact details remain lost in legend, most modern scholars now agree that the Trojan War was an actual event.