

CHAPTER  
**3**

GUIDED READING *Seafaring Traders*

Section 3

**A. Drawing Conclusions** As you read about the Minoan and Phoenician civilizations, write notes to explain what each statement listed below suggests about these seafaring traders.

1. Minoan cities had no fortifications.	→	
2. Archaeologists excavating the Minoan capital city found the remains of wall paintings, seals, and fine painted pottery.	→	
3. Many works of Minoan art depict women as major goddesses and priestesses.	→	
4. Minoans sacrificed bulls to their gods and enjoyed the sport of bull-leaping.	→	
5. The Phoenicians were the first Mediterranean people to sail beyond the Straits of Gibraltar, possibly even around Africa by way of the Red Sea.	→	
6. The Phoenicians worked in wood, metal, glass, and ivory and produced red-purple dye from snails in the waters off the city-states of Sidon and Tyre.	→	
7. There are some similarities among Phoenician, Greek, and modern-day alphabets.	→	

**B. Writing Expository Paragraphs** On the back of this paper, explain the importance of the **Aegean Sea**, **King Minos**, and **Knossos** to the Minoans.

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Section 3

**SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE** *Forming and Supporting Opinions*

*As you read about people and events in history, you form opinions. To support these opinions, you can cite facts, visual evidence, quotes, and other types of information you have found. Use the information in the passage below to form an opinion about Minoan civilization. Fill in the chart by writing your opinion of Minoan society and listing details to support your opinion. (See Skillbuilder Handbook)*

The Minoans were known throughout the Mediterranean world for their arts and crafts, especially their paintings and fine pottery. They also crafted tools and weapons from bronze.

Minoan paintings depict both men and women hunting from chariots and participating in royal and religious ceremonies. Women also engaged in the popular sport of bull-leaping. According to one historian, “Minoan society apparently permitted women considerable freedom and equality.”

The Minoans became rich from overseas trade that extended as far south as Egypt and as far east as Syria. To keep records, they used various forms of writing, one of which was an early form of Greek. With their great wealth, the Minoans built sprawling palaces with large courtyards and a maze of paved corridors, hallways, rooms, and baths with indoor plumbing. Some palaces even housed storerooms, a theater, and work areas. Around the palaces clustered prosperous towns connected by good roads.

**Opinion:**

**Supporting details:**

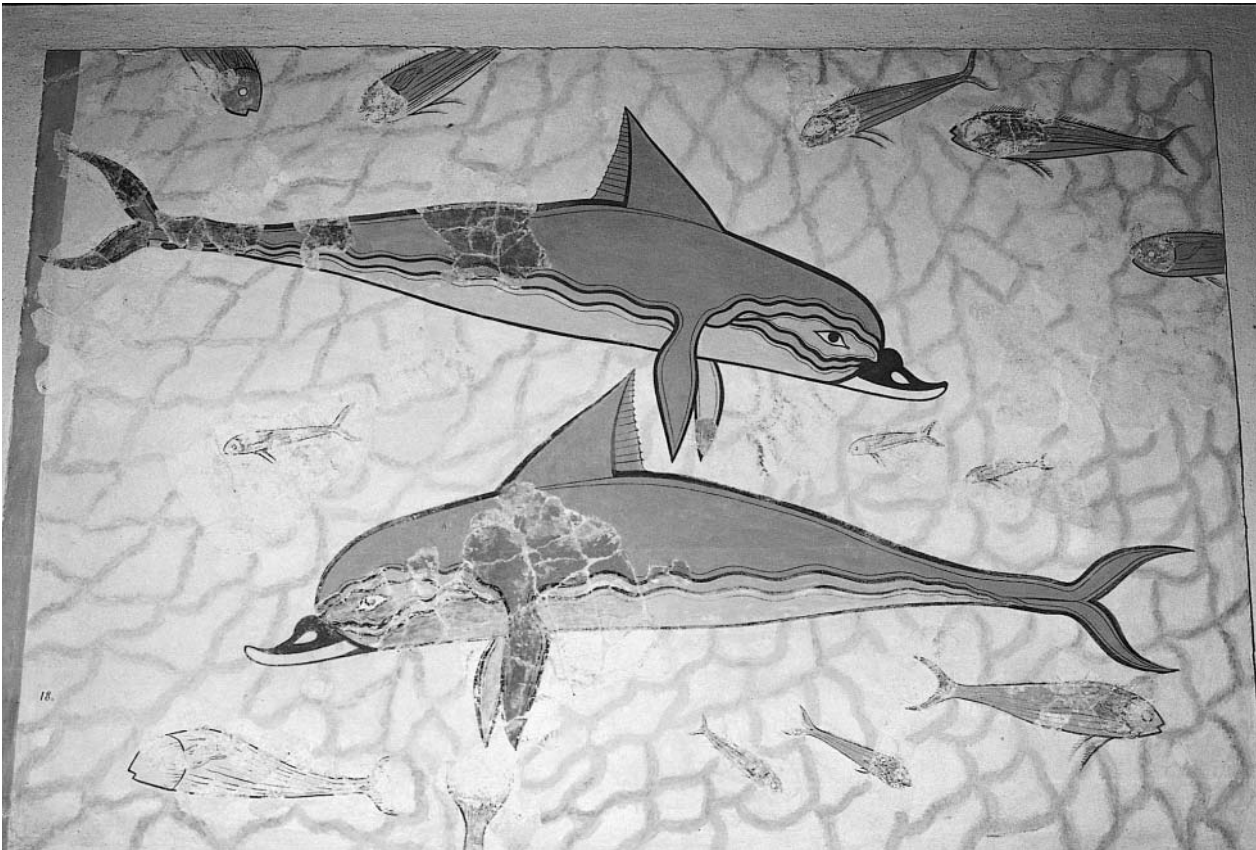
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PRIMARY SOURCE **Dolphin Fresco from Knossos**

*The walls of the Minoan palace of Knossos were decorated with colorful paintings. Study this detail from one of the wall paintings. Why do you think Minoan artists might have chosen to paint dolphins and other sea creatures?*



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**Research Options**

1. **Analyzing Information** The wall paintings at the palace of Knossos, including this one, are examples of frescoes. Find out more about frescoes and how they are created. Share your findings with the class.
2. **Writing Informative Compositions** Work with a small group of classmates to locate photographs of other Minoan wall paintings and other artifacts. Discuss the paintings and artifacts and draw conclusions about Minoan culture based on your observations. Then write a short report to present your group's conclusions.
3. **Using Research in Writing** Research the palace of Knossos. Then create a chart listing relevant facts such as how large it was, what it was used for, and who excavated its ruins.

**CHAPTER**  
**3****HISTORYMAKERS** **Herodotus**  
*Father of History***Section 3**

*"This is the demonstration of the research of Herodotus of Halicarnassus."  
—Herodotus, opening line of the Histories*

**H**erodotus was one of the first people to try to explain the past. For this, he became known as the “father of history.” Many historians have been uncomfortable about that label, because the history written by Herodotus has many flaws. Nevertheless, with his *Histories*, Herodotus created a new form of study. Indeed, the name of this field—history—was coined by him. In his native Greek, it means “inquiries” or “research.” Not much is known about the life of this first historian. He was born about 484 B.C. in Halicarnassus, a city in Asia Minor that was settled by Greeks. His family was well-off but suffered at the hands of the tyrant who ran the government of that city. They were forced to leave for an island while Herodotus was still young. Later in life, he returned to his home to help overthrow the tyrant, but he did not stay.

Herodotus has been described as curious. One later writer called him “a man who could not cross the street without finding something interesting.” He traveled a great deal throughout the area, going as far as the Black Sea, Syria, Babylon, Palestine, and Egypt. The reason for this travel is unknown. He may have been engaged in trade, a common enough pursuit for Greeks of his time. Whatever the reason, he constantly asked questions of the people he met. In this way he gained understanding of the customs and traditions of people in other lands. About 450, he went to live in Athens, where he became close friends with the famous playwright Sophocles. Later, he moved to a Greek colony in southern Italy. He lived there until the end of his life, which was some time around 420 B.C.

Scholars are unsure when Herodotus began writing his history, how long it took, or in what order the parts were written. It is clear that he was already at work on it when he lived in Athens. There are reports that he read parts of it aloud while he lived in that city.

Herodotus’ main purpose was to tell the story of the conflict between Persia and the Greek city-states in the early years of the fifth century B.C. His book

describes the Persian invasions and the Greeks’ unexpected victory. The first third relates the rise of Persia. The middle third details the beginning of the Persian-Greek conflict up to the Battle of Marathon. The last third chronicles the massive invasion launched by Persian leader Xerxes in 480–479 and the ultimate Persian defeat. The work includes much more, however. Herodotus presents a great deal of background information on the roots of Persian and Greek society before the two peoples ever clashed. In addition, the portion called Book Two is a long and detailed passage about Egypt. It includes accounts of Egyptian history as well as his observations of life and customs in that land.

To many historians, though, Herodotus’ book is frustrating. He pays little attention to chronology—the sequence of events over time. He also includes many stories that bring in unbelievable elements, including the actions of the gods.

With these problems, what makes the work a history? First, Herodotus keeps his eye on the story that he wants to tell. Despite wandering off to cover side topics, he still conveys the main events. Second, he tells his story with some objectivity. He is able to distance himself from the persons whose actions he describes and comment on them in a fair way. Third, although he was, for the most part, a poor judge of sources, he did attempt to assess their reliability. Fourth, he does try to offer insights about the causes and effects of events, even though his analysis is somewhat naive and superficial. Finally, he accomplishes all these goals with a graceful and charming writing style.

## Questions

1. **Making Inferences** Why do you think Herodotus would call his work “researches” or “inquiries”?
2. **Analyzing Motives** If Herodotus was a Greek, was it possible for him to be completely objective in his history? Explain.
3. **Developing Historical Perspective** What do you think are the characteristics that make a piece of writing a history?

**CHAPTER**  
**3****RETEACHING ACTIVITY** *Seafaring Traders***Section 3****Multiple Choice**

Choose the best answer for each item. Write the letter of your answer in the blank.

- \_\_\_\_ 1. A powerful seafaring people who dominated trade in the eastern Mediterranean from about 2000 to 1400 B.C. were the
- Romans.
  - Minoans.
  - Aryans.
  - Mesopotamians.
- \_\_\_\_ 2. The capital city of these people was
- Knossos.
  - Phoenicia.
  - Crete.
  - Byblos.
- \_\_\_\_ 3. Bull-leaping may have served all the following purposes *except*
- entertainment.
  - religious ritual.
  - training for warriors.
  - preparation of bulls for sacrifice.
- \_\_\_\_ 4. After Crete's decline, the most powerful traders along the Mediterranean were the
- Aryans.
  - Minoans.
  - Africans.
  - Phoenicians.
- \_\_\_\_ 5. The greatest Phoenician colony was in
- Carthage.
  - Crete.
  - Minoa.
  - Sardinia.
- \_\_\_\_ 6. The Phoenician writing system was based on
- pictographs.
  - phonetics.
  - cuneiform.
  - hieroglyphics.
- \_\_\_\_ 7. Popular Phoenician trade items included
- obsidian products and religious artifacts.
  - cotton cloth and wool.
  - gold, wine, and cotton cloth.
  - papyrus, purple cloth, and cedar.
- \_\_\_\_ 8. One significant Phoenician contribution to learning was
- the writing of many religious texts.
  - their enhanced system of numbers.
  - the development of an alphabet.
  - the training of many learned scholars.