

**ANCIENT GREECE**

**Reading Strategy**

**Summarize**

When you summarize, you restate the main ideas of the text you have read. Summarizing helps you to focus on what is most important about what you are reading.

You can practice summarizing with everything you read. Sometimes it is helpful, as you read, to stop and think about what is important. Then, you can write a brief version of the text that captures its main ideas.

Read the following paragraph:

Not long after their victory over Troy, the Mycenaeans came under attack from sea raiders and from another Greek-speaking people, the Dorians, invading from the north. As Mycenaean power faded, the people abandoned the cities, and trade declined. People forgot many skills, including the art of writing. From the end of the Mycenaean civilization, about 1100 B.C. until about 900 B.C., Greek civilization seemed to step backward.

A summary might read as follows:

After their victory over Troy, the Mycenaeans came under attack from the Dorians and sea raiders. Mycenaean power faded. Skills, including writing, were forgotten. Greek civilization declined from 1100 B.C. to 900 B.C.

**Directions:** Read the paragraphs in Section 2 of Ancient Greece under the heading "Geography Shapes Greece." On a separate sheet of paper, write a summary of these paragraphs. Then, answer the questions below.

**Hint:** Remember to include only the main points or key facts in your summary.

1. What main ideas did you include in your summary?

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2. How long is your summary compared with the original text?

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3. How did you decide what to include in your summary?

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