

Internet Resources: _____

<http://emuseum.mankato.msus.edu/archaeology/sites/europe/thera.html> -- A page on Thera with links and pictures.

<http://nimbus.ocis.temple.edu/~jsiegel/sites/santorini/santorini.htm> -- A visual tour of the island, its frescoes, and volcano by Dr. Janet Siegel from Temple University.

http://devlab.cs.dartmouth.edu/history/bronze_age/lessons/17.html -- From a Dartmouth College site entitled "Prehistoric Archaeology of the Aegean," a detailed page on Thera and its history.

http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/fine_arts/chloris/thera_0.html -- An excellent bibliography of works on Thera and the volcanic explosion there, including works by Spyridon Marinatos.

<http://www.culture.gr/2/21/211/21121a/e211ua08.html> -- From the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, a site, with pictures, on Akrotiri.

<http://www.indiana.edu/~classics/aegean/R17.html> -- From Indiana University, a rich site on Thera with a comprehensive bibliography.

<http://www.santonet.com/holidays/museums.html> -- A site for visitors to Santorini, it has a good description of its ruins and museums.

<http://www.greekciv.pdx.edu/others/atlantis/thera.htm> -- From Portland State University, a page on Thera designed for middle schoolers.

Other Resources: _____

FOR STUDENTS:

McMullen, David. *Atlantis: The Missing Continent.* Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1992.

Steele, Philip. *Volcanoes.* Barron's Educational Series, 1999.

Knight, Lindsay. *Volcanoes and Earthquakes.* Time-Life Books, 1995.

FOR ADULTS:

De Camp, L. Sprague. *Lost Continents; The Atlantis Theme in History, Science, and Literature.* Dover Publications, 1970.

Doumans, Christos. *Thera: Pompeii of the Ancient Aegean: Excavations at Akrotiri 1967-79.* Thames and Hudson, 1983.

Galanopoulos, Angelos Georgiou, *Atlantis; the Truth Behind the Legend.* Bobbs-Merrill, 1969.

Pellegrino, Charles R. *Unearthing Atlantis: An Archaeological Odyssey.* Vintage Books, 1993.

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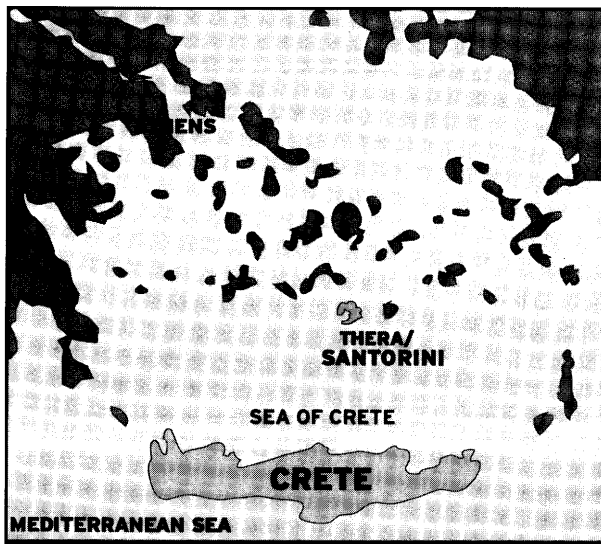
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Here is an ancient culture that tells us a great story not only about human endeavor, but also about the power of nature to affect, and even destroy, a civilization. As splendid as the world of Thera was, it had the misfortune to arise in the shadow of one of Earth's mightiest volcanoes. The fate of Thera so impressed the ancients that it may have given rise to one of humanity's most enduring myths -- the lost world of Atlantis.





After studying the map and reading about Thera, read the sections on vocabulary and important people, places, and dates to provide a focus while viewing the program. After viewing the program, review the sections listed and consider the Things To Think About. Research topics further using the Internet and other resources provided.

Thera: Life on the Edge: _____

If you look at a map of Greece, you will see that nearly a quarter of its territory consists of dozens and dozens of islands in the Aegean Sea. In ancient times, one of these islands was Thera. It would not be especially notable -- except for one thing. This island was the site of one of the most massive volcanic eruptions in history. After it happened, Thera was no longer one island, but three -- one of which is today known as Santorini. When the eruption occurred in about 1500 BC, a civilization was wiped out. It was a sophisticated culture much influenced by the Minoan civilization on Crete some 60 miles away. Thera's artists painted colorful frescoes of animals, sport, and war; its women had a passion for jewelry and bright clothes; and its engineers constructed a remarkable system of running water piped into each dwelling. Yet although volcanoes destroy, they also preserve. The eruption on Thera buried an entire city under a layer of ash and pumice, and when that city was rediscovered in the 1960s, it proved to be almost perfectly

preserved, thus giving archaeologists a fabulous window into life in ancient times.

Vocabulary: _____

agora -- Ancient Greek marketplace such as the one found on Thera.

Atlantis -- Mythical island said to have once existed in what the Greeks called the "western ocean" (thought to be the Atlantic) and sunk beneath the sea.

Apollo -- In Greek mythology, one of the most powerful gods after Zeus. As Apollo Karneios, the autumn Apollo.

caldera -- Volcanic crater formed by the collapse of the volcano's center or by a violent explosion.

gymnopedie -- A dance performed by adolescent boys in Thera and other ancient Greek cities in honor of Apollo.

kouros -- An ancient statue of a nude male youth with his arms at his sides.

Poseidon -- In Greek mythology, the god of the sea.

pozzolan -- Type of sand found on Santorini prized for its use in making watertight cement.

Ptolemaic dynasty -- Ruling family of Egypt from 323 BC to 30 BC.

pumice -- Volcanic glass formed by the solidification of lava.

Royal Portico -- Administrative building constructed by the Romans on Thera.

Stronghyle -- "Round Island." Name given to Thera by its original inhabitants.

Important People: _____

Artemidorus -- Admiral in the Ptolemaic fleet stationed in Thera, where the remains of his monument can be seen.

Marinatos, Spyridon -- Greek archaeologist who excavated the ruins of Akrotiri on Santorini.

Plato -- Greek philosopher (c. 427-347 BC) who first recorded the legend of Atlantis in his dialogues Timaeus and Critias.

Theophanes -- Byzantine historian who recorded the eruption of Thera's volcano in 726 AD.

Important Places: _____

Aegean Sea -- Arm of the Mediterranean Sea off southeast Europe between Greece and Turkey.

Akrotiri -- Ruined city discovered on Santorini in the 1960s.

Aspronisi -- One of the three islands formed by the volcanic destruction of Thera.

Crete -- At the southern limit of the Aegean Sea, the largest of the Greek islands. Site of the Minoan civilization that influenced Thera.

Mesa Vouno -- Site of the Spartan colony on Thera.

Phira -- City on Santorini; site of a museum containing objects from Akrotiri.

Pompeii -- Roman city in Italy that, like Akrotiri, was preserved under a layer of ash and pumice produced by a volcanic explosion.

Santorini -- Volcanic island in southeast Greece in the Aegean Sea. Renamed (from "Thera") in the 13th century AD after Saint Irene, protector of the island. One of the three islands formed by the volcanic destruction of Thera.

Sparta -- Ancient Greek city that founded a colony on Thera in the 9th century BC.

Thera -- In ancient times, an island in the Aegean Sea.

Therasia -- One of the three islands formed by the volcanic destruction of Thera.

Important Dates: _____

c. 2500 BC -- Thera is settled by inhabitants of nearby islands.

c. 2000 BC -- Establishment of Akrotiri.

c. 1500 BC -- Destruction of Thera by earthquake and volcano.

c. 800 BC -- Spartans establish a colony on Thera.

c. 275 BC -- The Spartan colony on Thera falls under the influence of the Ptolemies, rulers of Egypt.

30 BC -- Thera falls under Roman control upon the death of Cleopatra, queen of Egypt.

c. 300 AD -- Christians arrive on Thera.

726 -- Volcano erupts again on Thera (though less violently).

1204 -- Thera becomes a colony of Venice.

1967 -- Ruins of the city of Akrotiri are found.

Things To Think About: _____

- What else can you find out about the legend of Atlantis? How has it inspired fiction writers and movie makers? Why do you think the legend has proved so fascinating?
- Research volcanoes and their eruptions. What other violent eruptions have there been in history? How do their consequences compare to what happened on Thera?
- The site of Akrotiri has often been compared to Pompeii. What are the differences and similarities between the two cities? When was Pompeii discovered?
- Although volcanoes have proven to be dangerous, many people still choose to live in their vicinity. Why do you think this is?
- How are archaeologists able to tell that the civilization on Thera was influenced by that on Crete? What are the similarities between the two cultures and how do we know that Crete's is older?
- How were the artists on Thera able to paint frescoes with figures of monkeys and antelope -- animals which did not exist on their island?