

CONTINUOUS DISTANCE LEARNING LESSON

Did the Thera Volcano destroy the Minoans? 5th - 6th Grade

Central Historical Question-

Did the Thera Volcano destroy the Minoans?

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please watch this [video](#).
- Next, watch this [video](#).
- Read the documents and remember to annotate (by highlighting) and answer the questions after each document. Make sure to keep scrolling down.
- At the end, you'll need to type a paragraph.

****Disclaimer: these texts have been modified to enhance accessibility for young readers**

Document A

The Ultimate Volcano

Three and a half thousand years ago, the tiny Aegean island of Thera was destroyed by one of the worst natural disasters since the Ice Age - a huge volcanic eruption. This **cataclysm** (a large and violent natural event) happened 100km (70 miles) from the island of Crete, the home of the thriving Minoan civilisation. Fifty years after the eruption, that civilisation was in ruins.

Archaeologist Floyd McCoy believes the effects of the volcano hurt the Minoans for years. First, it destroyed an entire island (Thera) that had been crucial to their trade. Then, giant waves battered the Minoan coasts, destroying coastal villages and boats at harbour. Next, the Minoans faced summers of ruined harvests.

For many the volcano was the answer - an explanation of how one of the mightiest volcanoes ever witnessed could bring down the great Minoan civilisation. The volcano struck the Minoans in ways only modern science could start to explain. The effects were lethal (deadly).

-Source: BBC History website, written in 2011.

According to this source, was the Minoan civilization destroyed by a volcano? [\(highlight one\)](#)

YES NO

Why? Explain.

[Type here](#)

Document B

Is the Timing Right?

A LONGSTANDING theory of archeology, linking a devastating volcanic eruption to the sudden collapse of the Minoan civilization at its peak of splendor, has apparently been destroyed by new excavations (archaeological digs) on a tiny island off the north coast of Crete.

Digging on the island last summer, two archeologists discovered what they called the first positive evidence that the volcanic eruption 70 miles away on Thera (the present-day island of Santorini) did not destroy the Minoan civilization of ancient Crete, as had been widely assumed. They uncovered architectural and ceramic (pottery) remains showing instead that the civilization continued to flourish (do very well) for some 150 years after the eruption in about 1600 B.C.

The archeologists found in the ruins of a Minoan settlement a layer of volcanic ash from the time of the Thera eruption. The ash covered pavement of stone slabs and **distinctive** pottery from the late Minoan period. Above the ash, more significantly, a house had been rebuilt in the Minoan style and contained remnants of Minoan pottery.

Dr. Jeffrey S. Soles, associate professor of classical studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Dr. Costis Davaras, director of the Archeological Institute of Crete, confirmed that the eruption had occurred about 150 years earlier than once believed, hence well before the Minoan collapse.

distinctive: a style only in that area

-Source: *The New York Times*, written in 1989

According to this source, was the Minoan civilization destroyed by a volcano? [\(highlight one\)](#)

YES NO

Why? Explain.

[Type here](#)

Document C

Mycenaean Aggression

It is commonly believed that the Mycenaeans were responsible for the downfall of the Minoan civilization. From 1500 B.C., there was increasing influence from the Mycenaean culture on the Greek mainland, and there is clear archaeological evidence for widespread destruction on the island around 1450 B.C. If the Mycenaeans were not responsible for this destruction, they certainly took advantage of the events. Further evidence that the Mycenaeans destroyed the Minoans is that records from this period are written in Linear B, the script of Mycenaean Greeks.

Pottery during the time of the fall of the Minoans shows a blend of Minoan and Mycenaean stylistic traits. Eventually, by the beginning of the eleventh century B.C., the Minoan culture on Crete was in decline, and many attribute this to a Mycenaean invasion.

Source: *Metropolitan Museum of Art Website, 2008. The Mycenaeans were the people who lived in Greece (north of Crete). They were known for being more aggressive than the Minoans.*

According to this source, was the Minoan civilization destroyed by a volcano?

YES

NO

(highlight one)

Why? Explain. [Type here](#)



**Minoan
Pottery**

Mycenaean Pottery



Corroborate

1. Which source do you trust the most?
(highlight one) **Doc. A** **Doc. B** **Doc. C**

2. Which source is the weakest? (circle one)
(highlight one) **Doc. A** **Doc. B** **Doc. C**

The moment of truth: Based on the evidence from all 3 sources, do you think the Thera Volcano destroyed the Minoans?

(Highlight one) **YES** **NO**

Explain by typing a paragraph arguing your point.

**You must refer to at least one source.* This should be 6 strong sentences. Write in the 3rd person, and remember to pay attention to punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

**On the next page (scroll down), you will find examples and tips for writing a solid paragraph.*

**This assignment should take no longer than 30 minutes, if you finish and have extra time, make an illustration and upload it on this document.*

Type paragraph here

PLAN OUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY

Topic= Humans/intelligent= unique

Ex 1= Complex language= pass down info

Ex 2= Tech invented= survival

Topic= Humans/intelligent= unique

Topic sentence ✓

Humans are different from other animals because of their intelligence. For example, with the ability to use complex language, humans are able to pass down information. Most animals cannot communicate new learning because they do not have this skill. Human intelligence also allows them to develop technology to make their lives easier. This ability to make sophisticated tools ensures survival when change happens, whereas animals depend purely on evolving biologically. Due to their advanced thinking, humans are unique creatures. ✓ Topic sentence

Make sure to pay attention to these criteria:

WRITING

- Clearly written
- Attention given to capitalization and punctuation
- Wrote in 3rd person (do not use me, I, we, you, your, ours, us, etc...)
- Used expanded sentences (appositives/conjunctions)
- Wrote at least 6 sentences

CONTENT

- Used expanded sentences
- Included examples and explained them

Writing Tips

Write in the 3rd Person

Make sure to write in the 3rd person: Avoid using “you, me, we, our, us, I etc...” and instead use “they, he, she, it”

- **Use Conjunctions** (because, but, so, and, therefore, consequently, however, additionally etc...) to connect two independent clauses. Independent clauses are phrases that can stand on their own as a sentence. However, they can also be combined to make a complex sentence. You should not try to connect more than two independent clauses.

Examples of punctuation for conjunctions:

Simple Conjunctions	Conjunctive Adverbs (fancy conjunctions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• , and• , but• , so• , although	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ; therefore,• ; however,• ; consequently,• ; otherwise,

EXAMPLE: Prehistory/but

There were no written records in prehistory, but there are other ways to learn about the people of this period.

Remember to include two independent clauses.