• 3.4 Explain the geographic factors which shaped the development of Greek civilization.
GEOGRAPHY

- **Handout**
  Ancient Greece Geography
- Add the relevant information to your handout as we go.
• Settlement started c. 2800BCE.
• Built around the Aegean Sea.
• Greek civilization oriented around the sea, NOT rivers (no major rivers).
• Rocky coastland with a lot of inlets meant excellent harbours.

This was about the same time the Ancient Egyptians built the pyramids!
GEOGRAPHY

• Since most of Greece is surrounded by seas, travel by ship was common.
• Activities associated with the sea: trade, transportation, fishing, communication.
• Greeks sailed around the Mediterranean sharing products and ideas.

Replica of an ancient Greek bireme.

Sea travel was very dangerous!
• Mountainous land meant fertile land was rare except near the coast.
• Fertile land was highly prized.
• Mountains were a natural barrier between geographical areas.
• Later meant city-states very independent

Most Greek settlements were within 70km of the sea.
• Early on: cedar, cypress, pine trees.
• Later: cut down for ships and charcoal.
  • Trees cut $\rightarrow$ deforestation $\rightarrow$ erosion $\rightarrow$ less fertile soil for food.
• Few mineral deposits.
• Few natural resources meant Greece relied on foreign trade.