

# Let's Build a Polis

Expanding and Empire

# The Dark Ages

Have students sit on the floor, blindfolded.

Read the History of the Dorians

Tell them about the fact that Dorians did not have a written language and when they invaded Greece, people started telling stories instead. These stories are the myths, legends and fables that exist today. Homer wrote two stories about king Odysseus - the Iliad and Odyssey.

Have students draw and picture of the myth while blind folded. Share pictures after

[greece.mrdonn.org](http://greece.mrdonn.org) - Dark Ages and Story of the Cyclops Cave

# First - The Dark Ages

## Who were the Dorians?

- Based on myth the Dorians were the descendents of the hero Heracles and returned to the home after being exiled after Heracles death
- Based on historical evidence the Dorians were invaders from the Northwest and spoke a different dialect.
- Sparta became ruled by Dorians  
Myth: Heracles is the Dorian Hero

## Who were the Ionians?

- The Ionians were the surviving Mycenaean Greeks
- They fled the Peloponnese and settled in Attica and Asia Minor (Persian Land)
- The coast of Asia Minor now became Ionia and were inhabited by Ionian Greeks
- Athens became ruled by Ionians
- Myth: Theseus is the Ionian Hero

# The Persian Wars

# Polis - Definition



# Acropolis of Athens - Highest Point



# Let's Build a Polis Assignment

Definition - A **polis** (plural: poleis) was the typical structure of a community in the ancient Greek world. A **polis** consisted of an urban centre, often fortified and with a sacred centre built on a natural acropolis or harbour, which controlled a surrounding territory (chora) of land. Meaning **city in Greek**

See hand out