

Trojan War

- a "Bronze Age" event
- fought around mid 1200s BC
- between Greeks (city-states unified) vs city-state of Troy
- legends of this war come from
 1. Greek poet Homer
 2. Roman historian Vergil
- fought over, either
 1. trading route into Black Sea, Trojans controlled it, Greeks wanted in
 2. a woman, the Spartan Queen Helen, who left Greece w/ the Trojan prince Paris
- the Greeks, led by Agamemnon, organized an army to take her back

-the Greeks laid seige to Troy
for 10 years

Homer's Iliad

-story of war itself, tragic
story of Achilles, the greatest
Greek Hero

Vergil's Aeneid

-story of the end of the war,
especially the Trojan Horse story

Homer's Odyssey

-story of Greek hero Odysseus
and his 10 year journey back
to Greece

importance

A) other than these stories, there is no real documented evidence of a Trojan War

B) Homer's stories influenced concept of arete that was crucial to Greek civilization

C) many sayings still used

- a long adventurous trip

- "odyssey"

- a person's weak spot

- their "achilles heel"

- "beware of Greeks bearing gifts"

- "a face that could launch a thousand ships"

D) the Trojan War may have actually been fought in England,

over tin (the most critical metal for bronze)