

Sample Student

Instructor Name

English Composition 1101

August 9, 2016

### Atlantis\*

One of the most enduring mysteries is the location of the lost continent of Atlantis. This famous legend talks about an advanced civilization which was destroyed and sank beneath the sea. It has been the subject of many books. Hotels and vacation resorts have used the name. There has even been a Disney movie based on the story. There have been many theories over the years as to whether this wondrous land ever actually existed. The most plausible explanation is that the origin of this legend is the destruction of the Minoan civilization as a result of the volcanic explosion of Santorini in about 1600 BC.

Plato says that Atlantis was beyond the Strait of Gibraltar which would place it in the Atlantic Ocean (“Atlantis”). One theory is that “the origin was an island in the Bermuda Triangle which sank as a result of an earthquake in antiquity” (“Atlantis”). There are many mysteries associated with the Bermuda Triangle including missing boats and aircraft. It’s not surprising that some people would think that an early civilization was also destroyed in that region. However, Malecki doesn’t agree saying, “The rock formations some think are remnants of an ancient road are merely natural geologic formations” (qtd. in “Atlantis”). This is a good point since this is a more reasonable explanation for what has been found. Kahn and Kahn specifically disagree as well: “There is no reason to think that stories of a lost city so far away would reach the cultures of the Mediterranean.” Even in Plato’s time, the belief was that the world ended at the horizon and that ships sailing into it would drop off the face of the earth into

Hades (Maniates). The belief that a ship would simply fall off the end of the world is frightening. “People from the Aegean Sea would not travel beyond the Strait of Gibraltar, so there is no way stories of actual events from across the Atlantic would travel back to the Aegean area”

(Maniates). The point made by Maniates is questionable. There is more information that humans traveled far more extensively earlier than was previously thought.

Another theory is that “the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa are the remnants of a continent which once existed in the Atlantic Ocean and was destroyed by volcanic eruptions,” according to “Atlantis.” This sounds a bit far-fetched. Ramappa disputes this saying there is simply no proof for such a theory other than the location since Plato says the lost continent was beyond the Strait of Gibraltar (Boyle et al.). It doesn’t make sense to base a theory on the very questionable information regarding location. There can be misunderstandings and errors in translations from ancient documents, especially in a case such as this which is a fragmentary written reference to an event that happened hundreds, if not a thousand or thousands, or years ago. Neither Maniates nor Kahn and Kahn even mention the possibility of the Canary Islands being the source of the legend of the lost continent indicating that researchers in the field do not give this theory credibility.

Some believe the destruction of the Minoan civilization is the basis of the legend. “Many scientists and archeologists associate Minoan Crete with the lost Atlantis,” according to “Destruction.” (Note: See how the article *The* is not used and the title is shortened to the first noun.) ) Professor Ramappa believes, “The eruption of the volcano at Santorini which caused the destruction of the Minoan civilization is the best explanation for the source of the legend of Atlantis (qtd. in Boyle et al). Maniates agrees: “There is simply no better explanation for the source of the story about a lost continent with a great culture.” This explanation makes the most

sense. The Minoans were an advanced civilization in the Aegean Sea, and legends could have easily become incorporated into the folklore of Greece which is located in the same area (“Atlantis”). The Minoans “had running water and a sewer system, beautifully designed buildings, and elegant artwork” (Ramappa, qtd. in Boyle et al.). A civilization that had such accomplishments as running water and a sewer system had to seem very advanced at that time. Surviving frescoes and mosaic floors depict scenes of luxury such as elaborate feasts (Maniates). “The craftsmanship of these colorful works of art along with eloquently painted pottery shows the sophistication of this society thriving simultaneously with the Ancient Egyptians” (Maniates). “Only a highly developed culture could have created such beauty” (Khan and Khan). Art is an indication of the advancement of a civilization. The island had a huge bay which contained small islands “which is similar to the description given by Plato,” Ramappa continues (qtd. in Boyle et al.). The powerful eruption of Santorini at around 1600 BC and subsequent tsunamis destroyed the Minoan civilization (Khan and Khan). “They simply could not recover from the loss of their ships and damage to their cities,” says Kahn and Kahn. “The tragedy would have been incorporated into folklore and mostly lost over the thirteen hundred years until Plato heard and retold the few remaining details” (Maniates).

Some people think the ruins of Atlantis are in the Bermuda Triangle. Others think the Canary Islands have the remnants of this once great continent. While people will continue to speculate, the best explanation at this point is that the origins of the story of Atlantis stem from the destruction of the Minoan civilization by the volcanic eruption of Santorini at about 1600 BC.

Works Cited

“Atlantis.” *Funk & Wagnall’s New World Encyclopedia*, col. 1, 2016, p. 1 *Funk & Wagnall’s New World Encyclopedia*.

Db22lincweb.ord/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx/?direct=true&db=funk&AN=DI058100&site=ehost-live.

Boyle, John, et al. “Atlantis Found.” *New York Times*. 20 Nov. 2007, [www.nytimes.com/2007/11/20/2/20tue1.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/20/2/20tue1.html).

“The Destruction of the Minoan Civilization.” *Explore Crete*. [www.explorecrete.com/Archaeology/minoan-civilization-destruction.html](http://www.explorecrete.com/Archaeology/minoan-civilization-destruction.html). 25 June 2016.  
(Note: See how the article *The* is ignored in the alphabetizing and citing in the paper.)

Khan, Suhana, and Gauri Khan. “Minoan Culture.” *Ancient Mysteries*. Greenhaven P, 5 Jan. 2009.

Maniates, Aristotle. “The Minoans Are the Source of the Atlantis Legend.” *Issues and Controversies*, 7 April 2015, n. pag. *Issues and Controversies*. [icof.infobaselearning.com.db20.lincweb.org/articles/.health-and-medicine/mandatory-vaccinations.aspx?sr=1&articleID=14715](http://icof.infobaselearning.com.db20.lincweb.org/articles/.health-and-medicine/mandatory-vaccinations.aspx?sr=1&articleID=14715).

\*The sources used in this paper are not actual sources

### Important Notes

1. This document is formatted in MLA style. There should be double spacing throughout with the following settings in Paragraph: under Spacing, there should be a 0 next to Before and a 0 next to After and Line Spacing should be set to Double. There is a header in the upper right created using the Header tool. Further details for these and other MLA page formatting is in the link [MLA Page Format](#) under Related Pages.
2. The paper itself begins with a heading in the upper left followed by the title of the paper and specific paragraphs: introduction paragraph, three body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph. The first line of each paragraph should be tabbed in .5 (1/2") which is the usual default hitting the Tab key. See [Essays](#) in Related Pages
3. There is a Works Cited page which is created on a new page by clicking Insert/Page Break at the end of the essay. The words Works Cited must be centered at the top. The list of sources must be in alphabetical order and have a hanging indent applied. The order of the information in the source listing is specific and should follow the example in [MLA Documentation and Format](#) from the PHSC library. See [Works Cited](#) in Related Pages