

## **Answer Key - Note Taking Worksheet**

**(Note: there is some extra information on this sheet that is not on student handout)**

### **Ancient Times**

The oldest remains of the island of Cyprus come from the Neolithic Age, in 8200 – 3900 B.C.E. These people used stone, and later, pottery, to store food.

Between the Stone Age and the Bronze Age, 3900 – 2500 B.C.E., the people of the Chalcolithic Age were the first to discover copper on the island. The word Cyprus comes from the Greek word for copper – Kypros.

During the Bronze Age, 2500-1050 B.C.E., copper was traded within the region and wealth was brought to Cyprus.

Cyprus was conquered and ruled by many different peoples including ancient Greeks, Phoenicians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians, Romans, Byzantines, and even Richard the Lionheart and the Knights Templar.

### **Roots of Religion**

From 1489-1571 C.E., The Venetians ruled Cyprus. They constructed the walls surrounding Nicosia and Famagusta to protect themselves from the Ottomans. The major religion was the Latin Church, or Catholicism.

In 1570, Ottoman troops invaded Cyprus and many Catholics were either expelled or converted to Islam, the religion of the Ottomans. For the next 307 years, from 1571-1878 C.E., the Ottomans ruled Cyprus.

### **Modern Times**

The 1878 Cyprus Convention gave Britain administration of the island because of their support of the Ottomans during the Russian-Turkish war. Because Turkey was allied with the Germans during WWI, Britain annexed the island in 1914. As a result of the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923, Turkey had to give up all rights to Cyprus. In 1925, Cyprus officially became a colony of Great Britain.

### **Trouble Brews**

In the 1930s, tired of being a colony, and hoping for independence, many Cypriots began pushing for Enosis, or union with Greece. There were many riots, and the British began referring to two separate groups living within Cyprus: Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Greek Cypriots were remnants of the first Greek colonizers of Cyprus. They spoke Greek and practiced the Orthodox Christian religion and made up a majority of the population. Turkish Cypriots were descendants of the Turks/Ottomans from Anatolia. They spoke Turkish and practiced the religion of Islam and comprised about 20% of the population. These new labels caused many battles between the two groups from 1955-1959, with some Greek Cypriots pushing for Enosis, and some Turkish Cypriots pushing for a division of the island based on ethnicity.

In 1960, Cyprus gained its independence from Britain and established the Republic of Cyprus, complete with a constitution. The constitution was very complex and tried to make things fair for Turkish Cypriots, the minority, and Greek Cypriots the majority. Unfortunately the two sides eventually disagreed so much on the constitution that more fighting erupted.

## **The Situation Worsens**

During the 1960s and until 1973, Turkish and Greek Cypriots began living separately out of fear. Turkish Cypriots were forced to live in certain areas within Cyprus called enclaves, and Greek Cypriots tried to keep shipments of food and medicine away from them. Some attacks occurred on the Turkish Cypriots also. In 1964, the United Nations sent in a peace keeping force to help, but it was not successful.

## **Summer 1974**

In 1974, a military group in Greece authorized a coup to overthrow the leader of Cyprus. A coup is short for coup d'état (pronounced 'kū dā ta'). It means the sudden overthrow of a government, and it is usually done by a small group that just replaces the top power figures. The term is French for "a sudden stroke or blow." They replaced the leaders of Cyprus with those that were for Enosis, or union with Greece.

When Turkey heard of this, they used the 1959 Treaty of Guarantee to invade Cyprus. The treaty stated that Turkey should "prohibit . . . all activity having the object of promoting directly or indirectly either the union of the Republic of Cyprus with any other State, or the partition of the Island." Many argue that Turkey had no rights to do this based on the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 when they gave up all rights to Cyprus.

The UN tried to negotiate peace, but it wound up sending in 40,000 troops on the north coast. Thousands were injured, killed, or are still missing. Around 200,000 Greek Cypriots had to move to the South, leaving all their belongings and homes, while Turkish Cypriots were forced to move north, also leaving everything behind.

## **Today**

Today, a 187 mile line, called the Green Line, still divides the island into northern and southern Cyprus. Most Greek Cypriots live in the south, called the Republic of Cyprus, which makes up 66% of the island, and most Turkish Cypriots live in the north, called the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), which is not recognized by the United Nations.

The UN set up a buffer zone along this line. On parts of the buffer zone, no one is allowed to live or settle and other parts are accessible.

In 2003, part of the line that separates Cyprus was opened. Now, Turkish and Greek Cypriots may cross the line after 30 years of separation. There were hopes for unification and peace, but in 2004 the referendum for unification was defeated. The Republic of Cyprus has entered the European Union, while the TRNC remains unrecognized by the United Nations.

## **Assessment**

1. List at least two reasons why people live where they do. One reason must be based on physical geography. Give specific examples.
2. What about the location of Cyprus makes it desirable for centuries? Give at least 2 examples.
3. Describe at least two of the factors that contributed to the division of the country of Cyprus.