

Greece: My House on the Hydra Island **My Beautiful House Series**

Subject Areas: Social Studies, World Geography and Cultures, Multicultural Studies

Synopsis: Eleven-year-old Irini lives on the Greek Island of Hydra, where there are no cars and where the houses are painted white and blue, like the colors of the national flag. From pebble painting to colorful vegetables, Irini gives us an insight into her life, her house and her family on this magical island.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to compare and contrast their culture, family, and activities to Irini's culture, family, and activities.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of cultures on our planet.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to locate Greece on a map or globe.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to identify cultural traditions in Greece.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to compare how Irini's basic needs are met with the way their own needs for food, clothing and shelter are met.

Vocabulary:

Greek, Hydra, national, moussaka (a Greek dish), lemon grove, psaro soup (fish, egg and lemon soup), private, balcony, tradition, popular, chess, ski-boarding, ballet, hobbies, stray

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Locate Greece on a map or globe. Ask students on which continent Greece is located. Point out Athens, Hydra Island, the Mediterranean Sea, the Aegean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean on the map. Make sure viewers know where Greece is in relation to the rest of the world, including the United States and North America.
- 2) Discuss general characteristics of Greece such as climate, geographical features, the people, customs, etc.
- 3) Ask students to draw a map of their homes. Have them include the number of rooms, number of bedrooms, who lives with them, etc. Compare and contrast the different maps.

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Describe Irini's family. How are they like or unlike your family? With whom does Irini eat breakfast? What kind of food does Irini eat? Who cooks her meals? Who cooks your meals? What do you like to eat? What do Irini's parents help her decorate? What kinds of activities do you do with your parents?

- 2) Describe Irini's house. How is it like or unlike your home? How many rooms are in Irini's house? How many rooms are in your house? What color is your house? What color is Irini's house? What else is painted these same colors? Why are they painted that way? How many people live on the island? Where does Irini's family eat their meals? Where do you eat your meals? Describe Irini's bedroom. What is outside her bedroom window? What does your bedroom look like?
- 3) Compare and contrast Irini's activities with your own. How are they similar or different? What does Irini do to help her mother? What kind of chores do you do? What are Irini's hobbies? What do you like to do? With whom do you play? With whom does Irini play? How does Irini go to school or other places on the island? Why doesn't she ride in a car? How do you travel to school or to the store?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Have students draw a picture of their neighborhood or write a story about their family and home. Then, have the students read their stories or display and describe their drawings for the class.
- 2) Ask the students to prepare a geographic profile of Greece noting its size, location, climate, natural resources, and outstanding cultural traits. Have them describe Greek history, principal industries, people, and major tourist attractions.

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