**MODULE 1: GEOGRAPHY (**getting to know Greece by visiting interesting places/sites)

**NARRATOR**: Some explorers have decided to explore particular places & sites of great interest in Greece. One of them is holding a diary and notes down information. They start off from the **Ionian Sea** (Eptanisa –that is the 7 islands), move on to **mainland** going **North,** then towards **central Greece**. After that, they sail to the **Aegean sea,** they are off to **Crete** and then back to **Peloponnese** ( *THE NARRATOR IS TRACING THE ROUTE ON THE MAP*)

STUDENT A: Let’s start with a very special **ecosystem**. Actually, it is one of the most important shelters of the protected turtle **Caretta-Caretta in** Greece.

STUDENT B: Interesting! Where is it?

STUDENT A: It is on the island of **Zakynthos**. Do you know where this island is?

STUDENT B: Yes, I do! It is one of the seven islands, called EPTANISA, in the Ionian Sea, west of Greece. Here, let me show you! (*Shows on the map*).

STUDENT C: But that is where we are right now! On the island of Zakynthos!.... Look! Look! There is a bucket over there! There is something in it! ……A paper with some information about Caretta-Caretta!

STUDENT B: Come on! Read it! What does it say?

***STUDENT C:*** *Well, Caretta- Caretta is 1 meter long and weighs about 100 kilos. It lays eggs on the beaches of Lagana in Zakynthos.*

STUDENT A: Interesting! OK! Ok! Now, let’s take the ferry and **go north**. I have heard about an archaeological site in **Macedonia, Vergina**, the first capital of the Macedonian kingdom.

STUDENT B: What else do you know?

STUDENT A: I’m afraid, nothing else. But we are going to find out. Off we go!

*MUSIC THAT SIGNALS THEIR TRANFER FROM PLACE TO PLACE*

STUDENT C: Here we are! Look how nice it is!

STUDENT B: Look! There is someone over there. Let’s ask him…. Excuse me, sir! Can you tell us some things about this place here?

***MAN:*** *My pleasure. You are in* ***Macedonia, Vergina (Ancient Aigai)****. In 1977 the Greek archaeologist Manolis Andronikos discovered* ***the burial site*** *of the kings of Macedonia. He even discovered the* ***tomb of Philip the second****. You know, he was the father of* ***Alexander the Great****. Well, have you ever heard of Alexander the Great, the king of Macedonia who spread the* ***Hellenistic civilization*** *in the Middle East & Asia? Here take this leaflet, you can find more information about Vergina in here.*

Ss A,B,C: Thank you so much!

Ss A: We are off to **Thessalia,**  now. There is another famous place called **Meteora** (which means: in the middle of the sky). But don’t ask me what exactly it is. I have no idea! Let’s go and find out….

MUSIC AGAIN-

Ss B: See you don’t lose the leaflets… (name)…… Wow! Look at those cliffs! And what are those buildings on the top?

SS C: They look like churches. Who could give us some information about this enchanting place?

Ss A: Why don’t we ask that tourist guide over there?

Ss B: Good idea!.... Excuse me! What is this place here?

*Tourist guide: It is one of the largest and most important groups* ***of Greek Orthodox monasteries*** *in Greece.*

Ss A: Orthodox monasteries? I see… Well???

T.G: *In the* ***9th century AD*** *(I mean after the birth of Jesus Christ), a group of* ***hermit monks*** *went up the cliffs; they were the first people to inhabit Metéora. We don’t know exactly when these monasteries were built. Most likely it was the late* ***11th and early 12th*** *centuries. And you know something strange? Until the* ***17th c****entury, goods and people reached the top* ***by means of baskets and ropes****.*

Ss B: People went up there in baskets moved by ropes?

Ss E: You can have this leaflet here for more information on Meteora and their history.

Ss A,B,C: Thank you so much!

SsC: It’s time to go a bit further **south** towards Delphoi, Central Greece again! I have heard that it is famous from ancient times. Let’s go and discover more ! I am so curious!

MUSIC AGAIN-

SS A: Here, here! We can read some information about this place.

*Ss B: Well, it says “****Delphoi*** *is known as the " “THE CENTRE OF the EARTH”. In ancient times the most famous and most important* ***oracle*** *in the Greek World operated in Delphoi.*

Ss A: **ORACLE?** What is it?

Ss B: A place where people go and ask questions about their future.

Ss C: Like a place where fortune -tellers work?

Ss A: *Sort of…Ok… “It was between the* ***6th & the 4th centuries BC*** *that Delpoi became really famous.* ***Pythia****, a high priestess of Apollo, the god of music, told her prophecy in an enigmatic, puzzling way….lots and lots of people came here to consult Pythia.*

SS C: Would it be ok if we took the paper with us?

S A: Go ahead. I think it’s for tourists…Now…What’s next?

S B: **Aegean sea!** We will visit the island of **Santorini.** They have told me something unique happened on this island. Let’s take the ship from Piraeus…

MUSIC AGAIN-

S A: It was a really long voyage…my stomach is really upset!

S B: Mine too! I need an orange juice.

S C: Oh, stop nagging! Let’s find someone to tell us the history of this lovely island! This nice lady could possibly help us…. Dear madam we would very much like to learn the history of your island. Would you mind?

*Lady: I am always happy to talk about my island. It belongs to the* ***Cyclades group*** *of islands and it has a long history. Well, on the island of* ***Santorini*** *one of the largest* ***volcanic eruptions*** *occurred about* ***3.600 years ago****. It was so strong that part of the island* ***collapsed*** *leaving a large caldera and, what’s more, it destroyed the* ***Minoan civilization on the island of Crete****, 110 km to the south, through a gigantic tsunami.*

S A: Volcanic eruption? You mean there was a volcano which erupted so many years ago and it was so strong that it led to the collapse of a whole civilization, so far away?

Lady: Exactly. But I am in a hurry…if you need to know more, here take this brochure…have a nice day…

Ss A,B,C: Thank you so much!

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S A: Well my friends, now that we have heard about Crete and its civilization, which collapsed by the volcanic eruption in Santorini, I think it’s high time we visited this island. Do you know **Crete i**s the largest Greek island?

SB: Where is it?

S A: South of Greece….

MUSIC AGAIN-

SA: Which civilization collapsed by the volcanic eruption, again?

SB: The **Minoan civilization**…. How FORGETFUL you are!

SA: Ok..ok…and how QUICK-TEMPERED YOU can sometimes be!

SC: Eh, guys, stop quarrelling! Let’s explore the mysteries of this lovely island! Here! They are handing out leaflets...take one...you lazy bones!!!

SA: OK! Ok! Don’t get mad! Well*… It says that* ***the Minoan civilization*** *was an* ***Aegean Bronze Age civilization*** *and flourished from* ***3650 to 1400 BC****.* ***The Palace******of Knossos*** *is the monumental symbol of Minoan civilization*.

S B: WHY is the Palace of Knossos the symbol of Minoan civilization?

SC: *Because of its construction. Can’t you see the* ***luxury materials*** *it is made of and its* ***impressive size****? In around* ***1700 BC*** *the Palace and the surrounding city had a population of* ***100,000 people****! Can you imagine that?*

ALL SS: AMAZING!

SA: And now I think our lovely journey comes to its end.

SB: No, No! We have to go to Peloponnese and learn some things about Ancient **Olympia and the Caves Of Lakes….**

MUSIC AGAIN-

SA: WOW! Another enchanting place! There! There is a group of tourists! Let’s go and listen to what the tourist guide is saying! Shhh! Quiet!

*Tourist guide:* ***Olympia*** *is the most important* ***sanctuary*** *of ancient Greece, dedicated to* ***Zeus****, the father of the Gods, and the most* ***important religious and athletic centre*** *in Greece. The Olympic Games took place here every 4 years.*

SA: Are you taking notes?

SB: Of course I am!

SA: Good!....Well now we are going **north** to visit the caves of the lakes in kalavrita.

MUSIC AGAIN-

SC: Let’s see what this sign over here writes.

*SA: (READS) Apart from its* ***labyrinth of corridors*** *, its mysterious* ***gallerie****s and its* ***strange stalactite formations*** *, inside the caves there is a string* ***of lakes*** *forming 3 different levels. That’s why it is characterized as a unique cave in the world.*

SB: Amazing sight!

SC: Indeed!

SA: And now our dear friends our exciting journey has come to its end! I think we have learned a lot and we hope you have learned a lot too. Goodbye!