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The Mycenaean Myth

Women in ancient Greek mythology played an important role in Greek culture. When the ancient Mycenaean, patriarchal society overpowered the Minoan, matriarchal society, they imposed a shift in power and gender roles Since the Mycenaneans wanted to retain their male power in society, they needed to spread the idea that women were inferior to men. Thus, many of the Greek myths illustrate negative depictions of women. Two very popular, recurring themes are that women are overly-curious and they bring pain or suffering to mankind. The myths “Pandora,” “Demeter and Persephone,” and “Psyche and Eros” from the book *Mythology and You* by Donna Rosenberg and Sorelle Baker all display these themes. Like many of the female characters in Greek mythology, these flawed women taught the ancient Greek people that men surpass women in every. This patriarchal stereotype lingered for centuries, creating sexist practices that women and men still battle today.