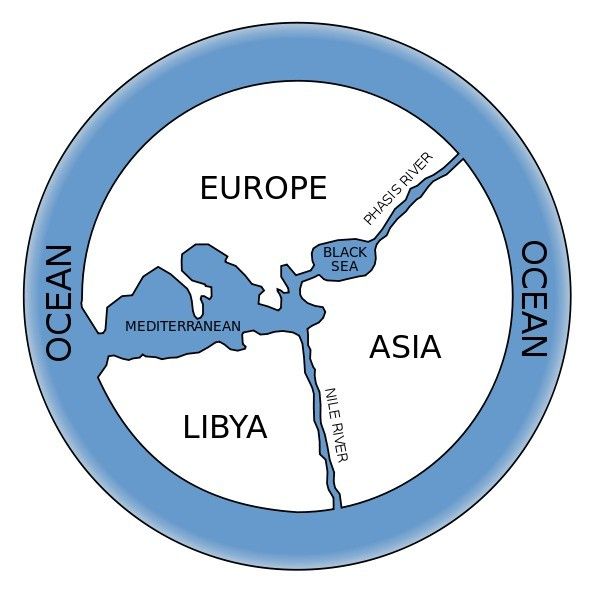
GREEK VIEWS OF THE WORLD



the world of the ancient Greeks centered in the Mediterranean and the Americas were yet to be discovered. Europe Asia and Africa (Libya) however were known, leading prominent geographers of the ancient world to adopt the three-part world model – a system that would remain in use until the era of Martin Waldseemüller in the early 16th century.

The Greeks believed that the world was flat, but circular, like a paper plate. At the center of the Universe was Greece.

The map features the world according the Greek poet Homer in 900 B.C. He believed the world to be circular, with the river Oceanus flowing around it. Beyond Oceanus in the north, are the Cimmerii, an ancient people of the far north of Europe, described by Homer as the people living in perpetual darkness. He also notes Elysium, the place of the afterlife for the gods and the heroic. Homer in his Odyssey describes it as paradise: to the Elysian plain…where life is easiest for men. No snow is there, nor heavy storm, nor ever rain, but ever does Ocean send up blasts of the shrill-blowing West Wind that they may give cooling to men.