**IPHIGENIA, THE PRIESTESS OF THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS IN VRAVRONA**

**by Mika, Marios and Jason**

After the abduction of Helen, the Queen of Sparta along with the Prince of Troy Paris, the Greek army and fleet gathered in Avlida in order to launch a campaign against Troy and take back Helen. The leader of the Greeks was Agamemnon.

However, the ships could not leave the port of Avlida because goddess Artemis wouldn’t let the winds blow that would eventually lead them to Troy. She was angry because Agamemnon had killed her sacred deer. The only way to depart was to sacrifice Agamemnon's daughter Iphigenia.

Nevertheless, at the moment of Iphigenia’s sacrifice, goddess Artemis exchanged the girl for a deer and led her to the Land of the Bulls, the Black Sea, where she became a priestess in the Holy Temple of Artemis. Her brother Orestes went there and helped her to return to Greece and become a priestess at the Holy Temple of the goddess in Vravrona.

**Erasinos river** flowed through the temple. Iphigenia and the other priestesses had a good time playing and swimming in the river. At some point, **Erasinos river** flooded and destroyed the holy Temple. As a result, the sanctuary was abandoned in the following years.