

# Athens and Sparta

The earliest Greek civilizations thrived nearly 4,000 years ago. Yet, their culture still impacts our lives today, in the arts, philosophy, and in science, math, literature, and politics. The ancient Greeks were great builders, thinkers, philosophers and military strategists.



# Greek City-States

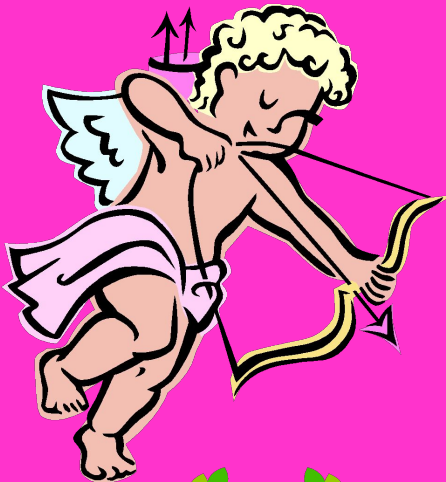


- The ancient Greeks did not have one king or queen. They lived in City-states. Each city-state was a separate political unit. Daily life was somewhat different in the Greek city-state of Athens than it was in the city-state of Sparta.





# To Be Greek



- The ancient Greeks all spoke the same language. They believed in the same gods. They shared a common heritage. They perceived themselves as Greeks.



# Where is Athens located?



- Athens is located in a region called Attica. The area borders the Saronic Gulf to the south.







- Athens emerged as the first democracy in the history of the world. **Democracy** means rule of the people.
- The laws were proposed by the **senate**, or boule. It was made up of 500 citizens.
- The citizens' **assembly**, or ekkelesia was made up of citizens who chose to attend. The assembly approved or disapproved laws proposed by the senate.



# Beliefs of the Athenians

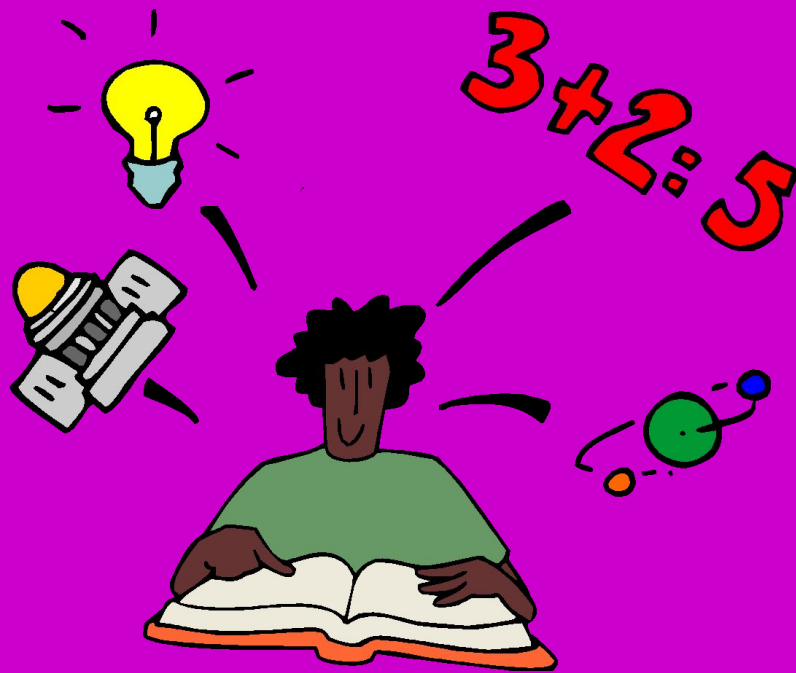


- In ancient Athens, the purpose of education was to produce citizens trained in the arts, to prepare citizens for both peace and war.





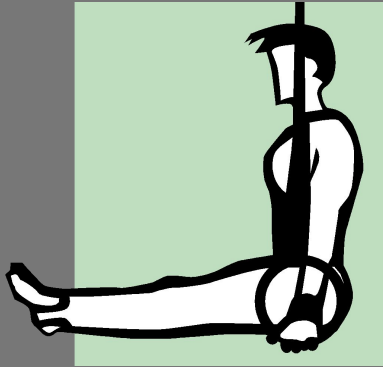
# Athenian Boys - Education



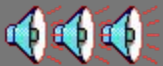
- Until the age of 6 or 7, boys were taught at home by their mother or by a male slave.
- Boys attended elementary school from around 6 or 7 until they were 13 or 14



# What did Athenian boys learn at school?

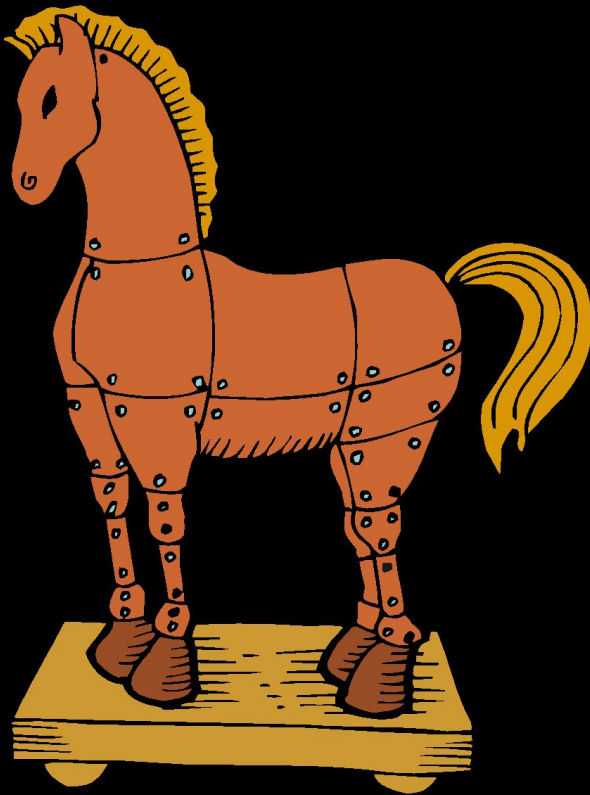


- Part of primary school training was gymnastics. The younger boys learned to move gracefully, do calisthenics, and play ball and other games. The older boys learned running, jumping, boxing, wrestling, and discus, and javelin throwing. The boys also learned to play the lyre and sing, to count, and to read and write. But it was literature that was at the heart of their schooling.





# Literature in Athenian Schools



- The national epic poems of the Greeks – Homer’s *Odyssey* and *Iliad* were a vital part of life for the Athenian people. As soon as their pupils could write, the teachers dictated passages from Homer for them to take down, memorize, and later act on.



# The Secondary Education of Athenian Boys

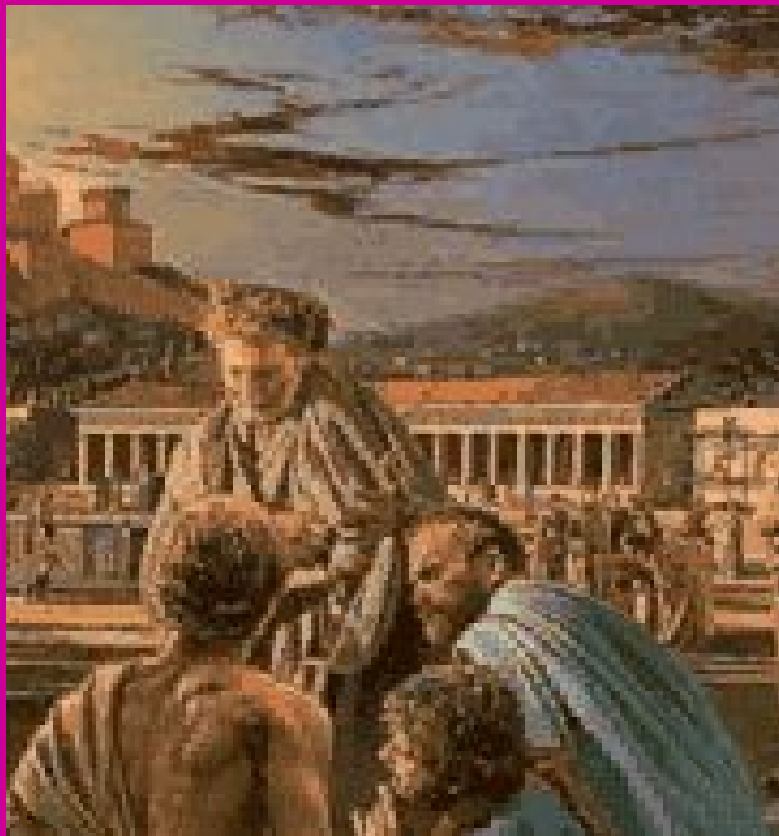


- At 13 or 14, the formal education of poorer boys ended and was followed by apprenticeship at a trade.
- The wealthier boys continued their education by studying with philosophers.
- The boys that attended these schools fell into two groups.
- Those who wanted to learn for the sake of learning.
- Those who wanted to train for public life.
- At the age of 18 boys were required to train in the military for two years.



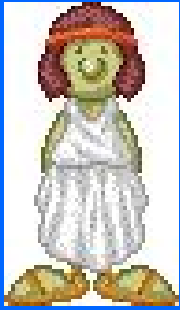


# Athenian Men

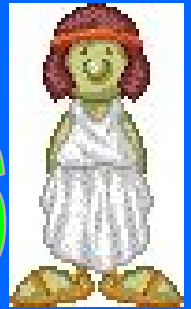


- The men spent their time talking politics and philosophy in the **agora**, or marketplace. They exercised in the athletic fields, performed military duty, and took part in state festivals. Some sat in the assembly or served on juries.





# Daily Life and Education of Athenian Girls



- Girls were not educated in school, but many learned to read and write at home, in the comfort of their courtyard.
- Girls were trained to run the household.

# Athenian Women

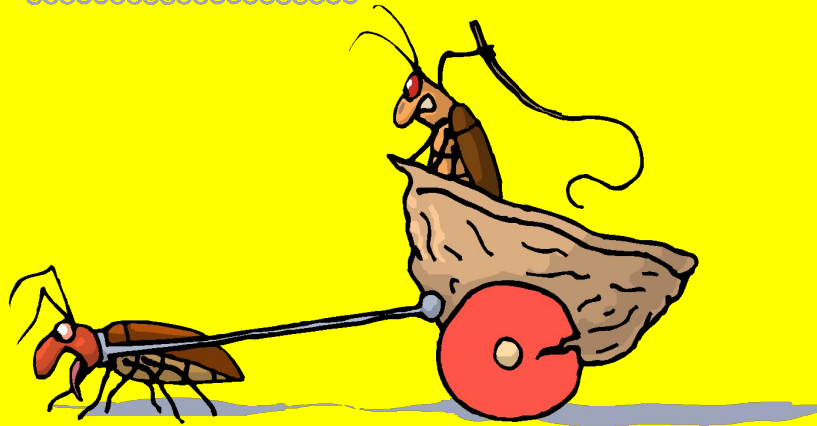
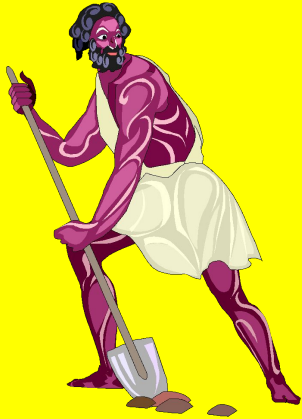


- The women stayed at home, spinning, and weaving, and completing household chores. They never acted as hostesses when their husbands had parties and were never seen in public. Women might attend the theatre and certain religious festivals.





# Athenian Slaves



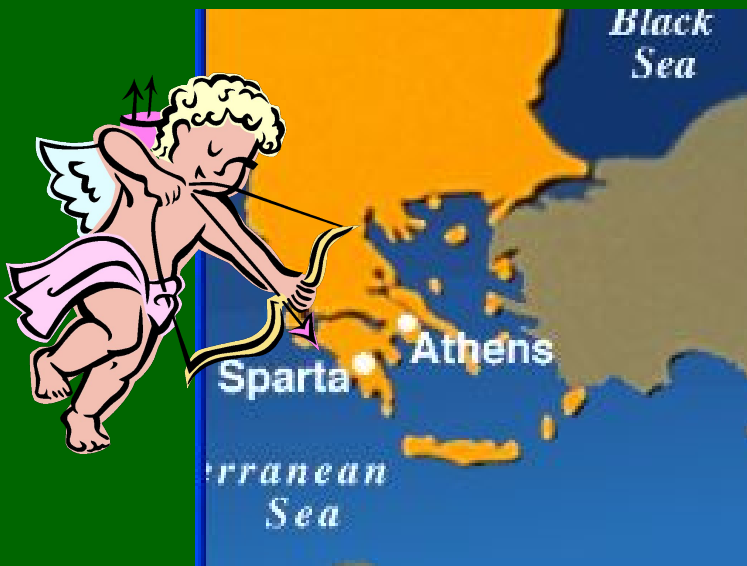
- No one knows for sure, but historians estimate that there were as many as 100, 000 slaves that lived in Athens.
- Enslaved people did many kinds of work. Some provided labor on farms. Others dug silver and other metals in mines. Still others assisted artisans by making pottery, constructing buildings, or forging weapons.
- Most households could not run without slaves. They cooked and served food, tended children, and wove cloth.



# Where is Sparta located?



- Sparta is situated on the southern Peloponnese (peninsula forming the southern part of the mainland) of Greece.



# Government in Sparta



Government in Sparta was also based on a democracy.

Fiver Overseers (Ephors): Ran day to day operations of Sparta. They could veto rulings made by the council or assembly.



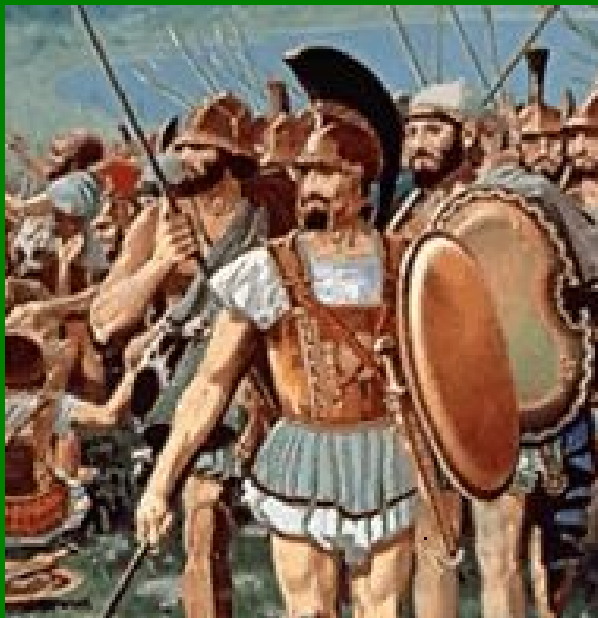
Two Kings: commanded armies and some religious duties.



Council or Senate (Apella): Twenty eight Men over 60. They acted as judges and proposed laws to the citizens' assembly.

Assembly: All Spartan males aged 30 Or over could support or veto the council's recommendations.

# Major Beliefs of the Spartans



- In ancient Sparta, the purpose of education was to produce a well-drilled well-disciplined marching army.
- Spartans believed in a life of discipline, self-denial, and simplicity. They were loyal to the state of Sparta. Every Spartan male or female was required to have a perfect body. When babies were born, Spartan soldiers would come by the house and check the baby. If the baby did not appear healthy and strong, the infant was taken away, and left to die on a hillside, or taken away to be trained as a slave.



# Spartan Boys - Educational Training



- Spartan boys were sent to military school at the age of 6 or 7. They lived, trained, and slept in barracks.
- At school, they were taught survival skills and other skills necessary to be a great soldier. School courses were very hard and often painful. Even though students were taught to read and write, those skills were not very important to the ancient Spartans. Only warfare mattered.
- The boys were not fed well, and were told that it was fine to steal food as long as they did not get caught stealing. If they were caught, they were beaten. The boys marched without shoes to make them strong. It was a brutal training period.





# Spartan Legend



- Legend has it that a young Sparta boy once stole a live fox, planning to kill it and eat it. He noticed some Spartan soldiers approaching, and hid the fox beneath his shirt. When confronted, to avoid punishment he would receive if caught stealing, he allowed the fox to chew into his stomach rather than confess he had stolen a fox. He did not allow his face or body to express pain.



# Continued Military Training and Daily Life



- Somewhere between the age of 18 - 20, Spartan males had to pass a difficult test of fitness, military ability, and leadership skills.
- Any Spartan male that did not pass the examinations became part of the middle class. They were allowed to own property, have business dealings, but had no political rights and were not citizens.
- If they passed, they became a full citizen and a Spartan soldier.
- Spartan soldiers spent most of their lives with their fellow soldiers. They ate, slept, and continued to train in their barracks. Even if they married, they did not live with their wives.
- Military service did not end until a Spartan male reached the age of 60. Then a Spartan soldier could retire and live their home.

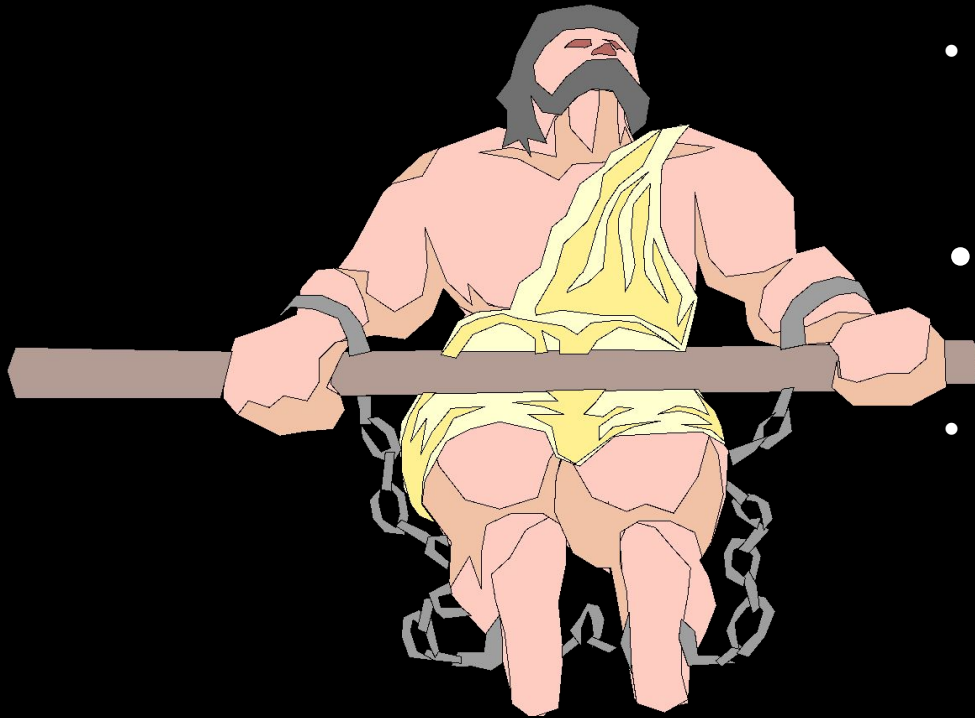


# Spartan Girls and Women - Education and Daily Life



- In Sparta, girls, also went to school at age 6 or 7. They also lived, slept, and trained in barracks. The girls were taught wrestling, gymnastics, and combat skills.
- At age 18, if a Sparta girl passed her skills and fitness test, she would be assigned a husband and allowed to return home. If she failed, she would lose her rights as a citizen, and became a member of the middle class.
- In Sparta, citizen women were free to move around, and enjoyed a great deal of freedom, as their husbands did not live at home.





- Spartan life also depended on slaves. Conquered people became slaves called helots.
- They worked small plots of land on estates owned by Spartans.
- Part of the produce went to the master of the estate, and the remainder went to the helot farmer and his family.

