

Athens and Sparta



**THE EARLIEST GREEK CIVILIZATIONS
THRIVED NEARLY 4,000 YEARS AGO.
YET THEIR CULTURE STILL IMPACTS
OUR LIVES TODAY.**

What happened after the Mycenaeans?



After the fall of the Mycenaeans, Greece entered into a dark age. The Greek Dark Age was a period of decline, famine, and lower population throughout the region. This period lasted from around 1100 BC to 800 BC.

Start of the Greek Archaic Period



The civilization that is often referred to as "Ancient Greece" began around 800 BC. The first part of this period is called the Greek Archaic Period. During this time, many Greek city-states began to form and gain power. Early Greek culture began to take shape including the development of Greek philosophy and theater.

Periods of Ancient Greece



Archaic Period- Ran from the start of Greek civilization in 800 BC to the introduction of Democracy in 508 BC. This period included the start of the Olympic Games and Homer's writing of the Odyssey and the Illiad.

Classical Period- Athens was governed by a democracy and great philosophers like Socrates and Plato arose. Wars between Sparta and Athens were during this time. Ended with the rise and then death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC.

Hellenistic Period- lasted from the death of Alexander the Great until 146 BC when Rome conquered Greece. The name Hellenistic comes from the Greek word "hellens", which is what the Greeks called themselves.

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.

Government in Athens



- 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 ekklesia** was made up of citizens who chose to attend. The assembly approved or disapproved laws proposed by the senate.

Economy



Athenian economy was based on trade.

Poor soil for farming, but great harbors.

Athenians traded with other city-states and some foreign lands to get the goods and resources that they needed.

Athenians bought and sold goods at a huge marketplace called the agora.

Beliefs of the Athenians

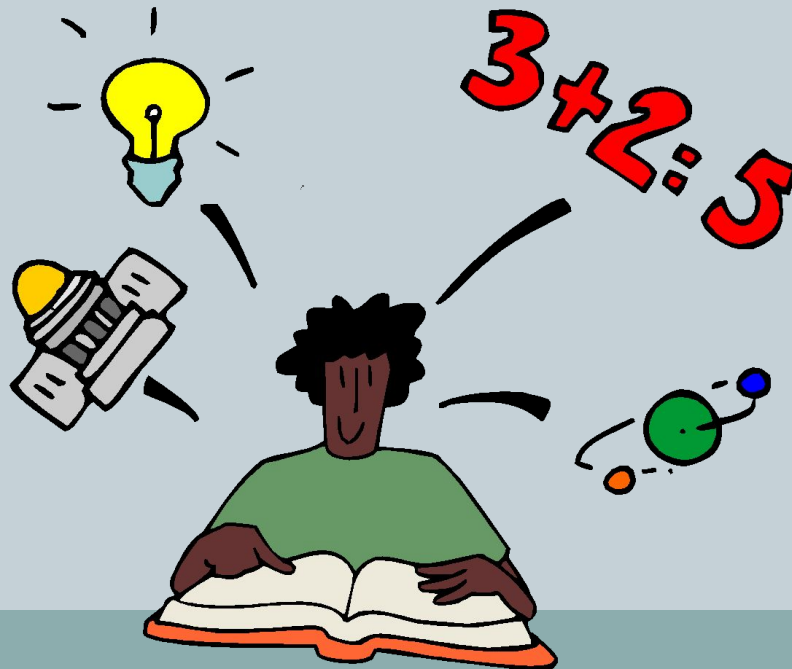


- In ancient Athens, the purpose of education was to produce citizens trained in the arts, to prepare citizens for both peace and war.

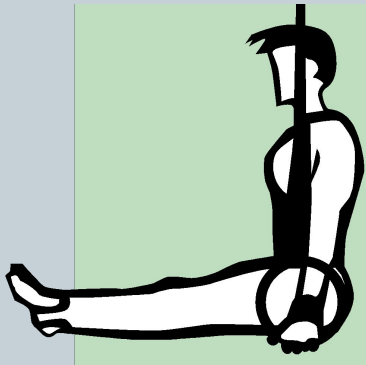
Athenian Education



- 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



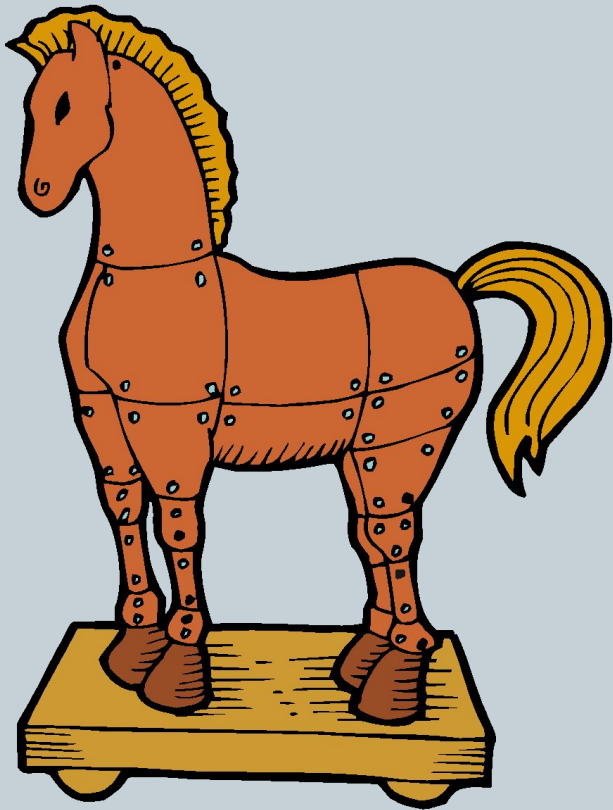
What Did Athenian boys learn at school?



- 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.

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.

Education- continued



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.

- Five 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 society and 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, healthy body.

Economy



Sparta's economy relied on both farming and conquering other people. Because they didn't have enough land to feed their people, they took their neighbors'.

The economy also relied heavily on slaves because the men spent their lives as warriors. Slaves and non citizens were needed to produce goods.

Sparta discouraged trade because they feared that contact with other city-states would lead to new ideas and weaken their government. Trading with Sparta was also difficult because they did not use coins, instead they used heavy iron bars as their money.

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.

Education- continued



- 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...

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



- 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 Slaves



- 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.