

Athens vs Sparta

Athens and Sparta were probably the two most famous and powerful city states in Ancient Greece. However, they were both very different.



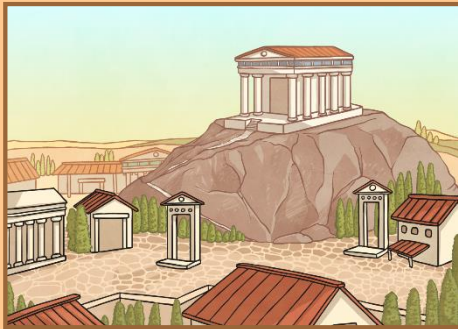
Athens

VS

Sparta

Athens' Government ruled as a democracy. They were first ever to rule in this way.

The city was built below the acropolis which stood on a high hill above Athens.



Sparta was a city strictly ruled by the king. He made all the decisions in Sparta.

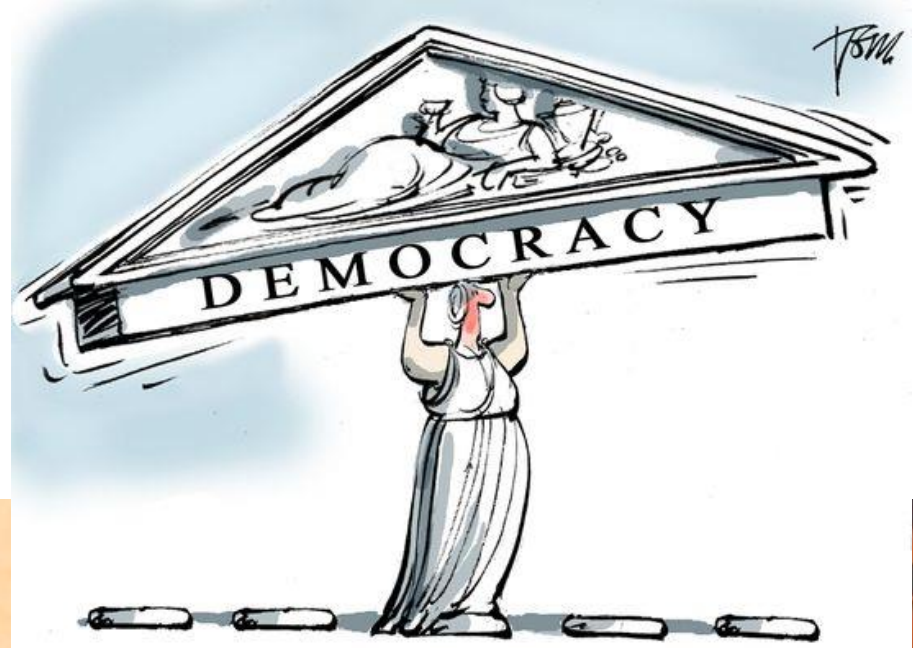
Sparta is surrounded by mountains which made it very difficult for it to be invaded.

What is a democracy?

Athens had a new way of ruling called "democracy". What does this word mean today?

However, only citizens could be part of this, and that excluded women, slaves and foreigners!

Sparta liked to have strong leaders. It had two kings which was useful - it meant one could rule if the other was away fighting! They would pass their crowns to their sons.



Boys in Athens

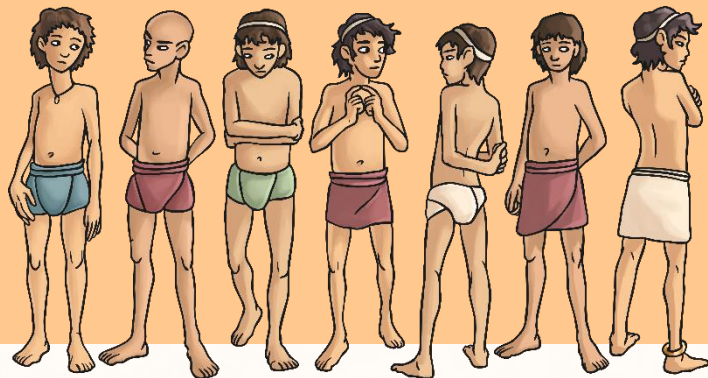
VS

Boys in Sparta

Athens was a creative state.

They believed in good education for boys.

Boys could join the army or navy if they wanted to.



Sparta was a city focused on obedience and war. The people did not have any luxuries.


Boys did not have to work or be educated as they trained to be warriors from an early age.

Boys had to join the Spartan army.

More about warfare...

Athenian men aged between 20-50 could be called up for military service.

Athens had a strong naval force and were masters of the sea.



Spartans were land-locked so had a very strong land army. Spartan mothers told their sons before they left for battle "Come back with your shield, or on it".

Only a coward would drop his shield and run away.



Girls in Athens

VS

Girls in Sparta

Girls were not seen as important in Athens.

Girls could be taught at home only if they had rich parents.

Girls were not allowed to take part in war, business or education.

Girls grew up to be mothers of warriors.

Although they were not allowed to fight, girls took part in the training because fit women produced healthy babies.



Education in Athens

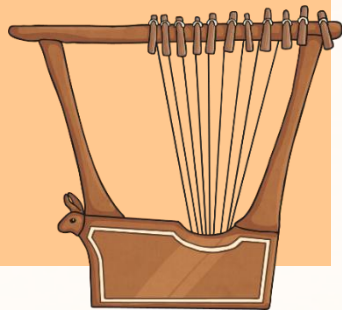
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Education in Sparta

Boys were in education from 6-20 years.

Books were very expensive so boys had to memorise everything.

They learnt how to play the lyre and about the poet Homer.



Boys and girls went to school at 6 years.

The boys were trained to be warriors with brutal training and harsh conditions.

Girls were taught wrestling, gymnastics and combat skills.

Activities!

1.) Complete the Athens vs Sparta worksheet.

2.) Imagine Doctor Who was planning on a visit to Ancient Greece!

Write a persuasive message to the Doctor explaining where in Ancient Greece he should land his tardis! Include information about:



Warfare



Location



Daily life



Education



Government

Extension: Why should the Doctor *not* visit the other city state?
Give your three top reasons (and don't forget to say WHY).



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