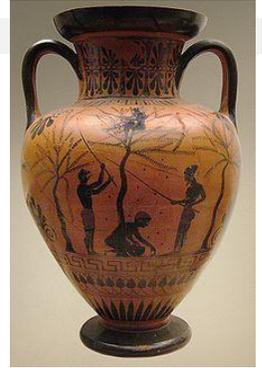


Informational Text



Daily Life in Ancient Greece

Homes

Greek homes were built around an outdoor courtyard. The courtyard was the center of activity. It usually had a well for water, an altar to worship the gods, and was good place for the kids to play. Around the courtyard were the rooms of the house. Different rooms included a work room, a store room, and bedrooms. Most of the time there also was a room called an andron where the men of the house would hang out and entertain their male friends or business associates. Sometimes there was a separate entrance to this room so visiting men would not see the women of the house. Generally the woman stayed away from the men in the house, especially visiting men. Oftentimes the house had a room set aside just for the women called a gynaikon. The walls of Greek homes were made from sun dried bricks with small windows set high in the walls. They were designed to keep the house cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Growing Up

When a Greek child was born, the father could decide whether to keep the child or not. If the child appeared weak or was a girl, sometimes the father would abandon the child. Once a child was accepted by the father, he or she was treated well. Greek children had toys and spent the day playing games. When boys became seven years old, they started school. They learned math, reading, and writing. Sometimes they would also learn a musical instrument. When they got older they learned how to debate. Girls did not go to school. Children were considered adults by the age of 13.

Food

The Ancient Greeks mostly ate bread dipped in wine, cheeses, fish, olives, and vegetables. Meat like pork or beef was only eaten on rare occasions such as festivals. Watered down wine was the main drink. The men would often have dinner parties for their friends. They would start at sundown and run until late. Only the men attended, women were not allowed.

Clothes

The ancient Greeks wore a tunic called a chiton. Both men and women wore the chiton. It was a basic tunic made from a single rectangle of cloth cut into two. It was fastened at different places and a belt was used at the waist. There were chitons of different lengths and colors. They were generally made out of a thin wool material. Some people could afford linen or even silk chitons.

Jobs

There were many jobs for men in Ancient Greece including farmer, fisherman, soldier, teacher, government worker, and craftsman. The women, however, were generally homemakers and would raise the children and cook the meals.

Culture

The ancient Greeks had many distinctive cultural characteristics. They created drama and the Olympics, made advances in medicine, and their architectural achievements are still used today. Greek polytheistic religion influenced their cultural expressions. They spread their culture around the Mediterranean through conquest and trade. Alexander the Great unified the Greek city states into one empire and further expanded Greece's influence around the

Geographic Features

The geographical features of Greece include various mountain ranges and islands. This created natural divisions which led to the development of many separate and unique city states. City states developed around hill top acropolises. Athens and Sparta developed very different cultures. Athens was the birthplace of democracy whereas Sparta was much more militaristic. Each city state had its own requirements for citizenship as well as corresponding rights and responsibilities.

Greek Alphabet

| | | | | | |
|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|
| A α | alpha | I ι | iota | P ρ | rho |
| B β | beta | K κ | kappa | Σ σ | sigma |
| Γ γ | gamma | Λ λ | lambda | Τ τ | tau |
| E ε | epsilon | M μ | mu | Υ υ | upsilon |
| Δ δ | delta | N ν | nu | Φ φ | phi |
| Z ζ | zeta | Ξ ξ | xi | Χ χ | chi |
| H η | eta | Ο ο | omicron | Ψ ψ | psi |
| Θ θ | theta | Π π | pi | Ω ω | omega |

GOVERNMENT

The Ancient Greeks may be most famous for their ideas and philosophies on government and politics. It was in Greece, and particularly Athens, that democracy was first conceived and used as a primary form of government.



The Greek City-State

Ancient Greece was made up of city-states. A city-state was a major city and the surrounding areas. Each city-state had its own rule and government. Sometimes the city-states fought each other. Athens and Sparta were the two largest city-states and they had many wars and battles.

Types of Government

There were three main types of government in Ancient Greece:

- Democracy - A government ruled by the people, or assembly. Officials and leaders were elected and all citizens had a say.
- Monarchy - A single ruler like a king. In Athens this ruler was called a Tyrant.
- Oligarchy - When the government is ruled by a small group.

Over time some city-states, like Athens would change governments. Sometimes they were ruled by Tyrants and, at other times, they were a democracy.

Athenian Democracy

Democracy in Ancient Greece was very direct. What this means is that all the citizens voted on all the laws. Rather than vote for representatives, like we do, each citizen was expected to vote for every law. They did have officials to run the government, however. Most of these officials were chosen by a lottery. So every citizen had a chance, regardless of their popularity or wealth, to become an official. A few key positions were voted on, such as the treasurer and the ten generals who ran the army.

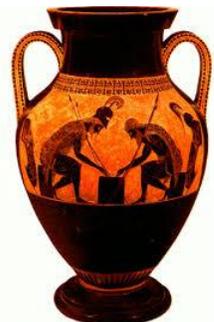
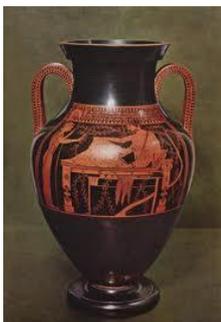
Voting

In order to vote, you had to be a citizen. However, not everyone who lived in Athens was a citizen. Only men who had completed their military training were counted as citizens.

Bodies of Government

There were three main bodies of the government: the Assembly, the Council of 500, and the Courts.

- The Assembly included all citizens who showed up to vote. Everyone who was a citizen could participate as part of the assembly. The assembly would decide on new laws and important decisions, like whether or not to go to war.
- The Council oversaw much of the day-to-day running of the government. The Council was determined by lottery. If your name was chosen, then you would be on the council for one year.
- The Courts handled lawsuits and trials. The courts had large juries to help make decisions. For private lawsuits the jury was at least 201 people, for public lawsuits the jury was at least 501 people.



Daily Life of Ancient Greece Quiz

1. What were the homes of the Ancient Greeks made of?
 - A. Wood
 - B. Sun dried bricks
 - C. Marble
 - D. Granite
2. What was at the center of the Greek house?
 - A. The family room
 - B. The kitchen
 - C. The andron
 - D. The courtyard
3. What was the main thing that the Greeks drank?
 - A. Juice
 - B. Watered wine
 - C. Water
 - D. Milk
4. Which of the following statements is true about Greek children?
 - A. The father could chose to abandon them when they were born
 - B. They had toys and played
 - C. The boys went to school, but the girls did not
 - D. All of the above
5. Which of the following foods was not something the Ancient Greeks ate on a regular basis?
 - A. Bread
 - B. Vegetables
 - C. Pork
 - D. Olives
6. What was the name of the garment that most all Greeks, men and women, wore during ancient times?
 - A. Chitin
 - B. Toga
 - C. Robe
 - D. Kilt
7. What type of jobs did the women usually have?
 - A. They often held positions in the government
 - B. The women were mostly homemakers
 - C. They worked hard labor such as farming or fishing
 - D. They worked as merchants and storeowners

8. What was the purpose of the room called the andron?
- A. It was a place where the slaves went to work on crafts
 - B. It was another name for the courtyard
 - C. It was a place for the men of the house to entertain their friends
 - D. It was like the kitchen where they cooked their food
9. At what age were the children of Ancient Greece considered adults?
- A. 12
 - B. 13
 - C. 15
 - D. 16
10. At the age of seven, Greek boys began school. What were some of the subjects they studied?
- A. Reading and writing
 - B. Debate and math
 - C. Musical instruments
 - D. All of the above