

Sparta and Athens

Tyranny in the City-States

Most didn't want a tyranny because only one person was in control. That's not how Greece wanted things to be. Sparta and Athens' governments became two of the most powerful governments of early Greece.

- Nobles seized power from _____
- Tyrants – take power by force and rules with total authority
- Building new marketplaces, temples, and walls
- Oligarchy – a few people hold power - _____
- Democracy - all citizens share in running the gov't – _____

Sparta

- Founded by _____
- Instead of setting colonies, they conquered and enslaved their neighbors.
- Helots were Sparta's captive workers. The name comes from the Greek word for _____.

Why was the Military So Important?

- Fear of being taken over led to firm control and training for _____
- _____ years old live in barracks
7 year old boy's left home to live in barracks where they were treated harshly to make them tough. Plutarch, Greek historian, was quoted as saying, "After they were 12 yrs. Old, they were no longer allowed to wear any undergarments; they had one coat to serve them a year; ... They lodged together in little bands upon beds made of reeds [grasses]...which they were to break off with their hands without a knife." At 20 - men remained in military barracks for 10 more years. They ate all their meals in dining halls with other soldiers. Typical meal was a vile tasting dish called black broth --- pork boiled in animal blood, salt, and vinegar. Returned home at 30 but stayed in army till 60. Continued to train for combat. They expected to either win on battlefield or die, never to surrender. One Spartan mother ordered her son to "Come home carrying your shield or being carried on it." Spartan soldiers took great pains to prepare for battle. Weapons and armor had to be well maintained, and years of training honed them into powerful warriors. Before battle, they carefully dressed their hair before engaging the enemy. Older men watched Spartan boys closely and often provoked quarrels among them. They used the fights to determine each boy's spirit and firmness in battle.
- 20 years – enter regular _____
- 30 years – returned home
- Girls were trained in _____.
Girls trained in sports (running, wrestling, throwing the javelin). Kept fit to become healthy mothers. Wives lived at home while their husbands lived in barracks. Freer than other Greek women. They owned property and could go anywhere they wanted.
- Women were freer

Sparta's Government

- Oligarchy
- 2 kings headed a council of _____
- All men over 30
Council of elders included 28 citizens over age 60 and would present the laws to an assembly. All men over 30 belonged to the assembly and voted on the council's laws. They chose 5 people to be Ephors each year. Ephors

enforced the laws and managed tax collection. They didn't want anyone to question the Spartan system so they discouraged foreign visitors and banned travel abroad for any reason but military ones. They didn't want citizens to study literature or the arts. This succeeded for over 250 years (control over helots). However, they fell behind other Greeks in trade because of their focus on military training. They knew less about science and other subjects. Is this why America makes it a law that everyone is entitled to an education? Soldiers were strong and swift. Spartans played a key role in defending Greece.

- Ephors enforced the _____ and managed _____ collection.
- Discouraged foreign visitors

Athens

Unlike Spartans, Athenians were more interested in building a democracy than building a military force. When visiting a new city, does everything feel strange to you? Spartans who visited Athens probably felt the same way. Athens lay northeast of Sparta (2 day trip at least). The 2 city-states were also miles apart in their values and systems of government.

Life in Athens

Boys were taught to read, write, and do arithmetic by one teacher and sports by another. 3rd teacher taught them to sing and play a stringed instrument called the lyre. Taught them to be well rounded with good minds and bodies. Finished school at 18 and became a citizen. Girls – stayed home; mothers taught them spinning, weaving, and other household duties. Only in some wealthy families were girls taught to read, write, and play the lyre. When married they stayed home to do the same for their daughters.

- School
- Citizen at _____
- Girls

Building Democracy

Early Athens – assembly of all citizens existed but they had few powers. 600 B.C. – Athenians began rebelling against the nobles. Most farmers owed money to the nobles and sold themselves into slavery to pay debts. 594 B.C. – Solon was a noble that both sides trusted. He canceled all farmers' debt and freed those who became slaves. He allowed all male citizens to participate in the assembly and law courts. A council of 400 wealthy citizens wrote the laws but the assembly had to pass them. He refused when pressed to give away the nobles' land. After him, there were 30 yrs of turmoil. Peisistratus (tyrant) seized power in 560 B.C. – won support from the poor by dividing large estates among landless farmers and loaning money to poor people and gave them jobs building temples and other public works. Cleisthenes – most impact leader after P's death; power in 508 and reorganized assembly to play the central role in governing.

- Early Athens – landowning nobles – oligarchy
- _____ was a noble that both sides trusted.
- Peisistratus
- Cleisthenes

Cleisthenes

- All _____ citizens
- New powers
- Council of 500
 - Proposed laws
 - Dealt with foreign countries
 - Oversaw treasury
 - Members were chosen by lottery every year.
- Non-citizens were _____.

- Credited with making Athens a democracy

Riddle

Men in Athens liked to go to fancy dinner parties where they told riddles.

“When you look at me, I look at you. When you speak, I open my mouth and move my lips, but you cannot hear me and I cannot see you. What am I?” _____

Ancient Greek Olympics

In Ancient Greece, only men could participate in and view the Olympic games. Athletes competed by themselves, not as a part of a team. Contests included running, jumping, wrestling, and boxing. Each winning athlete won a crown of olive leaves and brought glory to his city. TODAY – both men and women compete. The athletes come from all over the world and compete either individually or in teams. Strive to get gold, silver or bronze. Ancient Greek winners received a crown of olive leaves and glory for their cities. Greeks dedicated the Olympic games to Zeus. Married women couldn't participate but could enter their horses and chariots. However, women organized an athletic festival to honor Zeus' wife, Hera. The festival, known as the Heraia, pitted unmarried women against each other in a series of footraces by age groups.

Review

1. Who were the helots?
2. Why did tyrants fall out favor with the Greeks?
3. Why did Athenians choose officials by lottery?

Would there be drawbacks to this method?

4. How did the Greek nobles gain power?
5. Why was Solon popular among farmers and unpopular among others?
6. How did Athenian democracy keep one person from gaining too much power?