

# WHO WERE THE ANCIENT GREEKS?

## LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

TO LEARN ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ATHENS AND SPARTA AND TO UNDERSTAND THE TERM 'DEMOCRACY'.

DO YOU KNOW  
WHAT A CITY  
STATE IS?

EXPLAIN YOUR IDEAS TO A  
PARTNER.



BACK

NEXT



IN ANCIENT GREECE, THERE WASN'T ONE GOVERNMENT FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY. DIFFERENT AREAS WERE SPLIT INTO CITY STATES KNOWN AS 'POLIS'.

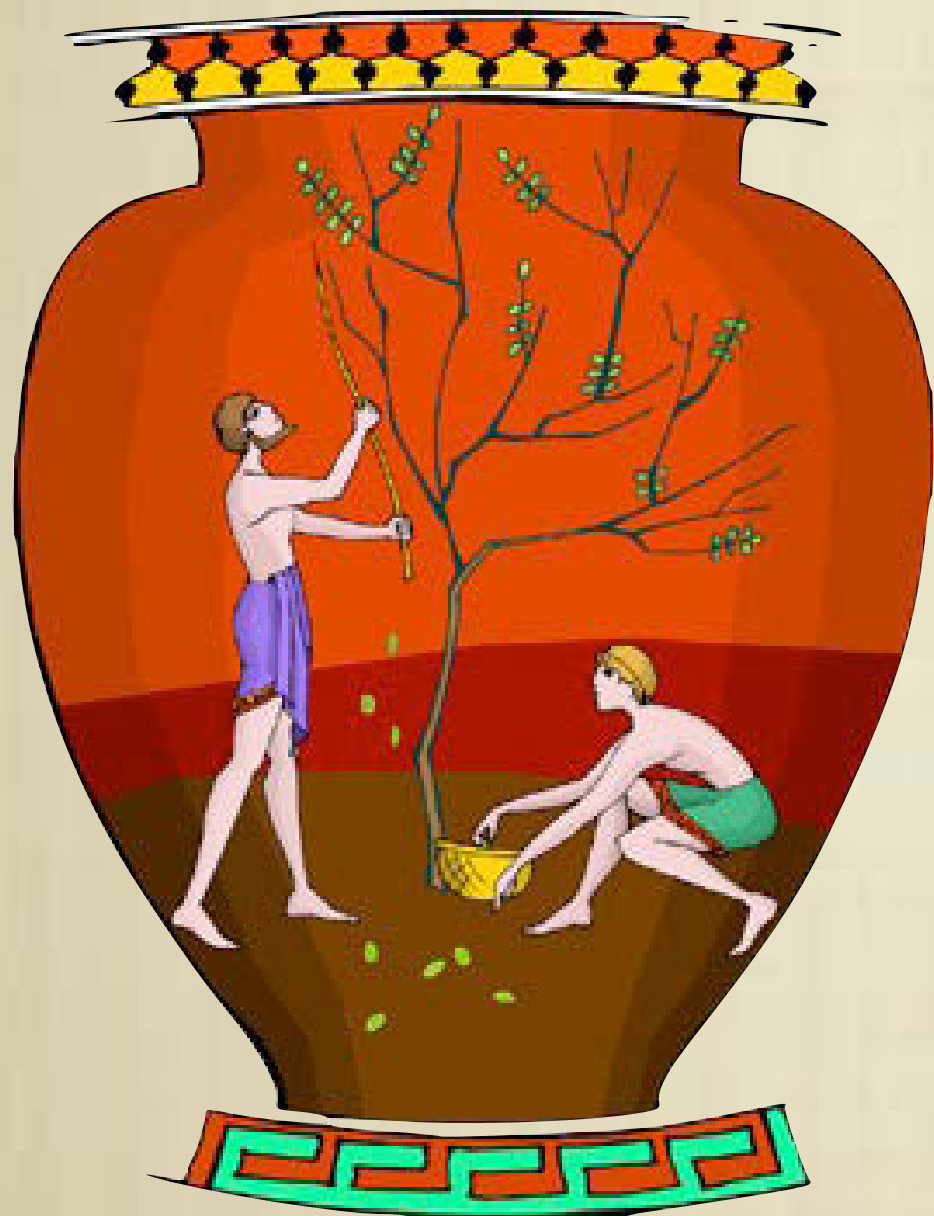
TWO OF THE MOST POWERFUL CITY STATES WERE

ATHENS  
AND  
SPARTA.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY HAD IN COMMON? WHAT DO YOU THINK THEIR DIFFERENCES WERE?

# ATHENS

ATHENS WAS THE LARGEST CITY STATE IN ANCIENT GREECE. IT WAS ALSO THE RICHEST. IT WAS NEAR TO THE SEA AND SO WAS ABLE TO TRADE EASILY USING ITS OWN FLEET OF SHIPS.

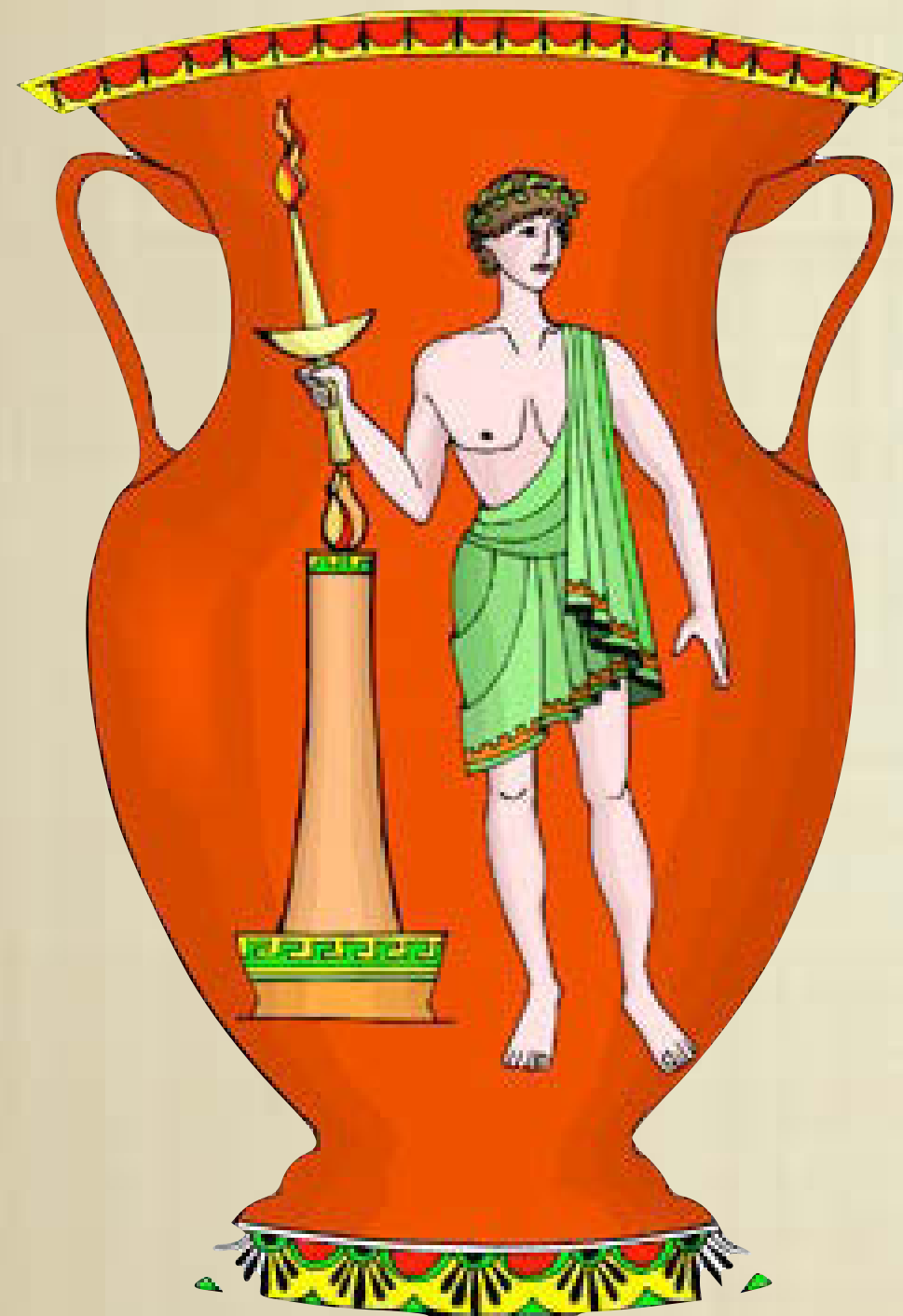


ATHENS RELIED ON SLAVE LABOUR. SLAVES DID ALL THE MANUAL LABOUR AND HARD WORK. HOWEVER, SOME SLAVES WERE EDUCATED AND HAD JOBS LIKE TEACHERS AND NURSES.

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BECAUSE ATHENS HAD SLAVES TO DO ALL THE HARD WORK, CITIZENS (FREE MEN) HAD MORE TIME FOR OTHER THINGS. THERE WAS A BIG EMPHASIS ON READING, WRITING AND ART, AS WELL AS LEISURE PURSUITS LIKE FESTIVALS, COMPETITIONS AND PLAYS. BOYS WENT TO SCHOOL, WHILE GIRLS WERE TAUGHT AT HOME.



ATHENS WAS THE FIRST GOVERNMENT TO HAVE A DEMOCRACY. MALE CITIZENS WERE ABLE TO VOTE FOR THEIR LEADERS INSTEAD OF HAVING A KING OR TYRANT RULER. FREE MEN WERE ABLE TO GO TO THE ASSEMBLY AND HAVE THEIR SAY ON HOW THINGS SHOULD BE RUN.

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# SPARTA

SPARTA WAS A VERY DIFFERENT CITY STATE TO ATHENS. SPARTA WAS SITUATED INLAND AND DIDN'T HAVE A COAST. IT WAS RULED BY TWO KINGS. EARLY IN THE 6TH CENTURY SPARTA HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY OTHER CITIES. THE SPARTANS DECIDED THEY DIDN'T WANT TO BE VULNERABLE ANY MORE SO THEY BEGAN TO FOCUS ON BUILDING A STRONG ARMY.



EVERYONE IN SPARTA WAS TRAINED TO BE FIT AND OBEDIENT. IF YOUNG CHILDREN AND BABIES WERE THOUGHT TO BE WEAK OR SICK THEY WERE DROPPED OFF A CLIFF. SPARTA DID NOT TRADE. THEY TOOK WHAT THEY NEEDED FROM THEIR NEIGHBOURS AND FORCED THEM TO BE SLAVES.

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SPARTA WAS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ANCIENT GREEK POLIS BECAUSE WOMEN WERE INCLUDED IN THE TRAINING AND WERE ALLOWED TO TAKE PART JUST LIKE THE MEN. WOMEN WERE GIVEN MUCH MORE FREEDOM IN SPARTA THAN IN ANY OTHER CITY STATE.

BECAUSE SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME WAS SPENT ON TRAINING TO BECOME SOLDIERS, LITTLE VALUE WAS PLACED ON EDUCATION. THE SPARTANS LEFT US NO WRITTEN RECORDS OF THEMSELVES. ART AND MUSIC WERE OUT OF PLACE IN SPARTA WHERE THE STRICT LIFESTYLE CAUSED FEAR AMONGST MANY OF ITS NEIGHBOURS.



BACK

NEXT

ARE YOU READY TO MEET A SPARTAN AND AN ATHENIAN?!

# Hot Seat



BACK

NEXT

HOW IS OUR  
ATHENIAN WAY  
OF GOVERNMENT  
SIMILAR TO  
YOUR OWN?





WHICH CITY  
STATE WOULD  
YOU HAVE  
PREFERRED TO  
LIVE IN? WHY?