

Athens

- Located on the northeastern peninsula of Greece, Athens has always been one of the most important cities in Greece.
- The Athenians had three social classes. The upper class was made up of adult males who owned land and were the only people who could be citizens.
- Women in Athens remained in the home and couldn't vote or own property. Women were citizens except they had no political rights.
- The middle class were merchants from other countries who could possess wealth, but were foreigners and could not vote as citizens.
- The lower class was made up of slaves.
- The form of democratic government began in Athens, "government by the people."
- Athenians believed a person should keep physically fit, learn about the past and present and serve humanity by taking part in government.

Sparta

- Sparta was a military city-state located near the center of the lower peninsula known as the Peloponnesus.
- The goal of the government was to train good soldiers.
- Spartans did not believe people should take part in the government and discouraged trade and new ideas with other city-states.
- The upper class in Sparta was made up of male citizens born in Sparta. Even though Spartan women were not citizens, they were allowed certain freedoms.
- They took part in sporting events, business dealings, and could own property.
- The middle class were foreign-born merchants, while the lower class were slaves called Helots.
- The Helots were forced to farm and work for the Spartans. There were thousands more Helots than citizens living in Sparta.
- When a Spartan boy was seven, he was taken from his family and sent to army training camp. The training was difficult and cruel.
- If a boy was not strong enough to stand training, he was left to die. If he would survive, he became a soldier for life. The highest honour was to die fighting for Sparta.
- Life was not easy for girls. If a baby was born a girl or deformed, the father had the right to leave the child on a hillside to die.
- Girls were taught to raise children and to run the household.
- Life was hard in ancient Sparta.

Activity

Draw a scene of a typical day in the life of a Spartan boy or girl. Pictures will be displayed so add colour and be creative.