

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Core: \_\_\_\_\_

# ACTIVITY 1

## CULTURE OF ATHENS



### CLOSE READING:

- Step #1: Read the passage below about the culture of Athens
- Step #2: As you are reading, highlight (with highlight above) THREE facts.

As a result of Athens' wealth and the ability to secure their basic needs through trade, Athenians could spend less time working and could focus on cultural pursuits. Athens became a center of culture. Athenian artists sculpted, made and decorated pottery, wrote plays, danced, played music, and designed elaborate temples and other large buildings. Athenian philosophers also debated and discussed the great ideas of the time.



## STOP! FILL IN YOUR EVIDENCE SHEET (paper).

### ATHENS LITERATURE

## one OF THE BIGGEST PARTS OF ATHENS' CULTURE IS...

# WRITING

### The Iliad and the Odyssey

"During the Greek Dark Age, poets called bards traveled to different poli (the plural of the word "polis"). The bards told stories in the form of long poems called epics. People would often pay to hear the bards describe stories of the distant past. The bards would sing many of the epic poems while accompanied by a stringed instrument called a lyre. The musical epics were called lyric poetry.

"The two oldest surviving examples of Greek literature are the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, epic poems that describe the Trojan War, a conflict between the Greeks and the city of Troy that the epics say was fought almost 1200 years before the Common Era. The Trojan War was fought over Helen, who according to legend was the beautiful daughter of Zeus and the wife of the king of the Greek polis of Sparta. The war began after a Trojan prince named Paris kidnapped Helen." (Source: <https://www.mrdowling.com/701-homer.html>)

**The full poem called "The Odyssey" is 360 pages!!!**

**DIRECTIONS:**

Read the summary of the poem linked below. After you read through the summary, take the quiz at the end of the summary to test your knowledge. Record your quiz score: \_\_\_\_\_

**CLICK ON THE LINK: [LINK: SUMMARY OF THE ODYSSEY](#)**

**ACTIVITY 2**

**CITIZEN ROLES IN ATHENS**



**CLOSE READING:**

- Step #1: Read the passage below about the different roles in Athens society.
- Step #2: As you are reading, highlight TWO facts in EACH paragraph.

<b>Men</b>	Much of the daily life of Athens centered on the business of trade and the arts. Men took care of all of the daily responsibilities of their businesses. They took care of tasks for their homes, such as shopping at the market, as well. Men also spent much of their time meeting in the public squares to discuss business and politics.
<b>Women</b>	Because the men took charge of most of the business outside of the home, the women of Athens rarely entered public spaces. They were expected to stay home to complete domestic chores and raise children. These roles were reinforced in the education of children in Athens. However, if both of a woman's parents had been born in Athens, she could marry an Athenian citizen and refer to herself as the wife of a citizen, and she could then pass citizenship along to any sons she had.
<b>Metics</b>	Traders, and other workers who were not born in Athens but lived there were known as metics. They did not have the rights of citizenship and could not own land.
<b>Slaves</b>	Free time was available to the men of Athens because members of the enslaved class took care of many of their responsibilities at home and with their crops. Slaves could not own property and had few rights.



**STOP! FILL IN YOUR EVIDENCE SHEET (paper)**

**Directions:** watch the video using the [LINK: Daily Life in Athens](#) to learn more about the daily life in Ancient Greece.

- Answer the question on the next page when you are done (the video will cut off towards the end...you will not need that information for this activity).

# HOW WAS LIFE DIFFERENT FOR PEOPLE IN ATHENS THAN IT IS IN THE UNITED STATES?

(WRITE/TYPE YOUR ANSWER IN THIS BOX!)

## ACTIVITY 3 EDUCATION IN ATHENS



### CLOSE READING:

- Step #1: Read the passage below about education in Athens
- Step #2: As you are reading, highlight **THREE** facts in **EACH** paragraph.

### BOYS

Boys were taught to read, write, play sports, and participate in cultural life. AS they grew up, they became traders, artisans, and merchants who actively participated in the culture and politics of Athens. When they reached the age of 18, they took the oath of citizenship and became full participants in the daily life of Athens.

### GIRLS

Girls had fewer options and opportunities in their lives. They did not go to school. They stayed home and were instructed by their mothers in how to keep a home and raise children. Despite their limited ability to participate in government, women were important to the religious life of Athens. They could become priestesses and often led the daily religious ceremonies that took place in the city-state.



## STOP! FILL IN YOUR EVIDENCE SHEET (paper)

### EDUCATION IN ATHENS (TYPE YOUR ANSWERS IN THE BOXES BELOW)

1. How is life in Athens different for boys and girls? EXPLAIN
2. If you were a boy in Athens, what would you do when you reach the age of 18?  
SCHOOL OR ARMY → WHY?

# ACTIVITY 4 GOVERNMENT IN ATHENS



## CLOSE READING:

- ❑ Step #1: Read the passage below about the government of Athens
- ❑ Step #2: As you are reading, highlight **THREE** facts in **EACH** paragraph.

Athens became the world's first democracy around 508 BC. The new style of government established in Athens was a direct democracy. This means every qualified citizen could vote and be called to serve on the assembly or on the jury.

### LIFE FOR PEOPLE IN DEMOCRACY:

- Only about 20 percent of the population of Athens had citizenship. Citizenship was limited to free men who were 18 or older and born in Athens.
- According to our textbook, "Out of this pool of citizens, Athenians were chosen for various governmental positions."
- ASSEMBLY = "the main political body; open to all adult male citizens; voted on legislation; determined foreign policy"
- JURIES = "chosen at random; from 201 to more than 1000 jurors might sit for a trial"
- ARCHONS = "nine judges chosen annually at random"
- COUNCIL OF 500 (also called the BOULE) = "prepared the bills to be voted on by the assembly; enforced Assembly decisions"; the Council of 500 had subcommittees "that handled finances and maintained religious rites"

Today, most democracies are representative democracies, which means that citizens elect others to represent them in government. These representatives make decisions and pass laws on behalf of all the people."(quoted from our textbook)



**STOP! FILL IN YOUR EVIDENCE SHEET (paper)**  
**Come see me when you finish this activity!**