

Name:

Core:

ACTIVITY 1

CULTURE OF SPARTA



CLOSE READING:

- ❑ Step #1: Read the passage below about the culture of Sparta
- ❑ Step #2: As you are reading, highlight THREE facts.
- ❑ Step #3: Watch the video clip: Click [Here](#) to learn more about life as a Spartan

Because Sparta based its power on military strength, Spartans spent little time focusing on arts and culture. From birth, Spartan citizens were raised to become soldiers. When a boy was born, he was brought before a council of elders who examined him to ensure he was healthy. If the boy was determined to be healthy, he was returned to his parents until the age of 7. If the council decided the child was not healthy in some way, the baby was taken away from his parents and left to die. Spartans believed this practice would strengthen their society by ensuring that only the strongest members survived. Spartan culture was also centered on loyalty to the state and military service. At age 7, Spartan boys entered an intense army education, military training program. Known as the Agoge, the system emphasized duty, discipline and endurance.



STOP! FILL IN YOUR EVIDENCE SHEET (paper)

To become a Spartan Soldier took 13 years of training! Watch this quick clip to examine how the culture of Sparta was influenced by their military.

[WATCH HERE!](#)

ANSWER: Was Sparta worth dying for?

ACTIVITY 2

CITIZEN ROLES IN SPARTA



CLOSE READING:

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

Men	Spartan men maintained power in government affairs. The men spent much of their time training for and fighting in wars. Their role in Sparta was to protect the civilization and make run the government. Only men born in Sparta were CITIZENS (social class).
Women	Women played an important role in Spartan society. Spartan women were expected to run the household and handle the daily business when the men were unable to. Although Spartan women were not active in the military, they were educated and enjoyed more status and freedom than other Greek women. Women were allowed to own land and businesses. Women were considered NON-CITIZENS (social class).
Non-Citizens	Non-citizens were women, people who came from other city-states or other countries. They could own businesses but not become citizens.
Slaves	The helots, Sparta's enslaved class, also played an integral role in society. While the men and women were training for war, the helots carried out the daily work of the city-state. They made the goods, farmed the land, and conducted the limited trade that Sparta had with other city-states. Because Spartan men were professional soldiers, all manual labor was done by a slave class. SLAVES were a social class.



STOP! FILL IN YOUR EVIDENCE SHEET (paper)

Directions: Answer the following questions using the information learned.

Which social class was most important to Sparta?
[Men, women, or slaves?] Why?

Do you think the men ever worried about the slaves rebelling against them? Why or why not?

ACTIVITY 3

EDUCATION IN SPARTA



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

When boys reached the age of 7, they left their families and moved into the barracks—military housing—to begin their training as soldiers. They remained in training until age 20, at which time they became members of the Spartan army. They were allowed to marry after they turned 18, but they were not allowed to live with their wives until they turned 30.

GIRLS

Girls were given an education in both academics and athletics. They stayed home and were instructed by their mothers in how to keep a home and raise children while the boys joined the military. However, some Spartan women were also trained in military techniques, to be able to defend Sparta should enemy's attack while the men were away. Additionally, women performed many exercises to become and stay strong, because Spartans believed strong women produced strong children.

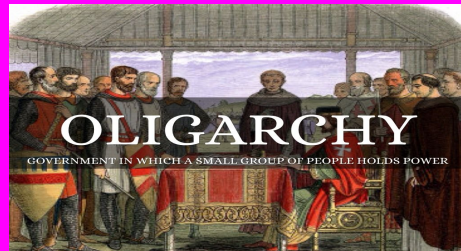


STOP! FILL IN YOUR EVIDENCE SHEET (paper)

1. How is life in sparta different for boys and girls? EXPLAIN
2. Would you have preferred to be a boy or girl in sparta? EXPLAIN.
3. How do you think it felt as a Spartan boy at age 7 to be forced to leave your home? EXPLAIN.

ACTIVITY 4

GOVERNMENT IN SPARTA



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.

Sparta's government was a **military oligarchy**. A military oligarchy is a government in which the military controls the people. Sparta was ruled by two kings, who also served as military leaders. The Spartan government was divided into two bodies:

● **THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS**

- The Spartan council consisted of 28 men, selected by the assembly from an eligible group of citizens who were at least 60 years old.
- The two kings headed the Council of Elders.
- The elders served on the council for life.
- The council submitted all business for the assembly to consider and had ultimate judicial power.
- It was the only Spartan court that could pronounce the death sentence or recommend exile.

● **THE ASSEMBLY.**

- The Assembly "included all male citizens over the age of 30...they made decisions about war and peace". The Assembly was the final authority on all decisions; however, in practice, the assembly only approved decisions already made by the Council.
- The Assembly elected five "ephors, who were responsible for the day-to-day operation of the government. They made sure the kings and the council acted within the limits of Spartan law. (They) could remove a king who broke the law".

The large class of enslaved people, known as helots, that lived in Sparta were not considered citizens and could not participate in government.

- The helots were people who had been conquered by the Spartans.
- Helots outnumbered the Spartans, which made the Spartans continuously afraid the helots would rise up against them in revolt.
- Any suspected slave leaders were quickly killed to prevent unrest or rebellion.
- Despite this harsh treatment, enslaved people did have the right to marry and could eventually buy their freedom



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