

Sparta vs. Athens



Sparta

- Sparta was the greatest military power in the Greek city-states
- Spartans lived in harsh conditions, without luxuries, to make them tough fighters.
- There is much less information about the Spartans than the other Greek city-states



Spartan Education

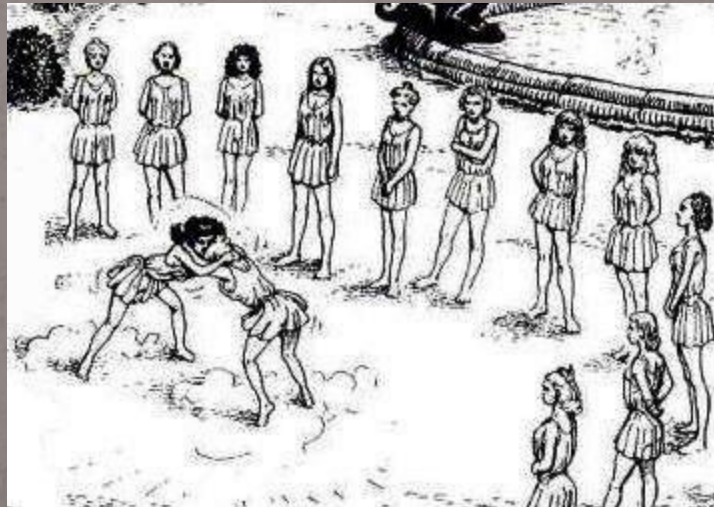
- Physical training and fitness was considered to be an important part of a Spartan child's education. Girls did not fight in wars but they took part in physical activities because Spartans believed fit and strong women would have healthy babies that would be good soldiers. Boys went to live at an army barracks at the age of 7.
- Historical accounts tell of Spartan boys as being allowed no shoes, very few clothes, and being taught to take pride in enduring pain and hardship

Spartan Education

- At age 20, Spartan men had to pass a series of tests of physical and leadership abilities. Those that passed became members of the Spartan military, and lived in barracks with the other soldiers.
- They were allowed to take a wife, but they weren't allowed to live with her. At age 30, they became full citizens of Sparta, provided they had served honorably. They were required to continue serving the military, however, until age 60

Spartan Education

- Somewhat ironically, women in Sparta had much more independence than women in other city-states, partially because their husbands never lived at home, and partially because Spartans had tremendous respect for Spartan mothers.



Spartan Government

- Sparta had its own system of government which was very different from the other city states. Rule was shared between two kings and the an assembly.
- It was considered an oligarchy. Sparta 's government never went beyond this.

Spartan Classes

- Spartans were either Perioeci (citizens who paid taxes, served in the army and were protected by Spartan laws) or Helots (people from lands conquered and ruled by Sparta)
- The top class or “true Spartans” ruled and were the wealthiest
- The middle class was made of merchants and businessmen
- The largest class was that of the Helots

Helots

- Spartan citizens were given land which was farmed for them by the Helots.
- The Helots were treated as serfs (slaves) and had to give half their crops to their Spartan master.



Athens

- Athens was known for its large contributions to Western Civilization
- Unlike Sparta, Athens was not a city-state for war it was one which valued philosophy, equality, and the arts



Athens Education

- The primary purpose of Athenian education was to produce thinkers, people well-trained in arts and sciences, people prepared for peace or war.
- Young Athenian boys were tutored at home until the age of six or seven, and then they were sent to neighborhood schools for primary education until they were 14 years of age.
- These schools were usually private schools, but tuition costs were low enough that even most poor Athenians could afford to send their boys to school for at least a few years

Athenian Education

- During primary school, younger boys learned how to play ball games, while older boys were taught more military-type activities, such as running, boxing, and wrestling.
- All Athenian boys were expected to read heavily, because literature played a very important part in their education. The national epic poems, Homer's *Illiad* and *Odyssey*, were mandatory teaching in all Athenian elementary schools.

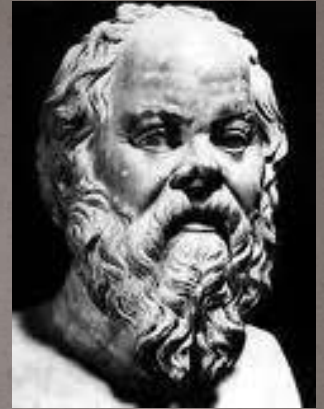
Athenian Education

- The boys were also taught how to play the lyre, sing, and do arithmetic. The emphasis of Athenian education was to prepare well-rounded citizens capable of performing whatever task was asked of them
- Athenian girls were not officially schooled, however. They were allowed to learn in the privacy of their own homes, but as a result, most Athenian women had primarily domestic educations

Athenian Wisdom

- Athens created philosophers which literally mean lovers of wisdom
- Philosophers began to question the mythology. Some like Xenophanes began to reject the old beliefs
- Instead “man was the measure of all things”
 - Truth of the world had to be explained by human reason and intellect

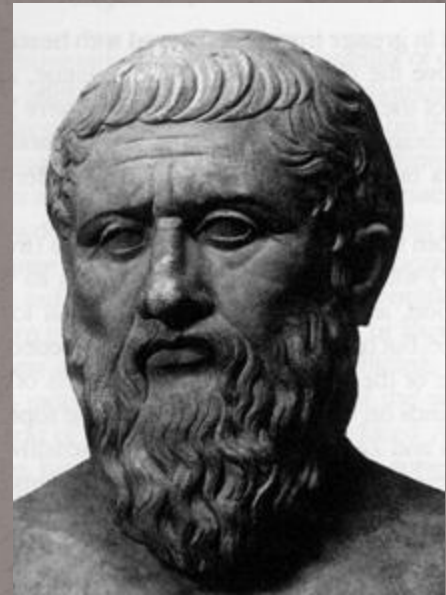
Socrates



- Insisted that morality was part of philosophy
- He emphasized asking questions, and having his students examine their own beliefs
- The Athenians thought he caused too much trouble by having his students question the gods
- The Athenians gave him the option between exile or death. He chose to take his own life by drinking hemlock, a poison

Plato

- Socrates inspired Plato, one of his students.
- Wrote more than 30 works of his philosophy called Dialogues
- He recognized that the invisible things in nature all had order and purpose
- (Closer to Christianity)



Aristotle

- Taught by Plato
- Also recognized order and purpose in the universe
- He concluded that there must be a superhuman, thinking being called God who gave that order

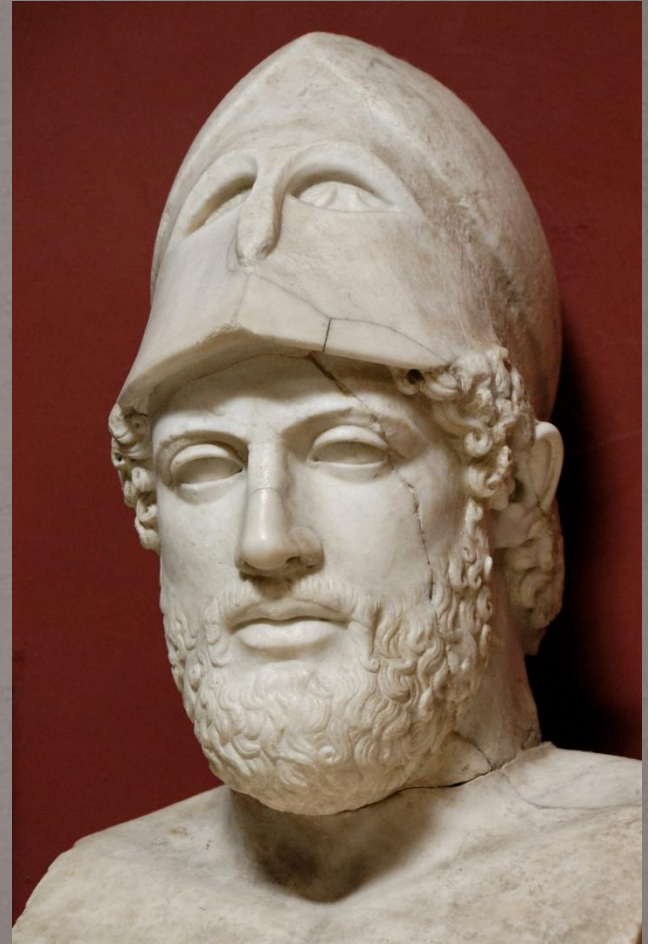


Athenian government

- Athens' government frequently changed. The move towards democracy started with Solon
- He was an aristocrat who introduced democratic principles to Athenian government
- His laws gave all free adult males the right to participate in the assembly
- The assembly voted on new legislation and other major decisions

Pericles

- An aristocrat who brought democracy to its full measure
- He made it possible for the poor to still be politically active
- He asked for fees to be paid for those who serviced politically



Pericles

- He was an excellent orator, or speaker. That was something that was greatly valued in Athenian society.
- He encouraged patriotism by stressing the unique freedom that Athens had



Pericles

- Freedom to:
 - Have a say in public business
 - Live a private life without interferences
 - Rise, by one's own merits, from poverty and obscurity to renown and wealth
- Athenians used their freedom to freely:
 - Obeyed the laws and authorities
 - Refrained from injuring one another
 - Displayed valor to defend their city

Athenian Rights

- In Athens, all adult free males could assemble, speak, listen to speeches, and then make decisions for the city



Athenian Government

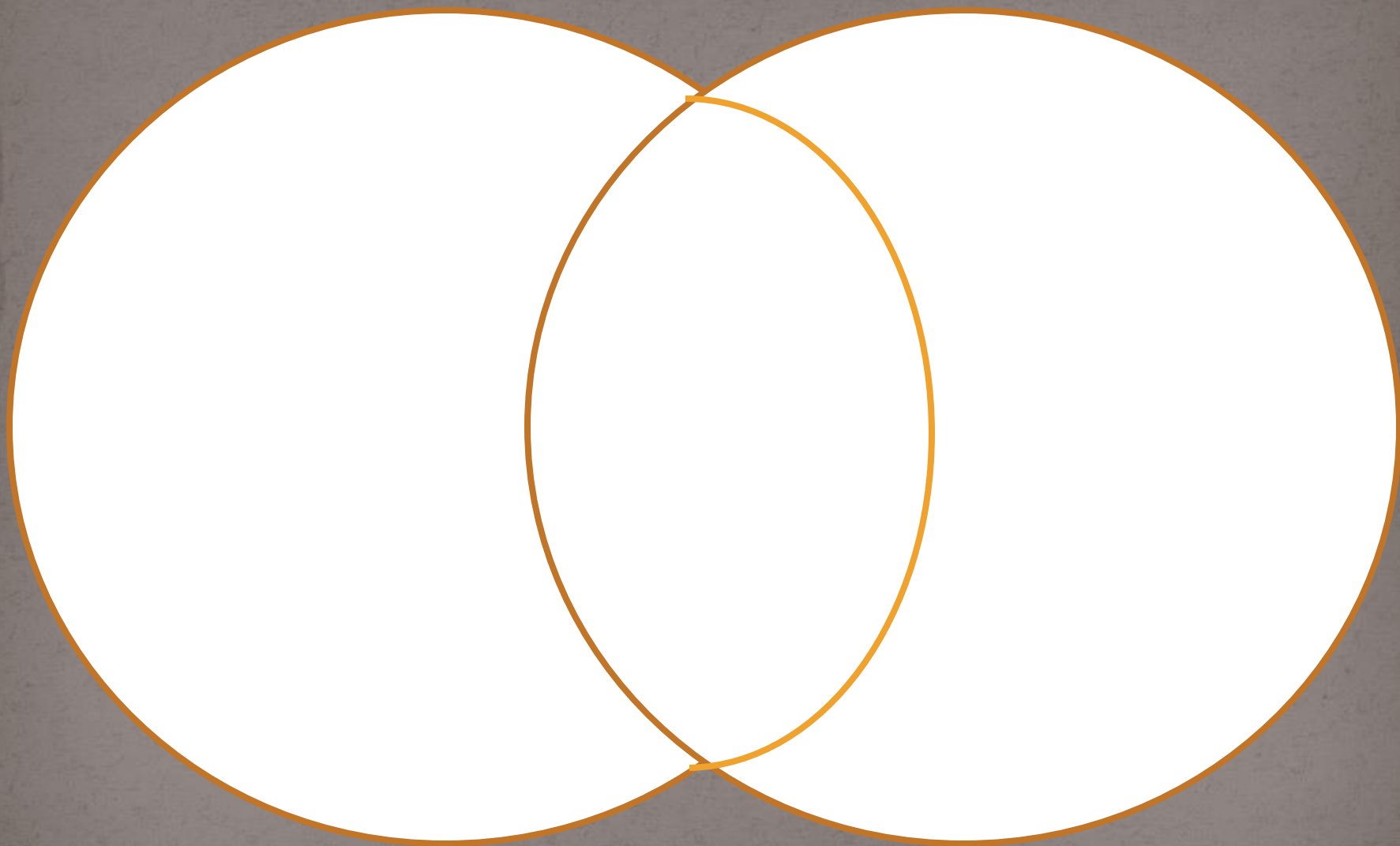
- Today we have representative democracy: the people elect representatives to make the big decisions in government
- In Athens they had direct democracy: the people themselves made the big decisions directly

Athenian Army

- **Athenian soldiers** were required to serve two years in the military. After the first year, they were given a sword and a shield with the state's emblem on it. Although they served only two years, they could be called at any moment up to age sixty.
- The army consisted of horsemen and *hoplites* (footsoldiers.) They were armed with swords, shields, and extremely long lances.

Compare and Contrast

- Now that you know more about Athens and Sparta- fill in your Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the two city-states.
- Remember their commonalities from previous power points



The Peloponnesian War

- Greece became split between Sparta and Athens
- Sparta was oligarchic and led the Peloponnesian League
- Athens was democratic and had an empire over parts of Greece

- War began in 431 BC and lasted until 404 BC
- Sparta started the war but Pericles was eager to fight as well



The Peloponnesian War

- Athens had the advantage of money and a navy
- Sparta had the advantage of land power
- Pericles persuaded the Athenians to let the Spartans come to them and they would fight from behind their city walls
- This may have worked but a terrible plague infected the city and killed Pericles and many others
- Peace was made in 421 BC

The Peloponnesian War

- Peace was brief. New Athenian leadership went to conquer new colonies for a new source of wealth and manpower
- But soon Athens' allies began to abandon her
- Sparta formed an alliance with Persia
- The Athenians were caught off guard and destroyed. They surrendered in 404 BC

Results

- The war brought nothing new to the Greek city-states
- Sparta's leadership was worse than Athens's had been
- In 371 BC Thebes beat Sparta and the other Greek city-states claimed and remained independent