

City-States: Athens and Sparta

Week 6 • Tuesday • Athens and Sparta

Reading Time

Because tall mountains separated the Greeks from each other, Greece never became one big kingdom. Instead, each city ruled itself, like a tiny country. These were called **city-states**. Each had its own leaders, its own army, and even its own coins!

The most famous city-state was **Athens**. Athenians loved learning, art, and new ideas. They built beautiful temples, like the Parthenon on a hill called the Acropolis, and they let citizens vote on the laws.

Another famous city-state was **Sparta**. Spartans cared most about being strong soldiers. Spartan kids began tough training at age seven! Athens and Sparta were rivals, but when danger came from outside, the Greek city-states sometimes joined together to defend their land.

Reading Questions

1. What is a city-state?

2. What did Athens love most?

3. How was Sparta different from Athens?

Athens or Sparta?

Write ATHENS or SPARTA next to each clue.

Clue	Athens or Sparta?
Loved art, learning, and new ideas	
Kids started soldier training at age seven	
Built the Parthenon on the Acropolis	
Cared most about strong warriors	
Citizens voted on the laws	

Fill in the Blanks

city-states

mountains

Athens

Sparta

army

1. Greek cities that ruled themselves were called _____.

2. Tall _____ kept the Greek cities separated.

3. _____ was famous for learning and art.

4. _____ was famous for tough soldiers.

5. Each city-state had its own leaders and its own _____.

Show What You Think

1. Would you rather live in Athens or Sparta? Give two reasons.

2. Why do you think the mountains kept Greece from becoming one kingdom?

Draw It!

Draw two pictures: a scene from Athens (left) and a scene from Sparta (right).

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