

Leaders for the Republic

Examine how Greek and Roman leaders served their communities.

SS.6.CG.1.4 "Examine examples of civic leadership and virtue in ancient Greece and ancient Rome."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions or ideas that show civic leadership or civic virtue. Circle details that show limits on who could participate in public life.

Serving the Community

- ① In ancient Greece, civic leadership meant helping the polis, or city-state, work for its citizens. Athens faced serious debt and conflict between wealthy landowners and poor farmers. Around 594 BCE, the Athenians chose Solon to make reforms. He canceled many debt burdens and ended debt slavery for Athenian citizens. Solon also gave more citizens a role in courts and the Assembly. His choices did not create full equality, since women, enslaved people, and foreigners were excluded. Still, he tried to reduce conflict through laws rather than force.
- ② Another Athenian leader, Pericles, spoke in support of citizen participation during the fifth century BCE. He guided Athens while it built public projects, including the Parthenon, and while it fought in the Peloponnesian War. Pericles argued that citizens should take part in public affairs instead of caring only about private life. This idea shows civic virtue, the habit of putting the community's needs first. Yet Athenian democracy was limited: only adult male citizens could vote or hold many public offices.
- ③ In ancient Rome, citizens admired leaders who served the republic, a government without a king. According to Roman tradition, Cincinnatus left his farm during a military emergency in 458 BCE. Romans made him dictator, an office with temporary emergency powers. After leading Roman forces to safety, he gave up power and returned to his farm instead of keeping control. Romans remembered this story as an example of civic virtue because Cincinnatus placed the republic above personal ambition. Like Solon and Pericles, his example also raises a question: which people could participate fully in public life?

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Solon's reforms show civic leadership? Name one problem he addressed and one action he took.

2 What did Pericles believe citizens should do? What limit on participation in Athens does the passage name?

3 Why did Romans view Cincinnatus as an example of civic virtue? Use one action from the passage as evidence.

4 Name one similarity in civic leadership between any two leaders in the passage. Support your answer with details.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two leaders from the passage. Write four sentences that make a claim about which leader gives the strongest example of civic leadership or civic virtue, using details about both leaders to support your claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline actions or ideas that show civic leadership or civic virtue. Circle details that show limits on who could participate in public life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Solon's reforms show civic leadership? Name one problem he addressed and one action he took.	Solon addressed debt and conflict between wealthy landowners and poor farmers. He canceled many debt burdens, ended debt slavery for Athenian citizens, and gave more citizens roles in courts and the Assembly.
2	What did Pericles believe citizens should do? What limit on participation in Athens does the passage name?	Pericles believed citizens should take part in public affairs. Only adult male citizens could vote or hold many public offices.
3	Why did Romans view Cincinnatus as an example of civic virtue? Use one action from the passage as evidence.	He accepted temporary power during an emergency, led Roman forces to safety, then gave up power and returned to his farm instead of keeping control.
4	Name one similarity in civic leadership between any two leaders in the passage. Support your answer with details.	Answers will vary. For example, Solon and Cincinnatus both put their communities before personal gain: Solon used reforms to reduce conflict, and Cincinnatus gave up power after the emergency.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Solon offers the strongest example of civic leadership because he used laws to address a conflict that affected many Athenians. He canceled many debt burdens and ended debt slavery for Athenian citizens. Cincinnatus also served his community when he led Roman forces during an emergency. However, Solon's reforms changed civic rules, so his leadership had a broader effect on the city-state.

Accept claims supported by accurate passage details about two leaders. Students may choose Solon, Pericles, or Cincinnatus as the strongest example if they explain their reasoning and use evidence.