

Two Greek Cities

Compare how Athens and Sparta organized life for different groups.

SS.6.W.3.3 "Compare life in Athens and Sparta (e.g., government and the status of citizens, women and children, foreigners, helots)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details about Athens and circle three details about Sparta. Put a star beside one pair of details that shows an important difference between the city-states.

Life in Athens and Sparta

- ① In Athens, citizens could take part in a direct democracy. Adult men born to Athenian citizen parents could attend the Assembly, debate proposals, and vote on laws and war. Some citizens also served on juries or were chosen for public offices. This political role did not belong to everyone who lived in Athens. Women, children, enslaved people, and foreign residents could not vote. Foreign residents, called metics, often worked as traders or craftspeople. They paid taxes and could serve in the army, but they were not citizens.
- ② Sparta was governed by a small group rather than by a citizen assembly with broad power. Two kings led armies, while a council of elders and elected officials helped make decisions. Spartan male citizens trained as soldiers and had political rights, but their lives centered on military service. Boys left home around age seven for the agoge, a demanding state training system. Spartan women had more freedom than Athenian women in some ways. They could own property and were expected to manage households while men trained or fought.
- ③ Sparta depended on helots, people forced to farm the land and provide labor for Spartan citizens. Helots were not citizens and faced harsh control. Sparta also limited the presence of foreigners because leaders feared outside ideas and wanted tight control. Athens relied on enslaved workers too, but metics could live and work there under legal limits. Both city-states separated citizens from other residents. Yet Athens gave its male citizens a larger role in public voting, while Sparta organized citizens around military duty.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the role of male citizens in Athens differ from the role of male citizens in Sparta?

2 Compare the lives of women and boys in Sparta with their status or opportunities in Athens.

3 How were foreigners treated differently in Athens and Sparta?

4 What were helots, and why were they important to Spartan society?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum caption comparing life in Athens and Sparta. Include one difference in government and two differences in the lives of groups such as women, children, foreigners, or helots.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details about Athens and circle three details about Sparta. Put a star beside one pair of details that shows an important difference between the city-states. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the role of male citizens in Athens differ from the role of male citizens in Sparta?	Athenian male citizens could debate and vote in the Assembly and serve on juries or in offices. Spartan male citizens had political rights, but their lives centered on military service.
2	Compare the lives of women and boys in Sparta with their status or opportunities in Athens.	Spartan women could own property and manage households, giving them more freedom in some ways than Athenian women. Spartan boys entered the agoge around age seven, while Athenian women and children could not vote.
3	How were foreigners treated differently in Athens and Sparta?	Athens allowed metics to live and work as traders or craftspeople under legal limits, although they were not citizens. Sparta limited foreigners because its leaders feared outside ideas and wanted tight control.
4	What were helots, and why were they important to Spartan society?	Helots were people forced to farm and provide labor for Spartan citizens. Their labor supported Spartan society, while Spartan citizens focused on military service.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Athens and Sparta were Greek city-states with very different ways of life. In Athens, male citizens could vote directly in the Assembly. In Sparta, a small group of leaders governed, and male citizens focused on military service. Spartan women could own property, while Athenian women could not vote. Athens allowed metics to work under legal limits, but Sparta tightly restricted foreigners and depended on helots for labor.

Accept clear comparisons supported by accurate passage details. For the open response, require a government difference and two accurate comparisons about the status or experiences of different groups.