Sparta and Athens
ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

HOW WERE THE CITY STATES OF SPARTA AND ATHENS SIMILAR AND HOW WERE THEY DIFFERENT?
Sparta was located in a FERTILE plain on the Peloponnesus.

It was inland from the sea and other city-states.

It became one of the most POWERFUL city-states on the Peloponnesus.

The Spartans were descendents of the DORIANS.

They forced the people they conquered to be HELOTS, meaning slave like warriors.
The helot population was huge, sometimes there were **SEVEN** slaves to every one Spartan citizen.

The Spartans constantly feared an uprising, so they increased their military strength.

Sparta’s government was **UNIQUE**.

During times of war they had two kings who ruled, each from a different royal family.

In peace times, they had an **OLIGARCHY** composed of 30 men over 60 years old called elders.

They proposed new laws to an **ASSEMBLY**.
The assembly was made up of adult male **CITIZENS**. They mostly approved laws and elected landowners to handle day-to-day things. The assembly was important, but the **ELDERS** held the real power.
WHAT WAS THE GOVERNMENT OF SPARTA LIKE?
From a young age, Spartans prepared to be strong.

At age seven, boys were sent to live in training camps.

They lived and ate together.

They practiced gymnastics, **WRESTLING**, and military exercises.

They accepted hardship and were not allowed to **COMPLAIN**.

When they were 18, men began four years of military training.
Men could marry between 20 and 30, but they could not leave the training camp until they were 30.

Some men served in the military until they were 60.

The girls trained to be strong also, but not in the military.

Girls exercised daily, but their main responsibility was to raise the children.

Women in Sparta were highly respected and had more freedom than in other city-states.
Spartans were afraid that new ideas might CHANGE their way of life, so they were rarely allowed to travel beyond Sparta.

Outside trade was DISCOURAGED.

Spartans dressed plainly and ate simple meals.

Spartan today means something that is simple and highly disciplined.

Spartans were trained never to give up, they were taught to DIE rather than be defeated.
What was life like in Sparta?
Athens was totally **DIFFERENT** from Sparta

They were located on a harbor off the coast of the Aegean Sea

Athens traded with many different areas, they grew **WEALTHY** from the trade

An oligarchy replaced the monarchy in Athens in 683 B.C.

They did not have **WRITTEN** laws until 620 B.C.

A man named **DRACO** wrote them down, these first written laws were very harsh
In about 600 B.C., the farmers in Athens fell into **DEBT**

Many had to sell themselves into **SLAVERY** to survive

People in Athens became wary and distrustful of each other

In 594 B.C., a man named **SOLON** was chosen to handle the debt crisis

Solon was a respected leader, he made many reforms

- He cancelled all the debt
- He freed all the Athens who had sold themselves as slaves
- He replaced many of Draco’s laws with more **FAIR** ones
“[Lawfulness] makes all things well ordered and fitted and often puts chains on the unjust.”

-Solon-
After fixing the debt problem, Solon made it possible for more people to participate in the government. Political rights were now based on **WEALTH**, not birthright. A man’s wealth was determined by how much land he owned, as well as the resources he had. The more money a man had, the higher his **POLITICAL** position could be.
The poorest people could only attend the **ASSEMBLIES**, but if they obtained more money, they could move to a higher class.

The assembly had the responsibility to pass laws, elect leaders, and decide court cases.

**MAJORITY RULE** was how cases were decided.

A council of **400** were randomly chosen each year, these guys got to decide what the assembly could talk about.
HOW DID ATHENS CHANGE ITS GOVERNMENT?
Education was extremely important in Athens
  • Students learned good MORALS from fables by Aesop
  From ages 7 to 14, Athenian BOYS were in school
    • They studied reading, writing, arithmetic, art, physical education, poetry, and music.
  • WEALTHY families could continue their child’s education after 14, but most just learned the trade their father did
“No kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted”

-Aesop-
Girls studied these same subjects, only at HOME, they also learned household skills and chores.

One THIRD of the people in Athens were slaves

Most people in Athens were well educated, there were many doctors and teachers

Slaves and women could not VOTE, neither could they participate in the assembly or serve on juries.
WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE IN ATHENS?
Greece began to face a huge threat from the east around 500 B.C., this threat was PERSIA.

Cyrus II founded the Persian Empire in 539 B.C., he conquered much of Asia Minor and the Babylonian Empire.

The next leaders made the Empire even LARGER, Darius I made it the largest it had ever been.

They built a road more than 1,500 miles long to connect the empire.

The Persians conquered Asia Minor and obtained control of several Greek CITY-STATES there, they liked what they saw, and wanted more.....
Greece did not want to be conquered by others, they knew that alone they would not stand a chance, they needed to **UNITE**.

Sparta, the largest and strongest city-state, created a group of allies called the **PELOPONNESIAN LEAGUE**.

United at last, the city-states might have a chance against the Persians.....
HOW DID GREECE RESPOND TO PERSIA'S THREAT?
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HOW WERE THE CITY STATES OF SPARTA AND ATHENS SIMILAR AND HOW WERE THEY DIFFERENT?
The City-States

Athens and Sparta 5 min
The End...?