

# 5.2

## **The Greek City-States**



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Understand how geography influenced the Greek city-states.
- Explain how democracy and other forms of government developed in Ancient Greece.
- Describe the influence of Ancient Greek concepts related to the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- Identify the culture and values shared by Ancient Greeks.
- Summarize how the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars affected Greece.

# The Shape of Greece

The Greeks lived in valleys & islands in city-states separated by mountains & water

Greeks became experienced traders of the sea, adapting knowledge gained from other civilizations

They built **Polis**, city-states built on two levels, & **acropolis**, high city with marble temples to the gods.

Populations of each city was small for **citizens**, free **residents**, to enjoy a sense of responsibility

# Types of Government Emerge

**Monarchy-** Rule by a king or queen which control central powers. Eventually power focuses to noble landowners

**Aristocracy-** Rule by a landholding elite. Eventually merchants, farmers, & artisans take control

**Oligarchy-** Power by a small, wealthy elite

# New Military Methods

About 650 B.C. iron weapons replace bronze weapons. Ordinary citizens could afford weaponry.

**Phalanx-** New method of warfare that created a massive tactical formation of armed foot soldiers.

New military training created a strong sense of unity in citizens

This reduced class differences in Greece due to ordinary people on the defenses



# **SPARTA!!!!**

**Dorian invaders of the north who eventually build the city-state of *Sparta*.**

**Spartans kept state-owned slaves called Helots & had to set up military rule to control them**

**Sparta trains children from newborns to prepare for military state**

**Sickly children were abandoned to die, Sparta needed healthy children & women to create soldiers**

# **Sparta Men & Women**

**Men were sent to train in the barracks at age 7 to become a hardened soldier.**

**At age 20 men could marry, but still had to train in the barracks & eventually for the assembly.**

**Women were also required to exercise & strengthen themselves to produce strong children**

**Women had to obey fathers & husband, but could inherit property & run the estate during war**

# **Sparta Citizenship**

**People had to be a descendant of the Dorians to be a Spartan. They owned land but did not work it.**

**Noncitizens had very few rights & could be expelled by Spartan government**

**Sparta isolated themselves from Greece & looked down on trade & travel**

**“Spartans are willing to die for their city because they have no reason to live.”**



# Democracy in Athens!

**Athens-** located in Attica & was a major city-state in Greece

Athenians would begin to fight against aristocratic rulers, eventually turning to **democracy**, or rule by people.

Solon was appointed chief official & reformed Athens. He outlawed debt slavery & gave Athenians more decisions in the assembly.

Citizens remained limited in what they could do leading to the rise of **Tyrants**, people who gain power by force

# **Power & Wealth in Greece**

**The tyrant Pisistratus seizes power in 546 B.C.  
Gives loans to farmers & gives citizens a  
voice**

**507 B.C. Cleisthenes sets up a council of citizens  
who supervise day-to-day work of  
Government**

**Thus creates the legislature-law making body,  
people debate laws before deciding to  
approve or reject them.**

**Equal participation becomes important based  
upon certain qualifications for citizens**

# Democracy with Limits

**Citizenship meant responsibility to serve in government & fight as soldiers when needed**

**Women had no political life & were seen as “imperfect beings who lacked the ability to reason with men.**

**Men spoke for women & children & were used as characters in Greek tragedies such as *Antigone & The Clouds***

**Women ran the home & participated in religious activities while boys became educated & received military training**

# Unity in Greece

Greeks were polytheistic & believed in myths & traditions such as the god Zeus. They would hold festivals, sacrifices, plays to honor gods

Playwrights would craft stories about heroes, gods, & goddesses

The Greeks would invent the Olympic games.  
The Greeks would call truces to take part in the competitions

Greeks viewed non-greeks as *barbaroi* or Barbarians.



# Persian Wars

**While Greek was small & divided, they resented the Persian Empire**

**The Persians had a HUGE empire from Asia to India. Conflict led to wars that lasted for half a century.**

**Battle at Marathon- Persian emperor Darius I tries to punish Athens for an uprising in Ionia.**

**Persian archers no match for Athenian foot soldiers & retreat. Themistocles (Athenian ruler) urges Athens to prepare for future conflict.**

# Persian Wars

**Xerxes (480 B.C.) sends in Persian empire to conquer Greece. They land in northern Greece only to find...**

**A small band of Spartans guarding Thermopylae under the rule of King Leonidas.**

**Persia defeats them & burns down Athens, but the people have already fled.**

**Athens lures Persian fleet to the strait of Salamis, sinking the fleet & defeating Xerxes**

# Pericles, Democracy, & War

Athens forms an **alliance**, formal agreement between two nations to cooperate, with other Greek city-states

**Pericles**, a Greek states-man, turns the government toward democracy & Greece thrives

He believed that all citizens, regardless of wealth or class, should take part in government

He institutes a **stipend, fixed salary**, to those who participated in Assembly & creates a **direct democracy, system of government where citizens take part in day-to-day government.**

# Law & Culture

Athenian culture creates **The Jury**- Group of people who make legal decisions in legal cases

Athenians could also vote to banish people away in a process called **ostracism**.

Athens would eventually become the cultural center of Greece

This would lead to resentment from the rest of Greece & led to more conflict.



# **The Peloponnesian War**

**Sparta & other enemies of Athens form the Peloponnesian league & begin a 27 war with Athens**

**Athens & Sparta commit savage acts on each other & Sparta allies with Persia & capture Athens**

**Athens eventually recovers, & Sparta is defeated by Thebes.**