

● Educated Citizens ●



▲ SOCRATES

Athenians believed that a good education included reading, writing and arithmetic. But students also had to learn to play musical instruments, dance, recite poetry and develop athletic skills. Regular schooling ended when students reached 18 years of age. Those who wanted to continue their studies found philosophers like Socrates to teach them.

PLATO ▶



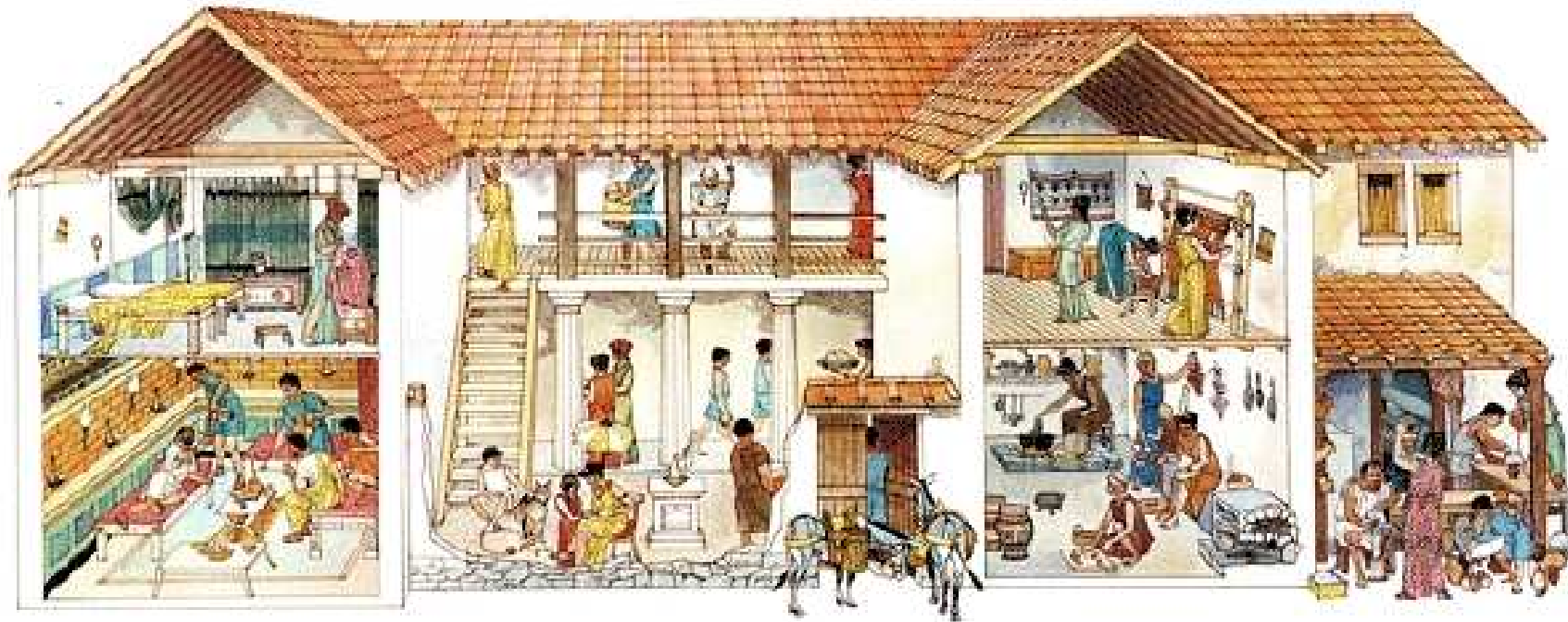
◆ The academy ◆

The philosopher Plato started the first academy. Aristotle and other teachers soon followed his example. Students at the academies practiced public speaking and discussed philosophy, politics and science.



At Home

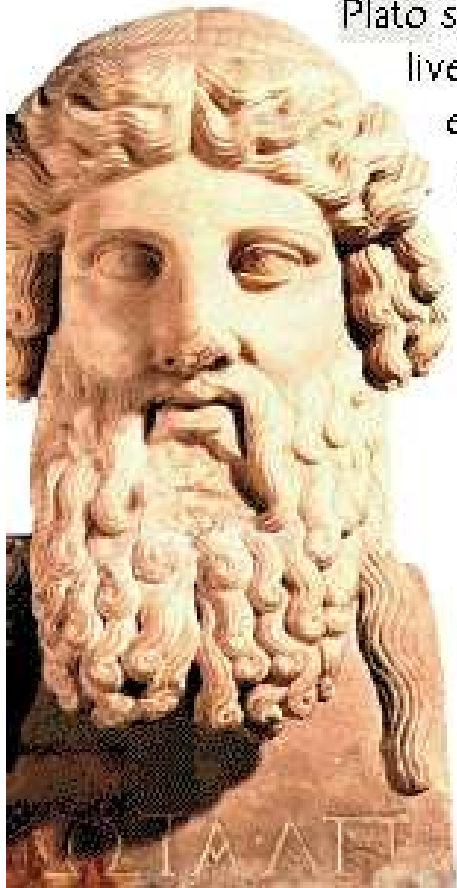
The heart of a Greek home was the courtyard. All the rooms opened onto it and the family altar was located there. Large houses in Athens were usually made of sun-dried mud bricks and had tiled roofs. The public rooms and the kitchen were downstairs, the bedrooms upstairs. A wooden staircase in the courtyard led up to the private quarters.





The Lost Land of Atlantis

Ancient legends tell of a fabulous civilization that once flourished on an island called Atlantis. Storytellers and philosophers like Plato said its people created wonderful inventions and lived in great splendour. Then, in just one night, earthquakes shook the city apart, and floods drowned Atlantis. Today, most experts think Atlantis is just a legend. But some people still search all over the world for the fabled city and the treasures they believe lie at the bottom of the ocean.



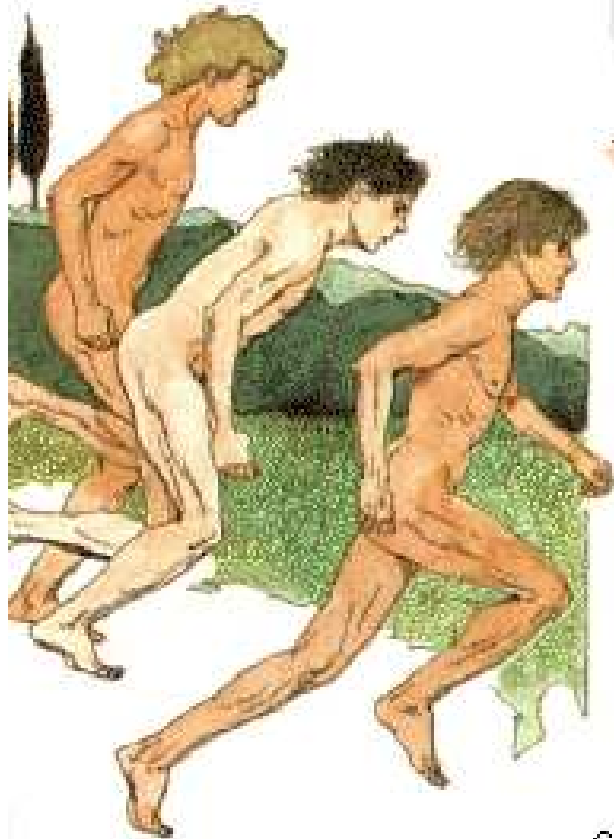
● Giving Thanks ●

The Greeks believed that Apollo and Artemis could shoot arrows that made people sick. But they also believed that Apollo had taught the art of healing to the god Asclepius. So, grateful people who had been cured of a disease often left tokens of thanks at Asclepius' temple. The tokens were shaped like the part of the body that the god had restored. Archaeologists have found many models of ears and legs in ancient temples.

ANCIENT TOKEN
OF THANKS ▶



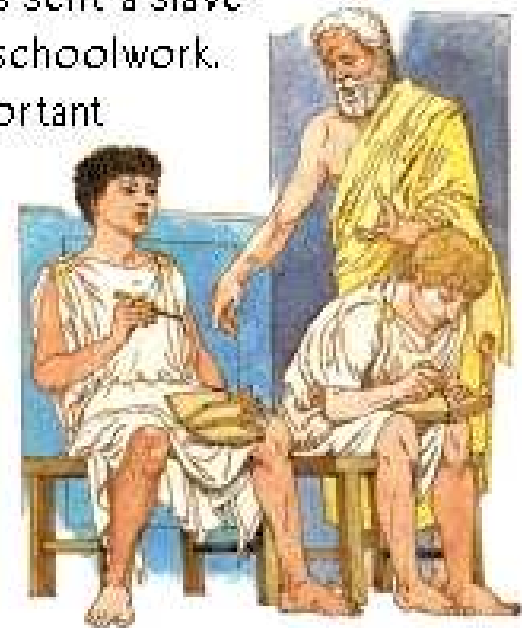
● A Greek Education ●



The Greeks believed that schools should produce educated, wise citizens to run the government. School was so important that many families sent a slave along to supervise their children's schoolwork. But a healthy body was just as important as an educated mind. So students practised sports, gymnastics and dancing.

● Written in wax ●

Greek students did not practice writing on paper, which was expensive. They wrote on wax tablets, using a pointed stylus. When they filled a tablet with writing, they could smooth out the wax and start again.



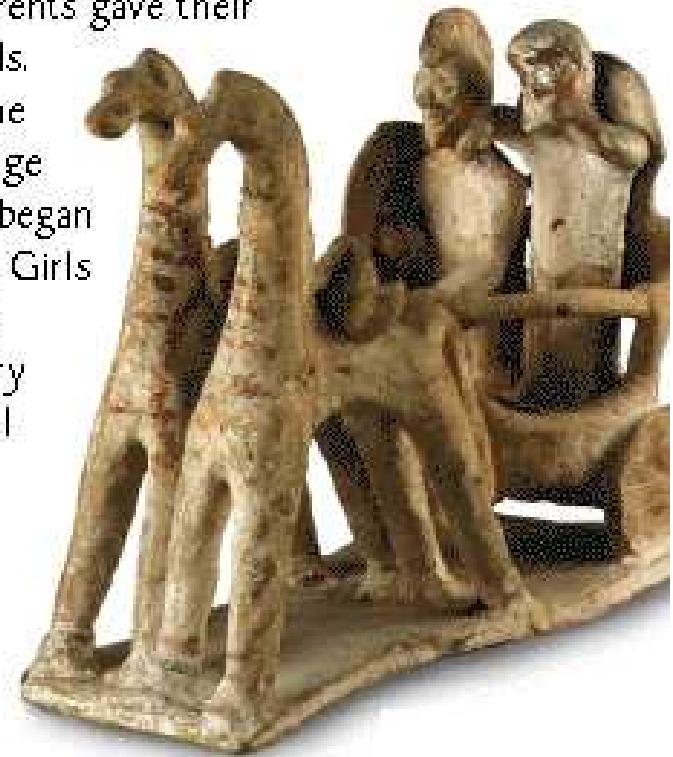


Growing Up in Greece



In ancient times life was often hard, particularly for children. Illness and injuries often cut short young lives, and those children who did grow up had to do so quickly. Parents in Athens tried to make childhood less difficult. Wealthy parents gave their children toys and sent them to good schools.

However, in the warrior society of Sparta, the story was very different. At age seven, both boys and girls began rigorous physical training. Girls remained at home, while boys went off to military barracks, where brutal instructors turned them into soldiers.



● Slaving Away ●



Many Greek families owned slaves for household chores such as cooking and cleaning. In the country, slaves were essential – they worked in the mines and grew the crops. Wealthy families had slaves to teach their children and supervise their schoolwork. These servants often were treated with respect. But most slaves probably led hard lives full of drudgery.



● What did people eat? ●

Most people in Greece lived on porridge and barley bread, with some cheese, fish, eggs, vegetables and fruit. People who were wealthy enough to have slaves also enjoyed a more varied diet, including different meats and fish.

• A Spartan Childhood •

Children grew up quickly in Sparta. All infants were examined, and sick, weak babies were abandoned in the wilderness. Boys who were judged fit enough were taken from their parents at age seven and sent to a military school. At training camp, boys were given little: poor food only, and thin clothing. They had no shoes, even in winter, and they slept on hard beds. They were encouraged to steal food to keep from starving. However, those who got caught were severely punished – not for stealing, but for being captured!



✘ A cruel contest ✘

Spartan boys were not supposed to show any emotion. They endured whipping contests to see who could suffer the most punishment without screaming. Some boys, unwilling to cry out, were beaten to death.



Sparta

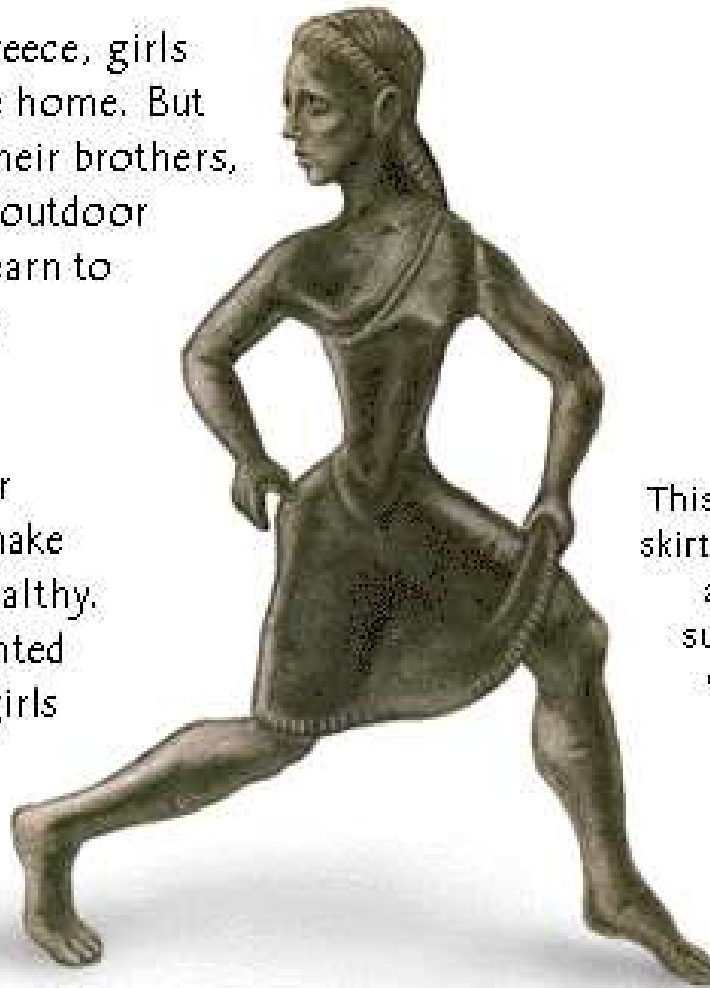


About 160 km (100 mi.) south-west of Athens, a city of philosophers and magnificent temples, lay Sparta, a land of fierce, tough warriors. Spartans lived in a rigidly controlled society, always ready for war. Every male citizen served in the army from boyhood until old age, and women were encouraged to have many children to supply Sparta with soldiers. Once, when someone asked a Spartan king why his country had no walls to protect it, the king pointed to the crowds of citizens and said, 'These are the walls of Sparta!'



● A Woman's Role ●

In most parts of Greece, girls were kept inside the home. But Spartan girls, like their brothers, were trained for an outdoor life. They did not learn to fight, but they were trained in running, wrestling, discus throwing, and other sports that would make them strong and healthy. The authorities wanted to make sure that girls would grow up to have strong, healthy babies.



In the lead

This Spartan girl's short skirt allowed her to run and move freely. But such a revealing dress would have shocked people from other parts of Greece.

Women's Work

Most women in Greece were not allowed to go out in public, except to fetch water or to visit another woman's house. Men took care of the shopping and all of the family business. They expected women to stay at home and keep the house in order. In addition to cooking and cleaning, women even had to weave all the cloth for the family's clothes and furnishings!



! An old yarn !

Much of what we know about daily life in Greece comes from scenes painted on pottery. Here, a woman spins wool into yarn with a metal shaft called a 'distaff', and a 'spindle' to twist the thread.





Women's World



From the day she was born until the day she died, a woman in ancient Greece lived under the control of men. Her father, her brother, her husband – even her sons – made decisions that affected her life. Women could not vote or hold public office, inherit or own property, or even buy anything that cost over a certain amount! Still, a Greek woman was not completely powerless. She ran the household and managed the family money. A few important men, such as Pericles, listened carefully to the women in their lives.

