

Name:

Date:

Class:

Block #:

## Brains or Brawns?

Polis- \_\_\_\_\_

### Comparing Spartan and Athenian Society

**Authoritarian rule** is a political system where power is concentrated in the hands of a very few people. The Greek philosopher Aristotle described Sparta this way; as "a kind of unlimited and perpetual generalship..." Within Sparta there existed three groups: 1) slaves, known as Helots, 2) Spartan females, who were taught to be fit and patriotic, and 3) Spartan males, who were trained to become warriors. None of these groups enjoyed a great deal of freedom. At the age of seven, boys were forced from home to live in barracks and receive military training from older boys. The Helots slaved to provide the necessary food and labor for Sparta. While women enjoyed some freedom relative to other Greek city-states, overall, free-will was very limited in Spartan society and control was often harsh and ruthless.

Describe Sparta:



**Democracy** is a political system popularized by the citizens of Athens, Greece. In 510 BC the unpopular dictator Hippias was overthrown, and all citizens were allowed to participate in Athenian governmental activities. All citizens were equal before the law, although slaves and women were not allowed citizenship. Athenians eventually abolished slavery and developed a direct democracy where citizens chose the members of the powerful Assembly. Athenian youth were encouraged to develop artistic and intellectual talents to such a degree that historians refer to this time period as Athens' "Golden Age." Citizens in Athens also had to complete military training, but Athens never exercised the same strict and brutal control over its people as Sparta.

Describe Athens:



Task #1

Quotation 1:

“The fundamental theme through all the centuries has been the principle that force and power are the determining factors. All development is struggle. Only force rules. Force is the first law. . . . Only through struggle have countries and the world become great. If one should ask whether this struggle is gruesome, then the only answer could be—for the weak, yes, for humanity as a whole, no. Instead of everlasting struggle, the world preaches cowardly, and everlasting peace. These three things, considered in the light of their ultimate consequences, are the causes of the downfall of all humanity.”

Sparta or Athens? Explain with complete sentences

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Who said it? \_\_\_\_\_

Quotation 2:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed Creator with certain undeniable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the people over whom they govern.”

Sparta or Athens? Explain with complete sentences

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Who said it? \_\_\_\_\_

Task #2

Pros of Spartan Society	Cons of Spartan Society
Pros of Athenian Society	Cons of Athenian Society