



# Sparta



# Spartan Government

- Sparta was an Oligarchy
- Council of Elders
  - Made up of two kings and 28 other men
- To be elected to the council you had to be a man, at least 60 years old and be from a noble family.
- Members were elected by who received the loudest shout.



# Council of Elders

- Held the real power in Sparta
  - Prepared laws to be voted on
  - Had the power to stop any laws passed by the Assembly if they didn't like them





# Assembly

- Made up of male citizens
- Because of its size the meetings would take place in a large outdoor area away from the center of the city





# Spartan Economy

- Based on farming and conquering other people
- Used slaves and noncitizens to produce needed goods
  - Turned conquered people into slaves called ***helots***.
  - Also used noncitizens called ***perioikoi*** to serve in the army when needed.
- Discouraged trade with its neighbors



# Spartan Education

- Purpose of education is to produce men and women to protect the city-state.
- Valued discipline and strength
- From age 7 all children were trained to fight.
- Trained in wrestling, boxing, foot racing, and gymnastics.
- Also taught to read and write





# Spartan Education

- Valued bravery
  - Boys were taught to suffer any amount of physical pain without complaining
  - Marched without shoes
  - Were not fed well and were encouraged to steal food as long as they didn't get caught
- At age 20 were tested to become soldiers
- Could not leave the barracks until age 30





# Women in Sparta

- Women lived the same simple life as men
  - Wore simple clothing
  - No jewelry, cosmetics or perfume
  - Expected to be strong and ready to fight
  - Guarded husbands belongings while he was away
- Free to speak with husbands friends
- Could own and control property





# Slaves in Sparta

- More of them than citizens
- Sometimes the government would declare war on the helots so that it could legally kill any slaves it thought might rebel.
- Helots did have some rights
  - Could marry whomever they wanted
  - Could pass their names on to their children
  - Could sell leftover crops once they gave their master his share