The Polis and Sparta
Vocabulary:

• Polis – a Greek city-state

• Acropolis – a protected (fortified) hill in Greek city-states

• Agora- ancient Greek marketplaces, a large open area in the center of the city-state
  • Agoraphobia – the fear of open areas
Vocabulary:

• Peloponnesus – Southern area of Greece

• Aristocrats – Greek nobles, members of the upper class

• Assembly – Spartan Council, passed laws and declared war and peace

• Ephors – Spartan gov’t leaders
Vocabulary:

• Council of Elders – group of Spartan citizens 60yrs or older that assisted the Ephors, suggested laws to the assembly, and served as a high court

• Helots – enslaved people that were owned by a city state

• Perioeci – merchants and artisans that worked in Spartan villages
I. Polis

• Center of Greek Life

• Consisted of farms and villages that surrounded an acropolis
  – a temple dedicated to the town god was located at the top
  – An agora, open market, area developed at the bottom of the hill
I. Polis

- City-States were not united, each had their own laws
- Citizens = any male born in Greece (5,000 – 10,000 in the average city-state)
  - Workers born outside of Greece, women, children, and slaves could NOT become citizens
  - Citizens were the only ones to vote, own land, participate in gov’t, and speak in court
  - Citizens were expected to take part in gov’t and serve in the military

“How is this similar to the United States?”
I. Polis

• Polis Honor = Personal Honor

• 2 largest Polis in Greece:
  - Sparta = Strongest Army
  - Athens = Strongest Navy
Sparta
THIS IS SPARTA!
II. Sparta

• 1st great military power in Greece

• Located in Peloponnesus around 500 BC

• Kings ruled until the Aristocrats took over and crowned 2 kings
  – Aristocrats took most of the ruling power away from the kings
  – Kings were simply military leaders
II. Sparta

• ONLY Aristocrats could be citizens in Sparta:
  – All citizens 20yrs and up were part of the assembly that would vote on the laws of the city-state
  – Ephors were chosen to lead Sparta and guide the education of young Spartans
  – Council of Elders assisted the Ephors in ruling the land
III. Aristocrats, Helots, Perioeci

- Spartans did not farm, they depended on the Helots to grow crops
  - Helots, seen as lower class
  - They were forced to give ½ of their crops to the Spartan gov’t
  - Were NOT Citizens
III. Aristocrats, Helots, Perioeci

• Spartans did not participate in business or trade, they depended on the Perioeci to make and sell them the goods they needed

  – Were not slaves as the Helots, but were NOT Citizens
  – Slightly higher status then the Helots
III. Aristocrats, Helots, Perioeci

- Helots and Perioeci did the work needed for survival, while the aristocrats trained for the military.

- Attention was not paid to trade or the arts.

- Helots and Perioeci outnumbered the Aristocrats 20 – 1.
  - The Aristocrats did not want to change and kept strict control over the 2 groups to avoid rebellion.
IV. The Spartan Way of Life

• #1 Goal become the STRONGEST people in Greece

• Babies were inspected by the elders at birth any that were sickly or weak were left to die on the mountain

• At the age of 7 boys were sent off to military school
  – Learned how to read, write, and use weapons
  – Used very harsh training conditions to make them strong
IV. The Spartan Way of Life

• Spartan men married at 20
  – They could not leave the barracks to have their own homes, had to sneak off to visit their wives
  – Age 30 they could leave the barracks, but still had to preform military service
  – Age 60 they retired from military service
IV. The Spartan Way of Life

- Spartan women were able to interact freely with men
  - These girls learned how to read and write, they also participated in sports just like the men
- Spartans were afraid of change and new ideas

- How do you think this hurt their society?
- How do you think this was helpful?
IV. The Spartan Way of Life

- Because of the resistance to change other city-states developed faster than Sparta

- SPARTA’S ONLY GOAL WAS TO BECOME THE STRONGEST ARMY IN GREECE