



# Greece: Athens & Sparta

By: Isaac Fries, Anna Leahy,  
Stuti Srivastava, Reagan Pavlish



# *Athens*



# *Geographic Influence of ancient Greece*

- ★ Southeastern Europe
- ★ Coast of Mediterranean Sea
- ★ 75% mountains
- ★ Lots of islands (1000 +)
- ★ Hot and dry summers
- ★ Mild winters
- ★ Other bodies of water near:  
Aegean Sea , the Gulf of Evoikos,  
Saronic Gulf , Gulf of Corinth.
- ★ Mountains: Mount Aigaleo to the west,  
Mount Parnitha to the north,  
Mount Pentelicus to the northeast  
and Mount Hymettus to the east.



# Politics

- The government of Athens was a direct democracy meaning Athens was ruled by citizens who vote on decisions.
- Rich & poor people could vote and hold public office
- Peloponnesian War: Athens and Sparta competed for influence in Greece & developed a strong rivalry. Once the war was over, they were both left weak and open to invasion





# Economy and Trade

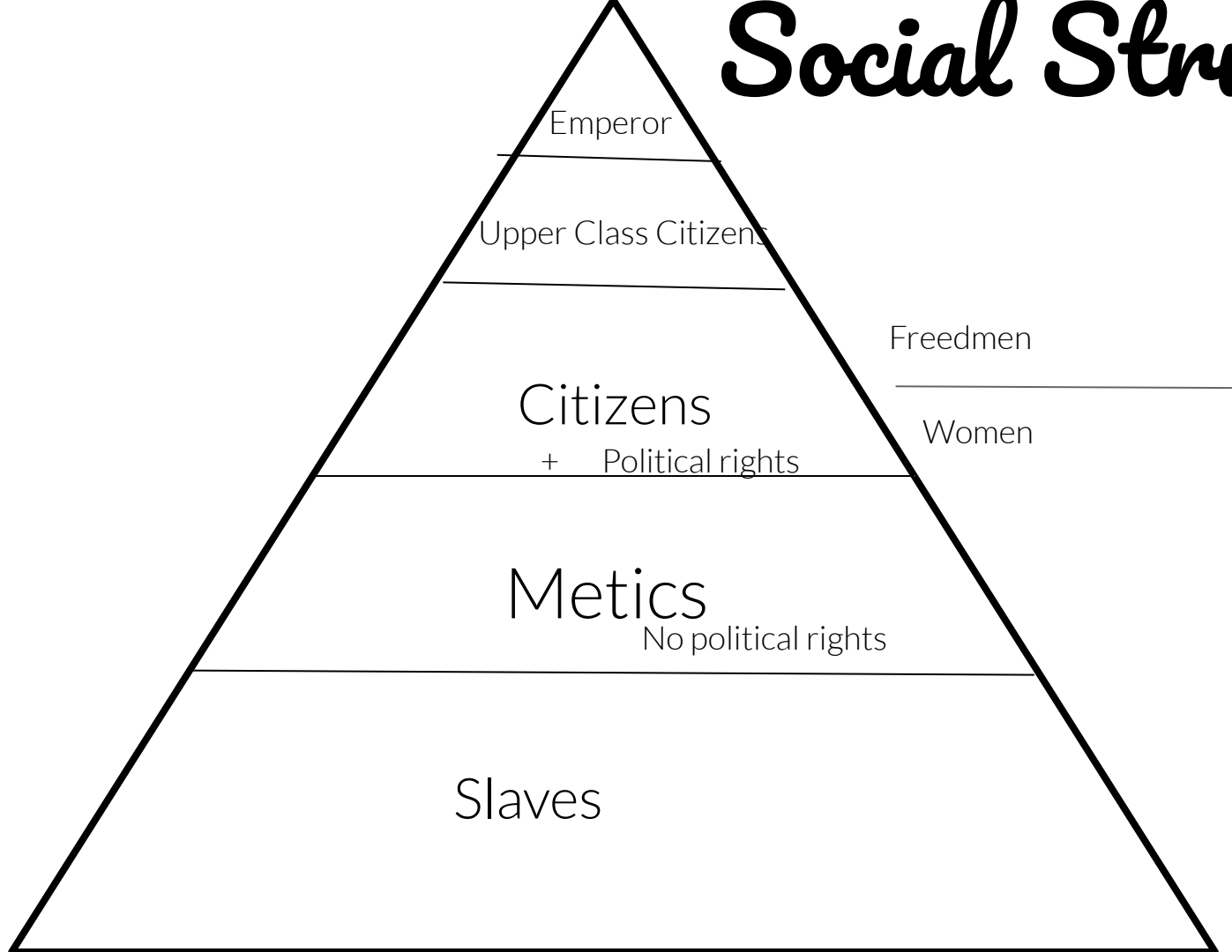
The background of the slide is a photograph of an olive grove. The trees are green and have dark, gnarled trunks. The ground is dry and sandy. A large, white, brushstroke-like graphic element is overlaid on the left side of the image, partially covering the text.

- Relied heavily on imported goods
- Traded olives, olive oil, figs, honey, meat, cheeses, and wine, and greek pottery
- Popular imports: salt fish, wheat, papyrus, wood, glass, tin, copper, and silver (metals).
- Drachma: silver coin used for currency
- Taxes imposed on the movement of goods road and transit taxes
- Taxes imposed only on wealthy men.

# Religion

- Athens was named after the Greek goddess Athena. Athena was the goddess of wisdom, war, and civilization.
- A shrine to Athena, the Parthenon, sits on top of a hill in the middle of the city.
- Athens's religion was polytheistic
- Most households had altars dedicated to different gods/goddesses
- There were also other temples in the city to other gods/goddesses

# Social Structure



# Social Structure Descriptions:

## Slaves-

- Base of social structure
- 400 B.C.: slaves  $\frac{1}{3}$  of population (estimated)
- Always poor
- No rights
- Jobs depended on education, gender, skill, etc.
- Abandon babies were turned into slaves



## Metics:

- foreigners: rich or poor
- not influential as a citizen

**No political rights**



## Citizens:

Include women and freedmen

- citizenship rights & born free
- mostly professional men
- Vote, perform gov functions

**+ Political rights**

Freedmen:

- ex-slaves (free from bondage)
- not get status as a citizen
- Both take part in government
- freedom was often purchased by a wealthy friend or relative.

Women-

- not too high
- not be citizens, unable to vote
- no right to acquire property
- marriage organized by their fathers.



## Upper Class & Emperor:

- high ranks of social hierarchy & hld positions of power
- didn't do any work themselves
- brought slaves to manage their concerns
- Very small part of society
- Very rich





# Intellectual Advancement

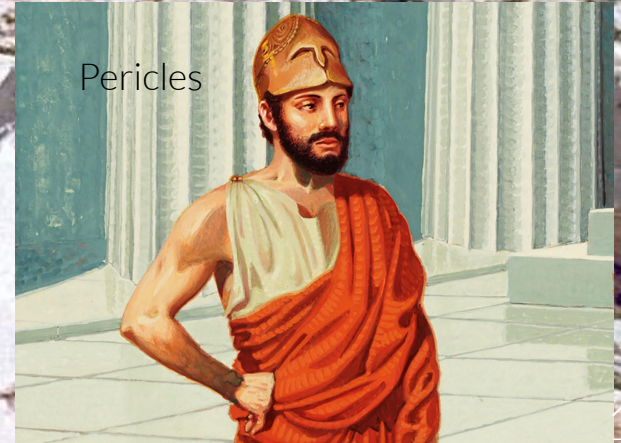
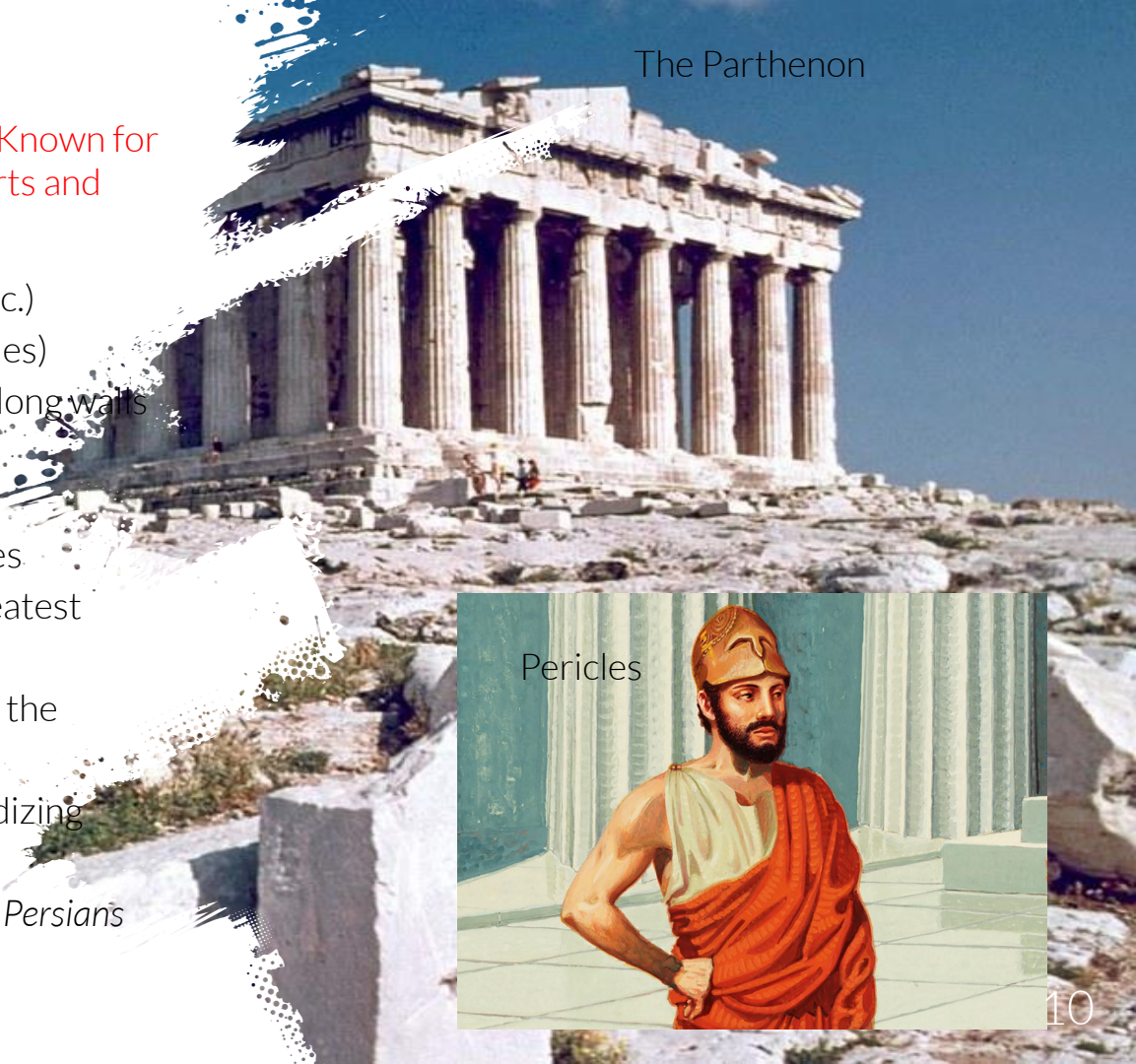
- People were either very involved in public affairs or they weren't meant to be in Athens
- While Athens was a direct democracy, citizens had the right to vote
- Plato was an Athenian philosopher who founded the Platonist school of thought
- Socrates was credited as one of the founders of Western philosophy
- Aristotle founded two schools of philosophy and is considered one of the "Fathers of Western Philosophy"

# Arts and Technology

The Parthenon

Pericles leader of Athens during Golden Age. Known for famous building projects and for flourishing arts and education around 440's and 430's

- teachings of great philosophers (Socrates, etc.)
- theater productions of playwrights (Sophocles)
- building projects: temples on acropolis, and long walls (athens to port city of Piraeus)
- built with highest standards of aesthetics, engineering, mathematics, statues, and friezes
- buildings had statues carved by the era's greatest sculptors.
- most famous building project: Parthenon on the acropolis.
- Pericles democratized the fine arts by subsidizing theater admissions for poorer citizens
- supported art + sponsored famous play *The Persians*





# Sparta



# How Sparta lived:

There are many things that contributed to the sparta lifestyle. These things include there geographical influence, politics, trade and much more. In this exhibit you will explore what life was like in sparta and what influence they had in modern society.

# Geographic Influence

Ancient Sparta was located in the southern/center of Peloponnese. This location provided an advantage from both a defensive and agricultural standpoint. Being surrounded by mountains on three sides and able to control the mountain passes other armies could passthrough made Sparta a practical fortress. The 3 mountain ranges made it difficult for any army to cross. They provided natural protection against invaders, but were also a barrier against influences from other city-states. Additionally, the rugged sea coast in the South made a sea approach unattractive.

# Politics

Spartan political system was a combination of monarchy (kings), oligarchy (Gerousia) and democracy (ephoroi, ephors). Sparta's political system developed the way it did because of Sparta's dependency on war. It led to two kings that led military activities. The council of elders made political decisions.



# Economy and trade

Sparta out of all of ancient greece city-states had a very unique economy. The economy almost entirely relied on conquering others and farming. Sice sparta in itself wasn't large enough to sustain its people they conquered neighboring regions and enslaved them into what they called helliots. Helliots produce most of the food for sparta while the perioikoi/the free men of sparta produced goods and services needed to maintain the army. No trading was done by the spartans instead there economy was purely agricultural and meant to support their armies.



# Social structure

Sparta's social structure is mainly divided into 3 classes. Even though military service was required by everyone the most powerful of these classes were the Spartiate. Spartiate could hold political power and if they were in the army they were mostly generals and led the other classes. Second to them was the perioeci. The perioeci could own land and served as the dividers between Spartiate and Helots. Helots were the lowest of the low and were practically slaves. They were treated extremely poorly and the Spartiates were even allowed to kill them if they wanted to.

# Intellectual advancement.

Sparta was not a very intellectually driven society to say the least, but they did have large technological improvements in one thing, weaponry. The spartans perfected both the greek armor and invented many new weapons. One example of this is the kopis which was a massive 25 inch sword that spartans were depicted with. The kopis was extremely lethal and had a forward curve making it look almost like an axe.



# Arts and technology

Contrary to popular belief sparta actually had a very rich and important connection to the arts. Sparta was renowned for its music and dance, with it attracting people from all over the place to come witness the festivals and celebrations they had. Only small fragments of their work has survived this long but the pieces we have found are very impressive for their time.



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