

Comparing Athens & Sparta Student Worksheet

Introduction:

When historians study ancient times, they look at many things, including everyday objects, writings, and buildings. You have already learned about life in Athens and in Sparta, but you may be wondering how historians know so much about these ancient cities in the first place. This activity will help you find out.

Note: All sites in this lesson can be found at

<http://www.socialstudies.com/ancientlinks.html>.

Directions:

You will analyze the societies of both Athens and which on Sparta. Each of you should study the sources and answer the questions for each city. When you are done, go to the end of the worksheet to read the directions about creating a Venn diagram on Athens and Sparta.

Athens

A. Go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/landmarks/ancientgreece/resource/p5.shtml> and read the page.

Answer these questions:

1. Who is Apollodorus and to whom is he speaking?
2. What is his complaint?
3. What does Apollodorus provide to the court?
4. What does this reading tell you about the rights of Athenian citizens?

B. Go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/landmarks/ancientgreece/resource/p14.shtml>, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/landmarks/ancientgreece/resource/p15.shtml> and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/landmarks/ancientgreece/resource/p18.shtml> and study the photos.

Answer these questions:

5. Describe these buildings.
6. What can you tell about the Athenians by looking at them?

C. Go to http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/athenian_const.html. Click on Section 1, scroll down to Part 9 and read the whole paragraph.

Answer this question:

7. What were the three important features of the Athenian constitution?

D. Go to <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/athens-origins.html>, scroll down to the section titled "Thucydides"

Answer these questions:

8. How was Athens founded and how did it get its name? (Hint: Attica was the larger region or countryside all around Athens.)

Sparta

A. Go to http://www.laconia.org/Sparti_ancient_city.htm and study the first 2 photos of the remains of the acropolis at Sparta.

Answer these questions:

1. Can you tell anything about the buildings from what's left?
2. Why do you think there aren't more remains of these buildings?
3. Can you conclude anything about the Spartans from the fact that their buildings have not survived?

B. Go to <http://www.csun.edu/~hcfl1004/sparta-a.html> and read the second paragraph and the last three paragraphs. (Hint: "Lycurgus" was one of the first rulers of Sparta, and "Lacedaemon" is another name for the city.)

Answer these questions:

4. What did Lycurgus believe was the purpose of marriage? How do you know?
5. Why were children educated?
6. How did Spartans treat their laws?
7. What personal quality seemed most important to Lycurgus?
8. Who was a citizen in Sparta?

C. Go to <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/xeno-sparta1.html> and read the third and the fifth paragraphs about how young men were treated in Sparta. (Hint: "want" in this document means lack or hunger.)

Answer this question:

9. What can you conclude about what life was like in Sparta?

Venn Diagram

When you've answered the assigned questions, use your answers to create a Venn diagram of the information you learned. Draw your diagram on a separate piece of paper. Put similarities between Athens and Sparta in the center, with differences on the sides.

****Venn Diagrams can be found at alvaradohistory.com, under the "Resources/Links" tab.*