

# Ancient Greece

## The Peloponnesian War



Greek Vase – Two warriors Playing a game

# Greek City-States



- Greece was made up of city-states
  - Each had their own government and economy
- Athens and Sparta were two of the greatest Greek city-states
- Sparta valued fighting and physical strength
- Athens valued intelligence and thinking
- Both city-states played important roles in Ancient Greece
  - Even though they were rivals

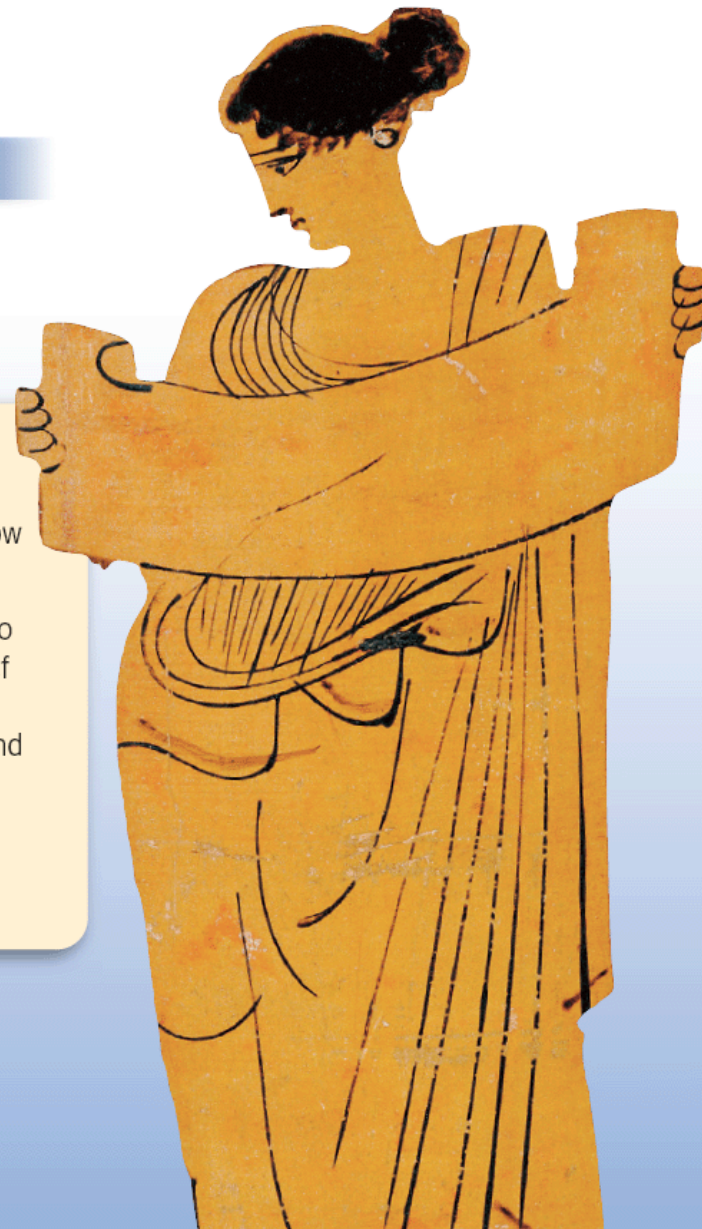
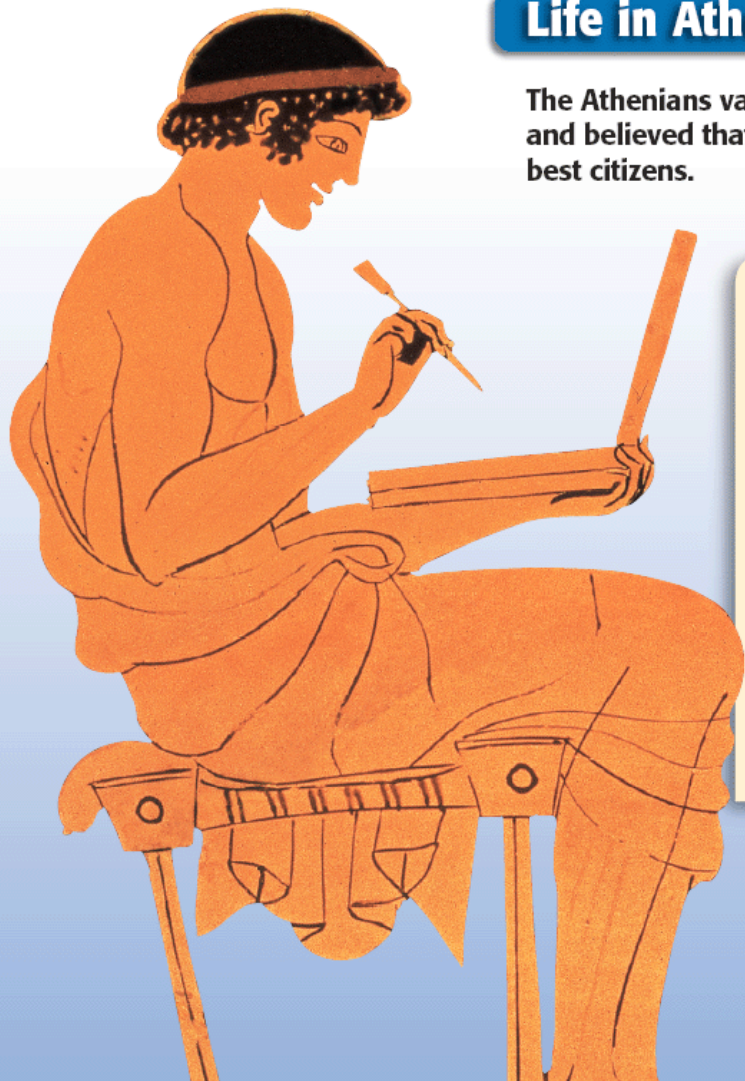


## Life in Athens

### QUICK FACTS

The Athenians valued education and the arts and believed that educated people made the best citizens.

- Boys from wealthy families were taught how to read, how to speak, and even how to think properly.
- Some boys were required to memorize long passages of plays or poems. Some had to commit both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* to memory.
- Very few girls, however, received educations.



**History Close-up**

## Democracy in Action

Ancient Athens was the birthplace of democracy—the system of government in which the people rule themselves. Democracy was perhaps the greatest achievement of ancient Athens. In time, it became the Greeks' greatest gift to the world.

Only free male citizens of Athens were members of the assembly with the right to vote. Women, slaves, and foreigners could not participate.

The Athenian assembly met on a hill called the Pnyx (pah-NIKS). Sometimes, more than 6,000 men crowded onto the small hill.

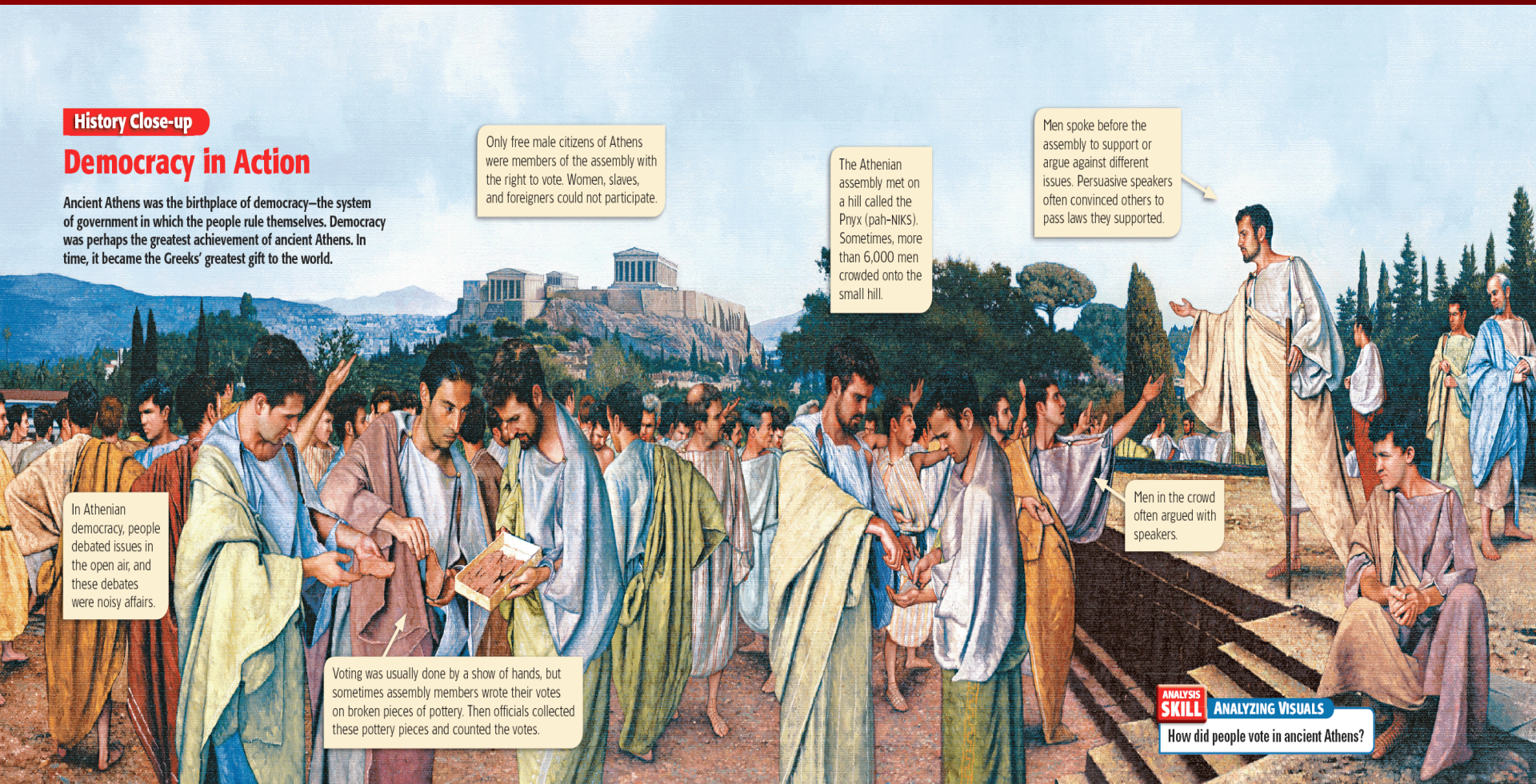
Men spoke before the assembly to support or argue against different issues. Persuasive speakers often convinced others to pass laws they supported.

In Athenian democracy, people debated issues in the open air, and these debates were noisy affairs.

Voting was usually done by a show of hands, but sometimes assembly members wrote their votes on broken pieces of pottery. Then officials collected these pottery pieces and counted the votes.

Men in the crowd often argued with speakers.

**ANALYSIS SKILL** ANALYZING VISUALS  
How did people vote in ancient Athens?



# Democracy Then and Now



## In Athenian Direct Democracy...

- All citizens met as a group to debate and vote directly on every issue.
- There was no separation of powers. Citizens created laws, enforced laws, and acted as judges.
- Only free male citizens could vote. Women and slaves could not vote.

## In American Representative Democracy...

- Citizens elect representatives to debate and vote on issues for them.
- There is a separation of powers. Citizens elect some people to create laws, others to enforce laws, and others to be judges.
- Men and women who are citizens have the right to vote.



## Life in Sparta



The Spartans valued discipline, obedience, and courage above all else. Spartan men learned these values at an early age, when they were trained to be soldiers. Spartan women were also expected to be strong, athletic, and disciplined.

### The Life of a Spartan Soldier

**Ages 7–12: Values training**

Boys left home and got a basic education.

**Ages 12–18: Physical training**

Boys developed physical skills through exercise.

**Ages 18–20: Military training**

Men learned how to fight as part of the army.

**Ages 20–30: Military service**

Soldiers formed the body of the Spartan army.

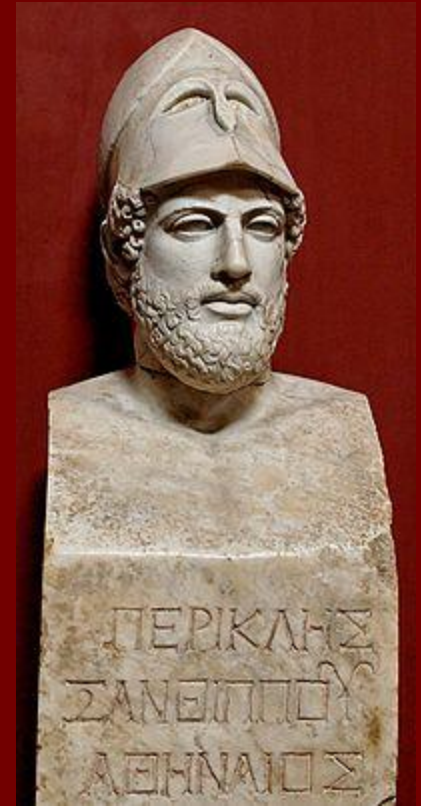
**Age 30: Full citizenship**

Soldiers could participate in the assembly and move back home.



# Delian League

- Athens and Sparta sometimes worked together to defend Greece (Persian Wars)
- After the Persian Wars, an alliance was created
  - Alliance – An agreement to work together
  - Sparta was not in this alliance
- The alliances were meant to defend Greece
- Everybody had to give money to the alliance
  - The money was kept on the island of Delos
  - Called the Delian League



# Island of Delos





# Athenian Empire

- Athens was the most powerful city in the Delian League
  - Treated other cities as subjects
  - No one could quit the League, and more cities were forced to join
- Athenians took the League's money for use in Athens
  - Delian League became an Athenian Empire



# The Peloponnesian War



- Sparta joined an alliance called the Peloponnesian League
  - To make sure Athens didn't get too powerful, Sparta declared war on Athens
- This begins the Peloponnesian War
  - Peloponnesian War: A war between Sparta and Athens that tore Greece apart
- 431<sub>BCE</sub> – Spartan army marches to Athens
  - Surrounds the city
  - Destroys crops belonging to Athens
  - Athens gets their supplies by sea

# The Peloponnesian War

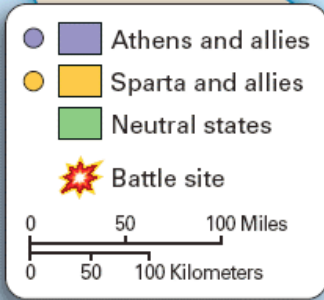
- Athens attacked Sparta's allies
  - Sparta sent troops to defend allies
- After 10 years, a truce was reached
  - Athens keeps its empire, but will not expand
  - Sparta goes home



# The Peloponnesian War

- 415<sub>BCE</sub> – Athens tries to expand again
  - Attempt to conquer Sicily (an ally of Sparta)
  - Sicily defeats Athens and destroys its navy
- Sparta attacks Athens
- 404<sub>BCE</sub> – Sparta finally wins and ends the Peloponnesian War
- Greece falls into a period of civil warfare for many years

# The Peloponnesian War, c. 431–404 BC



## GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

### INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Region** Most islands in the Aegean Sea were allied with which city?
- 2. Movement** About how far did Athenian ships have to sail from Athens to invade Sicily?