



The Story of Ancient Greece

Geography of Greece

- Greece is a small country in Europe.
- Greece is near the Mediterranean Sea.
- The main part of Greece is on a peninsula.
- A peninsula is a body of land surrounded by water on three sides.
- The rest of Greece is made up of islands.





Greek City-States

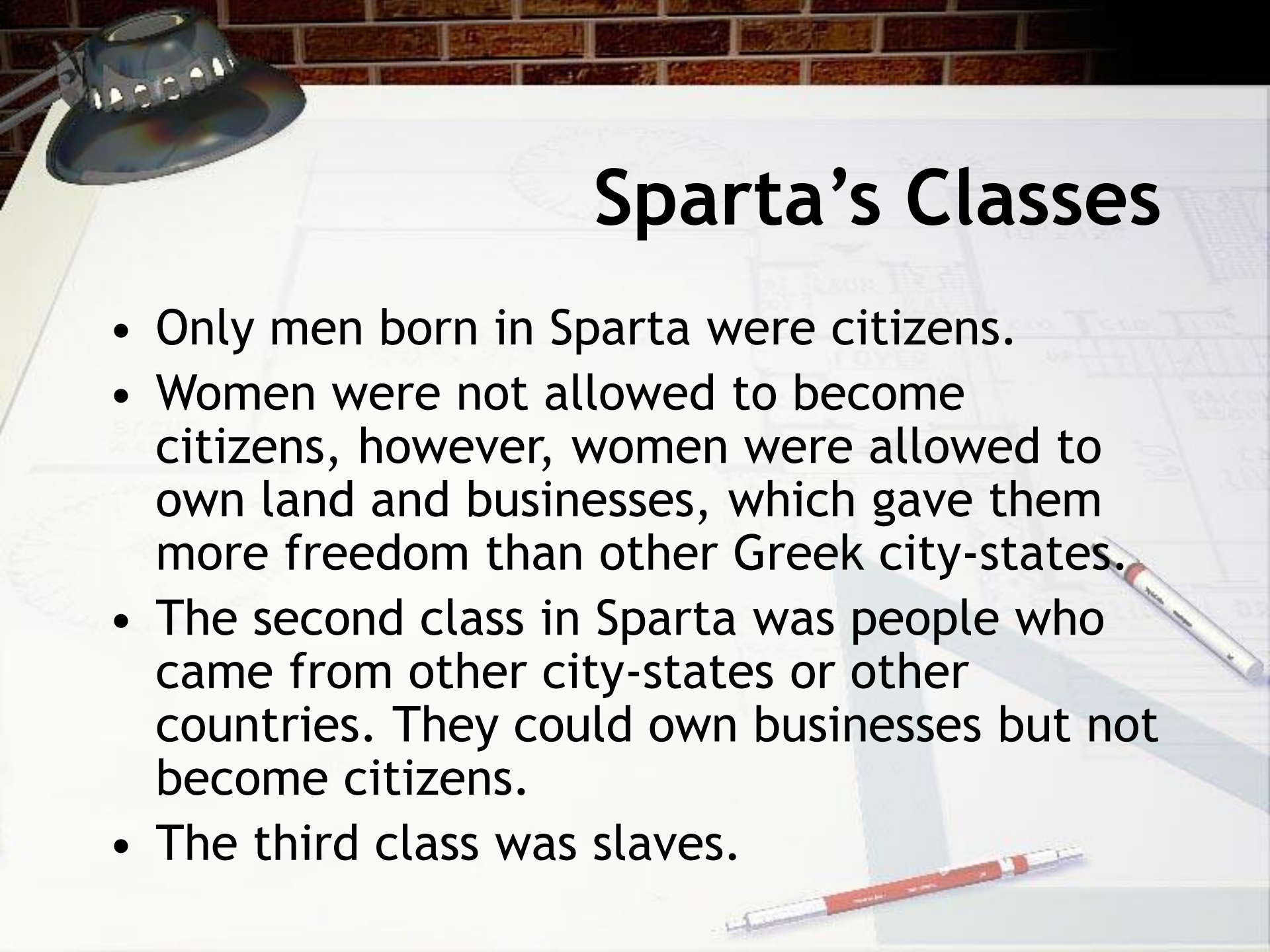
- Because Greece is made up of many islands, and has many tall mountains, the Greeks began to build city-states instead of one country.
- A city-state is a city with its own laws, rulers, and money.
- City-states were cities that acted like countries.





Sparta

- Sparta was a Greek city-state.
 - Sparta was very powerful and had its own army.
 - Sparta conquered other city-states to gain wealth and power.
 - There were three classes of people in Sparta.
 - Citizens, non-citizens, and slaves.
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Sparta's Classes

- Only men born in Sparta were citizens.
- Women were not allowed to become citizens, however, women were allowed to own land and businesses, which gave them more freedom than other Greek city-states.
- The second class in Sparta was people who came from other city-states or other countries. They could own businesses but not become citizens.
- The third class was slaves.



Sparta warriors

- Learning to read and write in Sparta was not very important.
 - Training to become a good soldiers was important.
 - Young boys were taken from their parents and trained to be soldiers as well as good in sports such as running.
 - Girls were also trained to be good in sports.
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Athens

- Athens was another important Greek city-state.
- The people of Athens wanted to rule themselves and not have a king or queen.
- Athens became the world's first democracy around 508 B.C.
- A democracy is a government in which all citizens can vote and have equal say in what happens.



Democracy in Athens

- Athens was a democracy because all citizens could vote, but only half the people in Athens were citizens.
 - Women, people born outside of Athens, and slaves could not vote.
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Pericles

- Pericles was the leader of creating democracy in Athens.
- He had many buildings constructed.
- Pericles had the Parthenon and the Acropolis built.





Parthenon and Acropolis






Education in Athens

- Education was very important in Athens.
 - Boys went to school to learn to read and write. They also learned many sports.
 - Girls were not allowed to go to school or learn to play sports.
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The Greek Alphabet

- The Greeks borrowed their alphabet from the Phoenicians.
 - Most European languages, including English borrowed ideas from the Greek alphabet.
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A

Alpha
(al-fah)

B

Beta
(bay-tah)

Γ

Gamma
(gam-ah)

Δ

Delta
(dei-ta)

E

Epsilon
(ep-si-lon)

Z

Zeta
(zay-tah)

H

Eta
(ay-tah)

Θ

Theta
(thay-tah)

I

Iota
(eye-o-tah)

K

Kappa
(cap-pah)

Λ

Lambda
(lamb-dah)

M

Mu
(mew)

N

Nu
(new)

Ξ

Xi
(zie)

O

Omicron
(om-e-cron)

Π

Pi
(pie)

Ρ

Rho
(roe)

Σ

Sigma
(sig-mah)

T

Tau
(taw)

Υ

Upsilon
(up-si-lon)

Φ

Phi
(fie)

X

Chi
(kie)

Ψ

Psi
(sigh)

Ω

Omega
(oh-may-gah)



Socrates

- Socrates was a philosopher of Ancient Greece.
- A philosopher is someone who tries to explain the nature of life.
- Socrates taught by by asking questions. This method of questioning is still called the Socratic method.



Plato

- Plato was a student of Socrates.
- He started a school called The Academy.
- Plato's writing took the form of a dialogue between teacher and student.



Aristotle

- Aristotle was another Greek philosopher and student of Plato.
- He wrote about science, art, law, poetry, and government.



Alexander the Great

- Alexander the Great was the son of King Phillip II of Macedonia.
- Alexander conquered Persia, Egypt, the Middle East and Northern India.
- He died at age 33 from malaria.



Alexander's Empire

