

The Athenian Society

1st Grade of Junior High School

CLIL Lesson

Subjects involved: History and English

The Athenian Society

Structure: Social Classes

- **Athenian Citizens**: only men, inherited status , Athenian parents, authority, political rights, equal rights.
- **Metics (Μέτοικοι)** : migrant workers, no political rights, merchants/artisans, pay taxes plus special tax : metikio
- **Slaves** : born to slave parents /bought in slave markets/captured at war, labourers in agriculture/mines/quarries/workshops/civil service/ domestic slaves-servants.

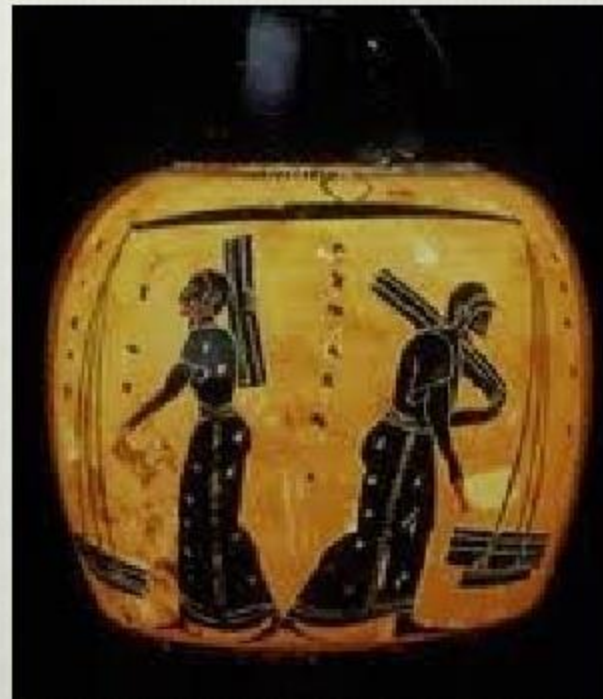
Athenian Citizens

Athenian citizens spent much of their day debating the issues facing their city-state. What do you imagine they're talking about?



Metics

Most workshop owners were metics.
Metics could also rent land from Athenian citizens or be employed by them as farm workers.



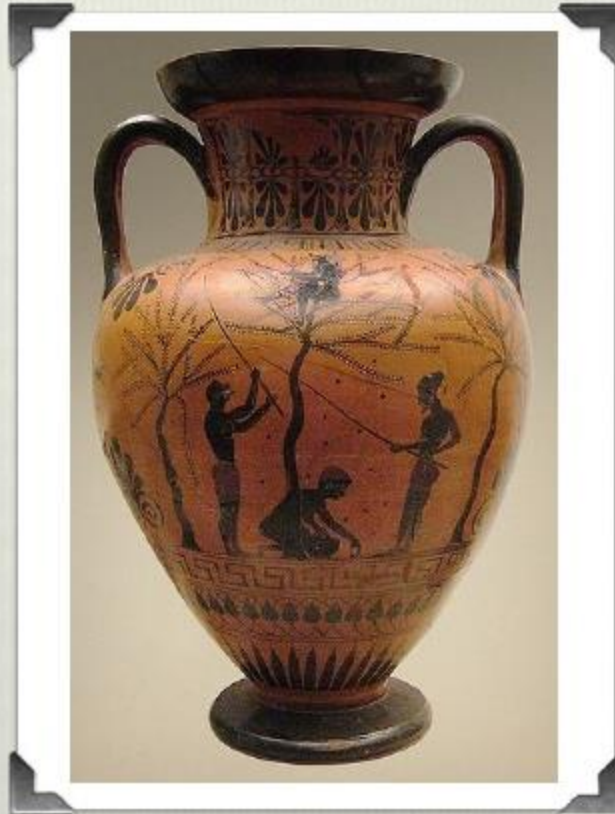
Slavery

Slaves often acted as nannies, caring for the children of rich Athenian families.



Slavery

This amphora shows slaves gathering olives. Athenian slaves were often employed in agricultural tasks.



Slavery

Slaves were often women taken as
booty of war.



WOMEN

- No political rights, couldn't vote, no citizenship, no public office, no land/property, no inheritance, couldn't attend public assemblies, couldn't go out alone.



WOMEN

- Stay at home, manage the household, raise children, supervise the slaves, do wool-work, weaving and cooking, very limited freedom outside the home. They could attend weddings, funerals, some religious festivals, and could visit female neighbors for brief periods of time.
- Gynekonitis (Γυναικωνίτης): a special area of the house only for the women to gather, no men permitted.
- Priestess (ιέρεια): the only official position they could take. They took part in religious ceremonies to honour the Gods.



Education

Girls (daughters of citizens):

taught at home by their mothers

- how to sing
- play musical instruments
- make family clothes
- motherhood
- housekeeping
- at 15 a marriage was arranged for them

Rich Athenian girls were taught by a private tutor how to sing and play a musical instrument.

Education

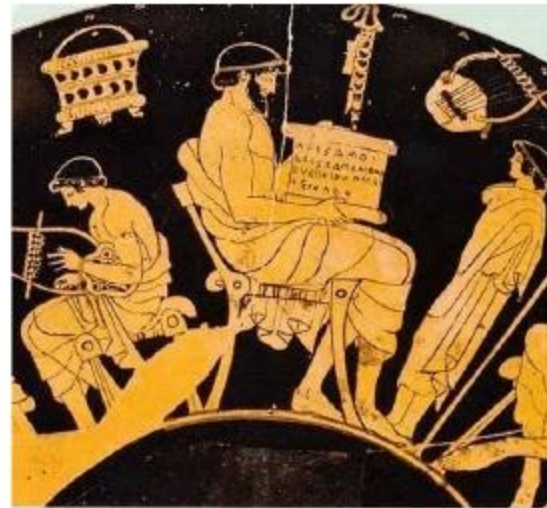
Boys (sons of citizens)

- until 6: taught at home by mother or an educated male slave
- 6-14: private school, always a male teacher.
- Three main courses:
- Grammata: reading, writing, arithmetic, the word of famous poets (Homer)
- Music : singing, lyre/flute
- Physical Education: wrestling, jumping, running, throwing the discus and the javelin
- Also taught: geography, history, art, astronomy, philosophy, ethics(good-bad/moral values).
- 18-20 : military training for the army or navy

Those who wanted to pursue a political career were also taught the art of rhetoric/speech making, how to express yourself correctly and effectively in public, the ability to persuade citizens.

Education in Athens

In this depiction, a student stands before his teacher, who is holding an open scroll. The student appears to be reciting, while his teacher checks his accuracy. What is the boy on the left doing?





Educational Aims

- Both physical and intellectual development
(sound mind in a healthy body)
- Fine taste /aesthetic sense
- Decency
- Sociability
- Bright political thought
- To produce citizens trained in the arts of both peace and war