

EDUCATION IN ANCIENT SPARTA

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SPARTAN BABIES

- When babies were born in Sparta, Spartan soldiers would come by the house to examine them.
- If the baby did not look healthy, it was taken away and left to die or trained as a slave.
- If the baby was healthy, it was assigned membership in a brotherhood or sisterhood.

BOYS

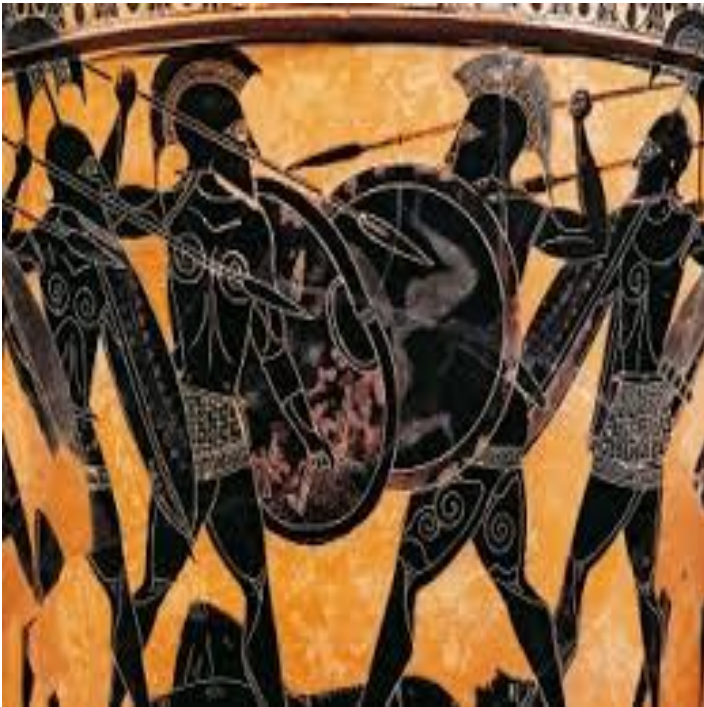


- The boys in Sparta were sent to military camps of their brotherhood when they turned 7.
- They learned how to read and write until they were about 14.

BOYS

- The Spartan government wanted to make the boys tough.
- To do this:
 - They were given little clothing and no shoes.
 - They slept on hard beds made of reeds and were not given any covers.
 - They were not given enough food.
- They were trained in survival skills and how to be a good soldier.
- Reading and writing were taught as secondary skills.

BOYS



- Between ages of 18 to 20 each boy had to pass a fitness test.
- If he did not pass the test, he became a perioikos
(The perioikos, or the middle class, were allowed to own property, have business dealings, but had no political rights and were not citizens)
- If the boy passed, he served in the military and continued to train as a soldier. Military service lasted until the boy reached the age of 60. (Even if they were married, they did not live with their wives and families. They lived in the barracks.)

GIRLS

- The girls were taught in the school of their sisterhood. They were taught...
 - ✓ Physical education
 - ✓ Wrestling
 - ✓ Gymnastics
 - ✓ Combat training
- The Spartans wanted girls to be strong so that they would have healthy children. At the age of 18 the Spartan girl had to pass a fitness test. She was then assigned a husband and allowed to return home.
- If she failed the test, she became a perioikos.

EDUCATIONAL AIMS

- The goal of education in Sparta, an authoritarian, military city-state, was to produce soldier-citizens who were a well-drilled, well-disciplined marching army.
- Spartans believed in a life of discipline, self-denial, and simplicity. Boys were very loyal to the state of Sparta.