

POLIS PROFILE: SPARTA - 1

The Greek polis

Most Greeks in the classical era of their history (700-300 B.C.) lived in a city-state called a *polis*. A polis was a city with a fortified region in which several thousand Greeks lived and to which they paid allegiance. Most of these city-states were fiercely independent and offered their citizens a full and abundant life.



To most Greeks banishment from their polis was worse than death. (Socrates had the choice!) A strategic hill called an *acropolis* ("above the city") was the focal point for Greek life. It was a defensive position when the city was under attack; it was a place to discuss affairs of state; and it served as a shrine to honor and worship Greece's many gods and goddesses.

About your polis

Your allegiance is to the polis of Sparta; therefore, *you are a Spartan!* Be proud, for to be a Spartan means to be part of an honored military tradition of great bravery and human physical endurance. You are revered all over Greece for your mighty warriors. Because your city-state became a military state, the primary goal in Sparta was the training of soldiers to enslave and permanently dominate the local population of helots. If you were a boy, you were taken away from your parents at age seven. Your life was hard, for you went through 14 or more years of a kind of "boot camp." You endured unbelievable privation, pain, and sacrifices to become a Spartan soldier. Early in your training you were brutalized by older boys who provoked fights to toughen you up and taught you unthinkable obedience, self-discipline, physical endurance, gymnastics, and music. However, you paid little attention to reading and arithmetic. Sometimes at ceremonies, you were whipped at the altar, but you would *never* cry out in pain, as huge crowds, including your parents, stood nearby urging silence.



You were encouraged to show cunning by stealing food to survive (the Spartan black soup was notoriously unappetizing), by cheating, and by lying. It was a rough education, but the best warriors in all of Hellas were produced by these methods. At age 20 you moved into a military barracks for 10 more years. Some of you became part of the Spartan secret police (*krypteia*) to spy on helots and slaves and even, for the fun of it, kill non-Spartan people for no reason.

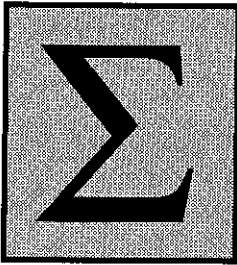
This was Sparta's iron way. Even women of Sparta got caught up into physical training, for they had to bear strong sons for the military and deal with battle deaths of fathers, husbands, and sons. In all, you delight in this lifestyle.



POLIS PROFILE: SPARTA - 2

Spartan goals in this simulation

1. Win at all costs, especially in any event which shows physical or athletic prowess. Cheat and lie if you have to, for that is the Sparta way.
2. If you Spartans can't earn the most Hellaspoinpoints in the simulation, at least try to beat your archrival, Athens. An ultimate embarrassment would be to lose to these effeminate culture freaks who sit around, dance, and read dainty poetry. If it means supporting another polis vocally or *secretly* in order to win, then *do what it takes to sabotage Athenian chances of victory*.
3. If you can't win all the contests—and there are many different kinds—at least look sharp and be disciplined. Always look like professional soldiers, the spit-and-polish type. Dress alike with the same colors, insignia, and clothing. Maybe salute each other (grab each other's forearms up to the elbow).



Sigma

How Spartans should act

1. Show unity by marching into class each day. Create a clever badge with a logo. Use the Greek sigma letter often. Try to enter the classroom together. Be assertive, act tough, and reflect a "no-nonsense" attitude.
2. Be loud, but always be courteous to your teacher who is your superior officer. Learning will not take place if you are disruptive at inappropriate times.
3. Try to be organized. Keep accurate records as best you can. Encourage all Spartans to be on time. Use military time at all times (i.e., 1400 = 2:00 p.m.). Don't be absent. *Show your discipline by being in class each day of the simulation.*
4. Consider wearing flat-top haircuts with long sideburns and/or perhaps a short ponytail. Primp and comb your hair often, as real Spartans did just before battle.
5. Cheer for Spartan victories in each phase and task.
6. Make up a chant for Sparta. Perhaps recite a quote by Simonides on Sparta bravery at Thermopylae: "Go tell Spartans, thou who passeth by, that here obedient to their laws we lie."

Show your pride
in being Spartans!

