

Section Reading Support HOW 76 The Glory of Ancient Greece, Section 1

Daily Life in Ancient Greece		
The Marketplace	Life at Home	Slavery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agora was a public market and meeting place and center of Athens' public life • All Greek cities had agoras, but Athens' was the largest and most interesting • Farmers and artisans sold goods such as sheep's wool, pottery, hardware, cloth, and books • Buyers and vendors haggled, or bargained, for the best price • Temples and government buildings lined the Agora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private homes were plain, made of mud bricks, and consisted of rooms set around an open courtyard, which was the center of the household • Greeks ate simple foods such as bread, cheese, olives, fish, vegetables, and fruit; most Greeks ate little meat • Women spent most of their time at home taking care of the children • Women had little freedom; they could not take part in politics, vote, or own property • In wealthy families, women were in charge of the slaves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As many as 100,000 slaves lived in Athens—almost one third of the population • Many became enslaved when captured by armies during war or by pirates while traveling on ships • A large number of slaves were foreigners • Slaves did many kinds of work, such as farm work, mining silver and other metals, making pottery, constructing buildings, and forging weapons and armor • Greek households depended on slaves to cook, serve food, take care of the children, and weave cloth • Household slaves probably had the easiest life; slaves who worked in the mines suffered the most