

Objectives

1. Learn about public life in Athens.
2. Find out how Athenians spent their time when they were home.
3. Understand how slavery operated in ancient Greece.

**Target Reading Skill**

Compare and Contrast When you compare, you look at similarities between things. Similarities are things that are like other things. For example, people in two different city-states may have the same language and religion.

When you contrast, you look at the differences between things. For example, the way men lived differed from the way women lived.

Comparing and contrasting can help you sort out information. As you read, compare and contrast what you're reading with what you already know. As you read this section, compare and contrast the daily life of Athenians.

Vocabulary Strategy

Word Origins Many English words come from ancient Greek. Often, Greek words combine more than one root. The same roots may be used in a number of combinations.

The Greek word *agora* appears in the English word *agoraphobia*. The word *phobia* is also from Greek. It means "abnormal fear or dread." Thus, agoraphobia is an abnormal fear of being in open places. Can you see how this word is related to *agora*? Other English words that contain Greek roots include *acrobat*, *acrophobia*, and *metropolis*.

Section 1 Summary

Vocabulary Strategy

Philosophy comes from Greek words for “love” (*philos*) and “wisdom” (*sophia*). Based on this knowledge, what do you think it means?

✓ Reading Check

What business did Athenians conduct in the Agora?

✓ Reading Check

What kinds of foods did Athenians eat?

Target Reading Skill

Where did Athenian men spend their time? Where did Athenian women spend their time? What was similar about their daily lives?

Public Life

¹ The Acropolis was the center of religious life in **Athens**, but the **Agora** was the center of public life. The Acropolis rose above the nearby Agora.

In the morning, many Athenian men went to the ⁵ Agora, where they talked of politics, philosophy, and local events. Around them, buyers and **vendors** bargained for good prices. Farmers and artisans sold their wares from stands under trees. ✓

Temples and government buildings lined the Agora. ¹⁰ The Greek classical style still influences how buildings are built.

At Home in Athens

Throughout Greece, homes were built of mud bricks. Rooms were set around an open courtyard that was hidden from the street. The courtyard was the center of ¹⁵ the household. Other rooms might include a kitchen, storerooms, a dining room, and bedrooms.

The ancient Greeks ate simple foods. Breakfast might be just bread. Midday meals might add cheese or olives to the bread. Dinner would be a hot meal. It might ²⁰ consist of fish and vegetables, followed by cheese, fruit, and cakes. Most Athenians ate little meat. Even wealthy families ate meat only during religious festivals. ✓

Most of the people in the Agora were men. Athenian women spent their days at home. Men ²⁵ thought women needed to be protected. They thought that keeping them out of public was the best way to protect them.

Key Terms

Athens (ATH unz) *n.* a city-state in ancient Greece; the capital of modern-day Greece

agora (AG uh ruh) *n.* a public market and meeting place in an ancient Greek city; the Agora, spelled with a capital A, refers to the agora of Athens

vendor (VEN dur) *n.* a seller of goods

Most Greeks thought women should be guided by men. Women could not take part in politics or vote.

30 However, they could be priestesses in religious groups.

Women ran the home. Wealthy women were in charge of the spinning and weaving. They looked after food and wine supplies. They cared for young children. Slaves were also the woman's responsibility.

35 Poor women often worked outside of the home. They found jobs making pottery, tending sheep, or making cloth.

Slavery in Ancient Greece

The work of slaves gave men time to go to the Agora and time to take part in government.

40 **Slavery** was common in Athens. There may have been 100,000 slaves in Athens. That's almost one third of the population.

Many free people were enslaved when they were captured during war. Others were captured by pirates.

45 The children of slaves were also slaves. Many slaves were foreigners.

Slaves were not citizens and had no rights. They could only become free by buying their freedom, or if their master freed them.

50 Slaves did many kinds of work. Some worked on farms or in mines. Others helped artisans make pottery, construct buildings, or forge weapons and armor. Most Greek households could not run without slaves. Slaves served food, tended children, and wove cloth. ✓

Review Questions

1. What activities took place in the Agora?

2. What were the responsibilities of men compared to those of women in ancient Athens?

Key Term

slavery (SLAY vur ee) *n.* condition of being owned by someone else

✓ Reading Check

What kinds of labor did slaves perform?
