

Women of the Ancient World

Greece: Democracy and Gender

| Suggested Responses




Comprehension Questions

1. One of the ancient Greeks' developments was **democracy**, or government by the **people**, for the **people**.
2. False
3. d) None of the above
4. Athenian women often had a separate living area on the upper floor of their own house called the gynaikeion, where they spent much of their time spinning, weaving, and sewing.
5. c) female slaves.
6. Aspasia was the lover of Pericles, and it is said that she wrote some of his famous speeches. She was recognized as an intellectual and a teacher, and is thought to have taught Socrates how to argue.
7. True
8. b) She realized that a wax tablet contained a secret message with the information.
9. Hera; Demeter; Athena; Aphrodite; Hestia; Artemis
10. Women in Greek mythology include **Pandora**, who released all the evils into the world; **Helen** of Troy, whose beauty sparked a war; and **Penelope**, who was the faithful wife of Odysseus.

The extension activities that accompany this video are designed to both consolidate and assess learners' understanding of the content. In addition to this, they contain unique opportunities for teachers to measure learners' capabilities in the following areas:

 Intercultural Awareness

Women's Clothing

-  Students' responses will vary. However, they should demonstrate an analysis of the nature of the cultural practices of ancient Greeks in Athens and Sparta, particularly practices and customs relating to women. If they have chosen to include images of artwork depicting ancient Greek women from that time period, students may also examine how women are represented and by whom they are represented. Students should comment on the purpose and effect of these representations in terms of demonstrating the role of women in ancient Greek society. They may include information such as the following:

Ancient Athenian women were largely educated in practical skills at home, usually by their mothers; rarely received formal schooling; were often married at 14 or 15; had very few rights; often could not leave the house unless they were accompanied by a male relative or were attending religious ceremonies or the tombs of ancestors; were often treated as lesser than men; and lived in a separate room in the house.

Ancient Spartan women were usually educated in both writing and physical manners; were usually married at around 18, a later age than other Greek women; could refuse suitors if they defeated them; generally had more freedom than other Greek women; could divorce and remarry of their own accord; were respected for their ability to produce new generations; and were given the same honors for dying while giving birth as men who died on the battlefield.

Transcript – For student and teacher use.