

Unit Two: Ancient Athens

Chapter 3

Name: _____



- I can explain the democratic values of the ancient Athenians
- I can describe the process for decision making in Athens
- I can explain the way the government of Athens was organized
- I can explain how citizenship in Athens was affected by what people believed were their proper role, rights and responsibilities
- I can compare and contrast the qualifications for citizenship
- I can evaluate whether Athenians were treated fairly and equitably by the ideals of their government/society

Ancient Athens → Vocabulary

| Key Term | Definition |
|---------------------|------------|
| Latitude | |
| Longitude | |
| Cardinal Directions | |
| Social Structure | |
| Class | |
| Rights | |
| Responsibilities | |
| Agora | |
| Boule | |
| Bouleterion | |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Direct Democracy | |
| Dowry | |
| Artisan | |
| Assembly | |
| Minority | |
| Majority | |
| Pnyx Hill | |
| Unanimous | |
| Ostracize | |
| Bribe | |
| Justice | |

Where was Ancient Athens?



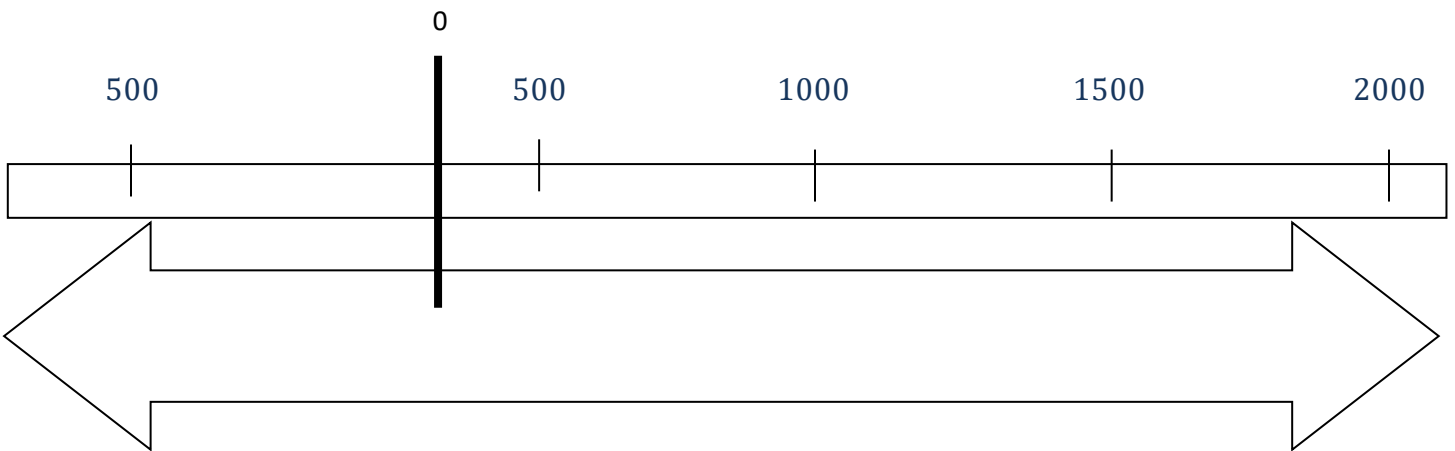
Label the following:

- 3 major bodies of water
- latitude and longitude
- 5 major cities.
- Cardinal Directions

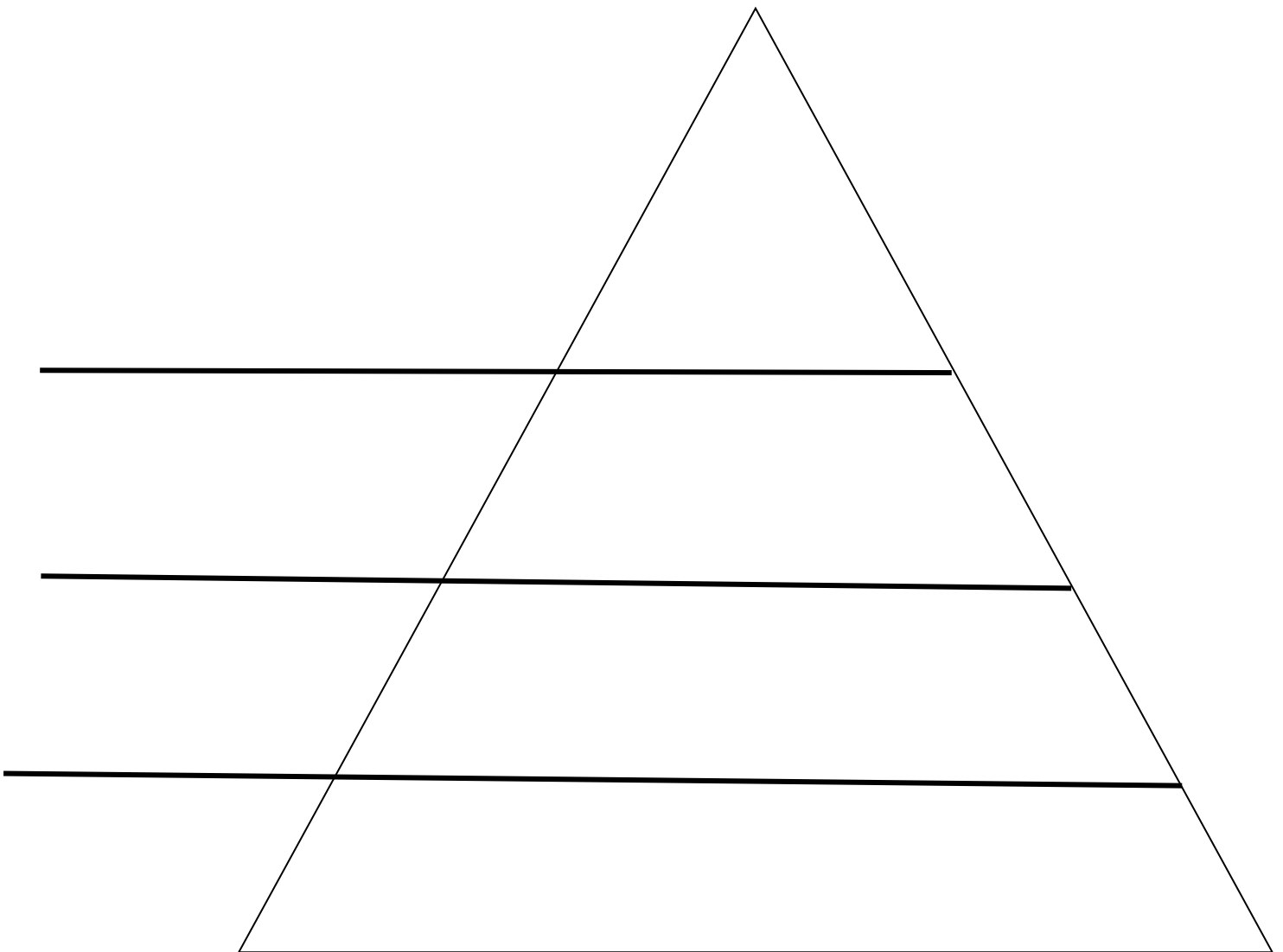
Ancient Athens was one of many City-States (Mini-countries):

- Each city has its own _____ (ex. If Athens is a democracy, Sparta may not be)
- Believe in the same _____
- Share a common _____
- Had certain allies (other city-states they got along with)
- Has its own _____
- They thought of themselves as citizens of individual city-states, not Greeks.
- Created by villages coming together to trade and that eventually created large city-states

When was Ancient Athens?



What was the Class System of Ancient Athens?



What was the Social Structure of Ancient Athens?

A Who's Who Guide

| SLAVES | METICS | CITIZENS |
|--------|--------|----------|
| - | - | - |

Expectations and Roles of each group in society:

| Athenian Men (citizens) | Athenian women |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| - | - |
| Boys | girls |
| - | - |

Direct Democracy in Ancient Athens

The Assembly

The Assembly meetings took place every 8 to 10 days throughout the year. During this time, Athens had a male population of 60,000 citizens in which approximately six thousand would participate. The six thousand would meet on the Pnyx Hill in a dedicated space and anyone who wanted to speak, or vote could do so by raising their hand. The majority would win in all matters. Once a year, citizens could meet to decide whether or not to exile a citizen of Athens. Most of the time, they would choose someone who didn't participate in democracy. They would scratch down the name of who they wanted to exile on a broken piece of pottery called an ostrakon. Exile refers to forcing someone to leave forever. The English language adapted the word ostracize from ostrakon.

Direct Democracy

This form of participating in government is called Direct Democracy. Every member at the assembly had equal rights to speak and vote on issues. The citizens who participated in the government took it very seriously, and even looked down on the citizens who were allowed to participate, but chose not to. This type of democracy differs from the Representative Democracy that Canada uses, where only elected officials get to pass laws and make decisions for the government.

How to Vote

Voting was usually done by a show of hands. Each citizen's vote counted as one vote, regardless of their status in society. Another method they used was to drop either a brown or white stone in a jug. A brown stone would mean voting one way and a white stone meant they voted the other way. At the end of the voting, the stones were counted, and the decree was announced.



Pnyx Hill

- Small rocky hill
- Located 110m high
- Gathering place for assemblies
- Was used in 507 BC
- Power went to the citizens, away from the king
- The *vema* or *bema* is the stepping stone that the speaker would stand on to talk to the audience
- Over 6000 citizens would gather here to participate in the government



Pause

The members of the Boule were chosen in a draw. It worked like this: the names of citizens were written on lead discs and then discs were drawn — or selected — at random. Anyone whose name was drawn became a member of the Boule for one year. In what way did this process reflect fairness and equity?



Political Structure: Government in Athens



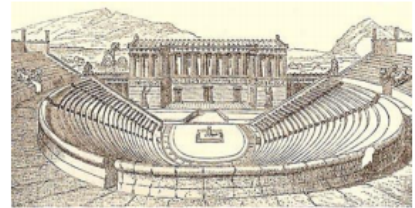
Assembly

What is it

Who can be in it?

When & where did they meet?

Who can speak & what was the order?



What type of democracy is it? Explain.

Council of 500

What is it?

How were the members chosen?

What did they do?

3 Pillars of Government

The three pillars of government in Athens were:

- (1) Assembly - all citizens can participate and vote on matters
- (2) Council of 500 - full-time government of Athens
- (3) Court - decided someone's guilt or innocence and punishments for breaking laws

Council of 500

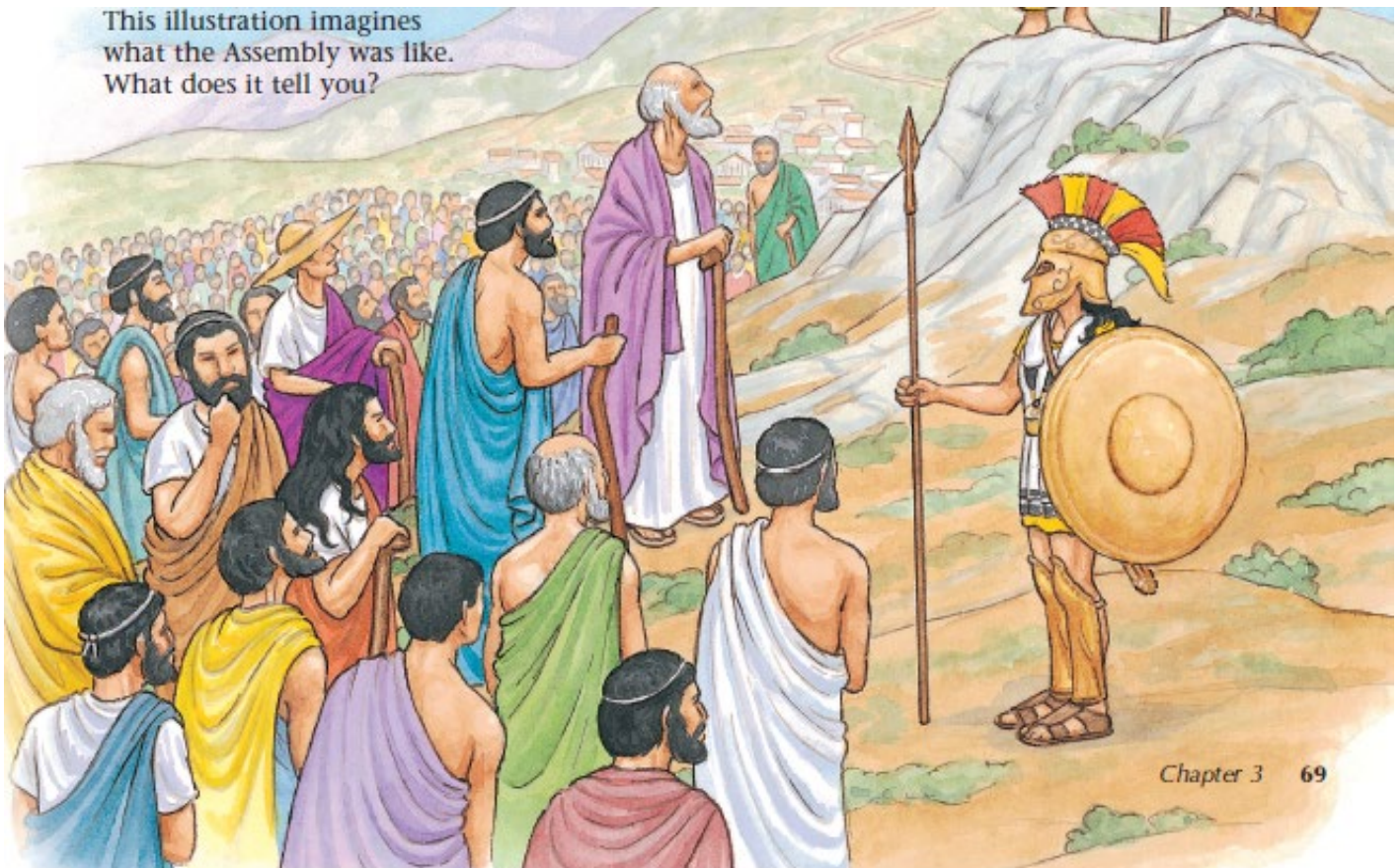
The council of 500 was known as the boule because they met in the Bouleuterion at the Agora - central gathering place. The citizens in Athens were divided into 10 tribes. Each tribe could send 50 members to serve on the council. Members needed to be over the age of 30. For 1/10 of the year (36 days), the 50 members from a tribe would be in charge of the council.

Membership in the council was a democratic process for the following reasons. First, the council was chosen in a lottery format where names were chosen randomly, therefore everyone had an equal chance to be on council. Second, citizens could only serve on the Council twice. This allowed more people a chance to get on Council. Lastly, the Chairman or leader of the Council was chosen randomly in a lottery and would only serve for 24 hours. The Council had the important job of planning the agenda for Assembly meetings. When 6000 citizens attended the Assembly, an agenda was necessary to keep meetings organized. The agenda outlined what would be discussed and voted on during the meeting.

Court System

If Athenians felt they were wronged by someone, they could bring their complaint to the magistrate. Magistrates were citizens and officers of the court who were chosen by lottery for a one-year term. Magistrates could set a fine for punishment, or they could send a case to trial. A trial would have a jury of between 501 to 1500 people on it who would listen to the defendant and the plaintiff explain their case. Wealthy Athenians would hire professional speech writers to help them make effective arguments. If found guilty by the jury, they would be sentenced to death, or face imprisonment. Many fled Athens to avoid the death penalty.

This illustration imagines what the Assembly was like. What does it tell you?



Courts

What is a MAGISTRATE?

When both sides heard the case, the jury decided on _____ or

How many were on a jury at a time?

Who can be on a jury?

FACTS:

- Metics couldn't be in the jury but could participate in court.
- Plaintiff & defendant had to be able to speak well and convince the jury.
- Women were spoken for by male citizens.



Pause

Democracy means "people power."
In what way was the government of ancient Athens a democracy?
How fair and equitable was the democracy in ancient Athens?

