

## ANCIENT GREECE

### Background Information 11: Education

#### Athenian education

##### Boys

Boys of 7 and up were sent to school. They were accompanied by a *paidagogos* – a slave from their home who would supervise their learning. They learned reading, writing, and arithmetic from a teacher called a *grammatistes*.

##### Girls

Girls did not attend school and were taught in the home. They would have been instructed in traditional female occupations such as weaving and spinning.

#### Spartan education

Education based around military need.

From age 7 Spartan boys lived in barracks away from their families. All citizen adult men belonged to *syskania* or messes. These were small groups meeting and dining communally in individual men's houses.

#### Study programme for boys:

Age	Activity
7 – 17	dancing and singing
18-19	survival techniques
20 – 29	rigorous military indoctrination

## Girls

A modified form of physical training for Spartan girls focused on gymnastics and choral song and dance. The goal of a Spartan woman's training was to make her the mother of warriors.

## General:

Books are expensive and rare. Education is **oral**.

**Gymnasia** date to at least the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. It was a centre for providing instruction on sport. They also became centres of learning.

In Athens two famous philosophical schools were set up in direct association with famous old gymnasia, the **Academy** and the **Lyceum**.

Academy – started by Plato

Lyceum – started by Aristotle.