**The Westminster School, Dubai**

**Sparta**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Learning Bay: \_\_\_\_**  

 While Athens was trying democracy as a form of government, its rival Sparta had two kings. One king might stay at home, while the other was away fighting battles. Fighting battles was what the Spartans did best. Although every Spartan man had a farm, he spent a lot of his time preparing for war. He became a soldier when he was 20.

Learning to read and write in Sparta was not very important. Training to become good soldiers was important. Young boys were taken from their parents and trained to be soldiers as well as good in sports such as running. Girls were also trained to be good in sports. Discipline was tough. Soldiers had to walk barefoot even in cold weather. He was taught how to live rough and steal food.

There were three classes of people in Sparta. Citizens, non-citizens, and slaves. Only men born in Sparta were citizens. Women were not allowed to become citizens. The second class in Sparta was people who came from other city-states or other countries. They could own businesses but not become citizens. The third class was slaves**.**

Spartans slaves were called Helots. The helots worked on the Spartans' farms. They grew the food for the Spartan soldiers and their families.

Spartans were not interested in business or getting rich, just in being tough and fit. The Spartans practised night-fighting by creeping about in the darkness hunting helots. Spartans wore red cloaks, so bloodstains from wounds would not show.

Spartan mothers told their sons before they left for battle, "Come back with your shield, or on it." Dead Spartans were carried home on their shields. Only a coward would drop his shield and run away. A Spartan wife looked after the family farm while her husband was away training or fighting. Spartan women had more freedom than other Greek women .Old people too were shown more respect in Sparta than in other Greek states.