**We Are Athens!**

**Government and Military:**

Here in Athens, we have a direct democracy. That means that all citizens work together in the Assembly of Athens to pass laws and no one has more power than another. We meet every 10 days. For every-day meetings and decision making, we have a Council of 500 citizens who are 30 or older and are chosen randomly to serve for one year. That way, everyone has an equal chance of serving. Of course, only men can be citizens.

Athens is a city-state of thinkers. We raise all of our children. Our sons begin their military training at age 18 after they have their educational training. All of our men are educated to think first and then to fight. Rather than focusing on strength and aggression, we focus on battle strategies that can out-smart our enemies. We even beat Sparta once!

**Economy:**

We in Athens grow our crops and trade with other city-states. Our women don’t go outside, the men handle everything outside the home. Men go to the market and trade. They do the farming. Most of us own slaves who help. Wives usually have at least one slave to help them around the house and with the children. Our money is coins of gold, silver or bronze.

**Education:**

Our boys begin their education at age 7 at school. They are taught reading, writing, public speaking, poetry, philosophy, and music. Most can play a musical instrument. It is valued to be someone who can solve problems and speak well. Girls are taught at home by their mothers. They don’t need to read or write but they are taught music and singing and how to take care of a home and children.

**Women and Children:**

Our women and children are well-taken care of but they have almost no rights. Women of Athens cannot own land or travel freely. They don’t even get to go shopping! They need their father’s or husband’s permission for almost everything. Girls learn how to take care of the home and may be married as young as 13. Their husbands are usually in their 30s. They aren’t taught to read or write unless the father thinks that they should. Only boys must be educated.