**We Are Sparta!**

**Government and Military:**

Here is Sparta, we have an oligarchy. That means that two kings and a Council of Elders work together to run our city state. We don’t need everyone whining about what they want and don’t want. We tell them how it is and they do it.

Sparta is a city-state of warriors! We only raise strong children. Weak babies are not kept around. In fact, our sons begin their military training at age 7. No wimpy boys here. Our boys are not well fed so they learn to take care of themselves and steal. They are not punished for stealing but for getting caught. Training is severe with constant fighting and whippings. Men can marry at age 20 but they can’t live with their wives until age 30. They live in the barracks. Every man is required to serve in the military until they are 60 or dead (whichever comes first). Spartans never surrender, NEVER!

**Economy:**

 We in Sparta have our crops grown by the helots or slaves that we conquered in battle. Our women don’t even make our cloth. The helot women do that too. Whatever we can’t grow or make ourselves, we steal. We conquer people and steal their things and make them helots or kill the weaklings. We don’t like the idea of trading so even our money is long iron bars to discourage it. The helots basically do all the work of our economy. Our homes, food and clothing are kept very simple. Nothing fancy needed here.

**Education:**

 Our boys begin their education at age 7. They leave their home and live in the barracks with other boys. All Spartans are trained to read and write but most importantly to FIGHT and survive in all types of situations! We take great pride in our strength. Girls are educated at home by their mothers. They learn how to take care of a home, read and write but also how to FIGHT! Spartan couples make strong Spartan babies. We don’t worry about educating people to create art or weak poetry. Survival is what matters.

**Women and Children:**

Our women and children are strong and healthy. They are trained to fight and take care of themselves, after all Spartan men are often away fighting others. Women of Sparta may own land and travel freely. They do not need a man’s permission. They are treated with respect by Spartan men. Women are usually close in age to their husband. And they didn’t have to worry about being beaten or kept in their home until their husband gave them permission to go somewhere. Spartan women had to deal with the loss of their husbands or sons in battle as well as their weak babies being abandoned.