



## The Westminster School, Dubai

2014-15

Year : 3

Topic: ATHENS

Date: 4.11.14

Ancient Greece was divided into about 300 city- states .A city- state was made up of a city and the countryside around it.The city governed the city – state. Athens was one of the most powerful city-states .It got its name from Athena, the goddess of wisdom. People who lived in Athens were called Athenians.

It was a city with lots of beautiful public buildings and shops. Athenians thought of themselves as the shining star of the Greek city-states. They were famed for their literature, poetry, drama, theatre, schools, buildings, and government. The people of Athens lived below the Acropolis (rocky hill). The marble Parthenon, a temple, was built on the highest part of the Acropolis. Inside the Parthenon, there stood a large gold and ivory statue of the city's protector-goddess Athena. The Greeks believed that each city-state in ancient Greece had a god or a goddess in charge of it, their special patron. For Athens, the patron was Athena, goddess of wisdom. Perhaps because Athena was their patron, Athenians put a great deal of emphasis on education.

Girls learned at home from their mothers. They learned how to run a home, and how to be good wives and mothers. Boys were educated quite differently. Until age 6 or 7, boys were taught at home by their mothers. From 7-14, boys attended a day school outside the home. After middle school, they went to a four year high school and learned more about math, science, and government. At 18, they attended two years of military school .



Athens did not have a king; it was ruled by the people as a Democracy. The people of Athens chose their ruler by voting.

They held a large meeting on the slopes of a hill in Athens where any citizen could speak, and tell the government what it should be doing. This was called the Assembly, and there had to be at least 6,000 citizens at every Assembly.

Athens had yearly festivals for athletics, drama and religious occasions. Some laws in Athens were very harsh. Stealing bread or fruit was punishable by death!



Ruins of ancient Athens