

Questions about Ancient Greece  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

1. On which **continent** will you find the country of Greece?
  - a. Europe
  - b. Africa
  - c. South America
  - d. Asia
  
2. The mainland of Greece is a **peninsula**. What is a **peninsula**?
  - a. land that is surrounded on three sides by water
  - b. an island surrounded on all sides by water
  - c. a mountain range with a flat top
  - d. an area between two mountains
  
3. What made travel and interaction between communities in Ancient Greece so difficult?
  - a. the people spoke different languages
  - b. the threat of attack by wild animals
  - c. the mountainous terrain between them
  - d. the cold weather year round
  
4. Travel by sea was somewhat easier than travel by land, but it was still **dangerous**. What was the **danger** when traveling by sea?
  - a. attacks from pirates
  - b. storms that could cause a ship to go off course
  - c. the possibility of smashing the ship into the rocky coastline
  - d. all of the above
  
5. To improve their chances for safe travel by sea, what did Greek sea captains do?
  - a. they only sailed during daylight hours
  - b. they made sacrifices to the sea god Poseidon before their voyage
  - c. they stopped each night to anchor
  - d. all of the above
  
6. What was **true** about most farmers in Ancient Greece?
  - a. farming was the way most people survived then
  - b. most farmers, besides growing crops, also raised animals
  - c. most farmers had to create flat "earth steps" in the sides of hills to increase the area of land that could be planted
  - d. all of the above

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7. As the population of Ancient Greek communities grew, **food shortages** were sometimes a problem. What was one solution to this problem?
- establishing colonies in other lands where food could be grown and shipped back home
  - mixing special chemicals with the soil to make plants grow taller
  - starting fires to send smoke into clouds to make it rain more often
  - none of the above
8. Many people of ancient Greece believed that their Greek gods decided the success or failure of a distant journey. Who would be asked to find out the god's will regarding the journey?
- a merchant
  - a colonist
  - an oracle
  - none of the above
9. Trade among colonies, with other Greek city-states, and even places like western Europe, Egypt, and Persia also helped provide food where it was needed. Besides food, what else was traded?
- metals like gold, silver, iron, and copper
  - animal hides (skins) and furs
  - timber (wood)
  - all of the above
10. Greek city-states were unique from one another in which of the following ways?
- each city-state had its own government and laws
  - each city-state had its own army
  - each city-state had its own money
  - all of the above
11. Most Greek city-states were ruled by **monarchs** in the years 2000 – 800 B.C.E. Which word below is a synonym for **monarch**?
- slave
  - peasant
  - aristocrat
  - king
12. Monarchs in ancient Greece had councils to advise them on decisions they had to make. Which group of people made up their councils?
- aristocrats
  - women
  - slaves
  - non-citizens

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13. By 800 B.C.E., most Greek city-states were ruled by **oligarchies** rather than by a monarch. What does **oligarchy** mean?
- a. several people who rule together and share power
  - b. a city-state with no ruler
  - c. a country ruled only by women
  - d. a country ruled by slaves
14. Which was common in a Greek city-state ruled by an oligarchy?
- a. the rich people generously shared their wealth with the poor
  - b. the strongest slaves were freed by their masters
  - c. the rich got richer and the poor got poorer
  - d. the army soldiers quit and the city-state was invaded by its neighbor
15. In the mid 600's B.C.E., **tyrants** ruled many city-states in Greece. Which choice describes a **tyrant**?
- a. a person who seizes (takes) power illegally
  - b. a team of leaders elected into power by a vote of the people
  - c. a slave who works his way to the top and earns the position as leader
  - d. the person believed to be the smartest in the city-state
16. Which was **true** about some tyrants in Greek city-states?
- a. tyrants usually took control of a city-state by force
  - b. most were military leaders before they took over leadership of the city-state
  - c. many ended up ruling well and provided assistance to the poor
  - d. all of the above
17. Around 500 B.C.E, the people of the city-state of Athens tried a new form of government called a **democracy**. What is a **democracy**?
- a. a form of government where all citizens share in the ruling of the city-state
  - b. a form of government where the slaves become the leaders of the city-state
  - c. a form of government where only the poorest people make decisions
  - d. a form of government where one city-state volunteers to be governed by another city-state
18. Which was **true** about the differences between the Greek city-states of Athens and Sparta?
- a. Sparta was filled with opulent (fancy) buildings
  - b. Athens was a drab (plain) city without any artwork or culture
  - c. Athens was mostly a farming community
  - d. free men in Athens often gathered in public to debate (discuss) the issues of the day

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19. Around 500 B.C.E, the city-state of Athens became a democracy. What was **true** about the democracy of Athens that made it unlike modern democracies?
- a. only free men were able to be citizens
  - b. women were not permitted to be citizens
  - c. slavery was legal
  - d. all of the above
20. Assembly meetings in Athenian government allowed any citizen to speak. What was sometimes done to **limit** the time a speaker was given to talk?
- a. two cups were set up, where the water from one drained into the other, until the water from the first cup ran out, ending the speaker's time
  - b. wild tigers were released on the speaker who went on talking too long
  - c. doves (white birds) were released, and the speaker could continue until the last bird flew out of sight
  - d. the person who spoke for too long was put in prison for five years
21. The Athenian economy was based on trade. Which of the following was traded at the main marketplace called the **agora**?
- a. lettuce, onions, and other vegetables
  - b. coins made of gold, silver, and bronze
  - c. pottery and furniture
  - d. all of the above
22. What was **true** about education in Athens?
- a. boys and girls received an equal education
  - b. slaves were taught to read and write so they could become free
  - c. only boys could go to school
  - d. all students were provided with their own set of books
23. Which was also **true** of education in Athens?
- a. a set of books was freely provided to all students
  - b. memorizing lessons was very important
  - c. participating in sports was not allowed
  - d. boys and girls studied together to prepare for tests
24. What was **true** about women in Athens?
- a. women were not considered citizens in Athens
  - b. women could choose their own husbands
  - c. women could vote at assembly meetings
  - d. none of the above

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25. Which was one of the most difficult and dangerous kinds of work a **slave** in Athens might be forced to do?
- a. wash clothes
  - b. help raise children
  - c. mine silver underground
  - d. work as a city clerk
26. What was **true** about the assembly in Sparta?
- a. it was made up of only male citizens
  - b. it was made up of a large group of people which met outdoors
  - c. it had very little power to make decisions
  - d. all of the above
27. Once the Spartans conquered a neighboring group of people, what did they do?
- a. the Spartans granted citizenship to the conquered people
  - b. Spartans married the conquered adults and adopted the children into their own family
  - c. the Spartans forced the conquered people into slavery
  - d. none of the above
28. Sparta differed from Athens in many ways. Sparta did not trade with other city-states very much. Why not?
- a. the leaders of Sparta feared that meeting new people might give their own people new ideas and weaken their government
  - b. because they did not speak the same language as people from other Greek city-states
  - c. because the nearest city-states were thousands of miles away
  - d. all of the above
29. Which was generally **true** about life in Sparta?
- a. the city depended on slaves and non-citizens to do a lot of the physical labor (work)
  - b. Sparta was ruled by only a few people who made decisions that affected the whole population of Sparta
  - c. the economy (the wealth of a city or country) of Sparta depended mostly on farming and military conquests of people in neighboring city-states
  - d. all of the above
30. Other city-states and people from other countries did not like trading with Sparta because Sparta did not have coins. What did Sparta use as a **form of money**?
- a. pig tails
  - b. heavy metal bars
  - c. horse teeth
  - d. mud bricks