COMPARSION OF ATHENS AND SPARTA

ATHENS	SPARTA

NAME: _____ Global History I

ATHENS AND SPARTA

The people of Greece controlled the area around the eastern Mediterranean Sea from about 600 B.C. until 350 B.C.. Ancient Greece was not a single country. It was made up of small countries called city-states. The most important ones were Athens and Sparta.

The ideas of **DEMOCRACY** were developed. Athenian citizens would meet whenever a major decision had to be made. After talking about it, they would vote. This is known as Direct Democracy because the people made the decisions themselves. Non-citizens (including slaves and women) had no say in the government. Athenians also began the **JURY** system and had trials to see if someone was guilty of a crime. They also codified their laws (wrote them down in an organized way). Athenians loved their city-state and fought hard to protect it. Each citizen was required to serve two years in the army. In Athens art, literature, the theater and philosophy were important.

The city state of Sparta was quite different from Athens. Sparta did not follow democratic ideas and instead had a **TOTALITARIAN** government. Because they had so many slaves, known as helots, Spartans were always afraid there would be a slave revolt. To prevent one, life in Sparta was designed to give the city-state a powerful army. At the age of seven healthy boys were taken to training centers where they lived without their parents. They were trained to be soldiers. Young boys were taught that it was better to die in battle rather than lose. The Spartans were the greatest soldiers in ancient Greece. However, because they spent so much time as soldiers, they had little time for art, literature and science.

QUESTIONS: **(on a separate piece of paper)**

1. Explain two differences between Athens and Sparta.

2. Which city-state would you rather live in? Why?

3. List three ideas we follow in the United States today that can be traced back to Athens.

4. Which country in the 20th century followed the ideas of Sparta? Explain your answer.

   Look at the map of ancient Greece on the next page. In which direction would you be traveling if you went from Sparta to Athens? From Athens to the island of Crete? From Troy to Mt. Olympus?

6. Look at the picture of the Parthenon (a Temple to the Goddess Athena). Which buildings in the U.S. look like the Parthenon?