**Name: April 29, 2020**

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** Why do people form governments?

**GUIDING QUESTION** Why did the Spartans focus on military skills?

**Terms to Know**

helots (HEH .luhts) enslaved people in ancient Sparta

ephor (EH.fuhrs) a high-ranking government official in Sparta who was elected by the

council of elders

**Sparta: A Military Society**

Sparta was located on the Peloponnesus Peninsula in southern Greece. The Spartans were descended from the Dorians who invaded Greece in the Dark Ages. Sparta invaded nearby city-states and enslaved the people who lived there. The Spartans called these enslaved people **helots**. Like other city-states, Sparta’s economy was based on agriculture.

In about 650 B.C. the helots rebelled. The Spartans crushed the uprising. The leaders decided to make Sparta a **military society**. The leaders thought this would make citizens more loyal and obedient.

All boys and men were prepared for a life of war. Boys left home at age seven. They lived in harsh military camps where they learned to read, write, and to use weapons. Spartan leaders believed harsh treatment would make boys into adults who could survive the pain of battle.

**Life for Men in Sparta**

**Age 7: Left home for military camps**

**Age 20: Joined the regular army**

**Age 30: Could live at home while serving in the military**

**Age 60: Finally left military service**

Spartan women enjoyed more freedom than women in other city-states because the men were often away from home. They could travel and own property. Girls were trained in sports such as wrestling. The main role of women was to raise sons for the military.

Sparta’s government was an **oligarchy**. Two kings ruled together but had little power. The **council of elders** acted as judges and the assembly made decisions about war and peace. The assembly elected five people each year to be **ephors**. The ephors enforced laws and collected taxes.

Sparta's leaders believed education could lead to unrest. For this reason, the government discouraged people from studying literature and the arts. Foreign visitors were not welcome. People could leave Sparta only for military purposes. Sparta resisted change. They continued to use heavy iron bars for money when other Greeks used coins. This discouraged trade and Sparta became isolated from the rest of Greece.

Answer the following questions.

1 What word in paragraph 3 means ***“relating to soldiers and war.*”**

2 Why did **women** have more freedom in Sparta than any other city-state?

3 What **economic** change did Spartans resist?

4 Why did Sparta **fall behind** other Greek city-states in many areas?

5 What was the **most powerful body** in Sparta’s government?

6 Why did the Spartans focus on **military skills**?