

FOCUS

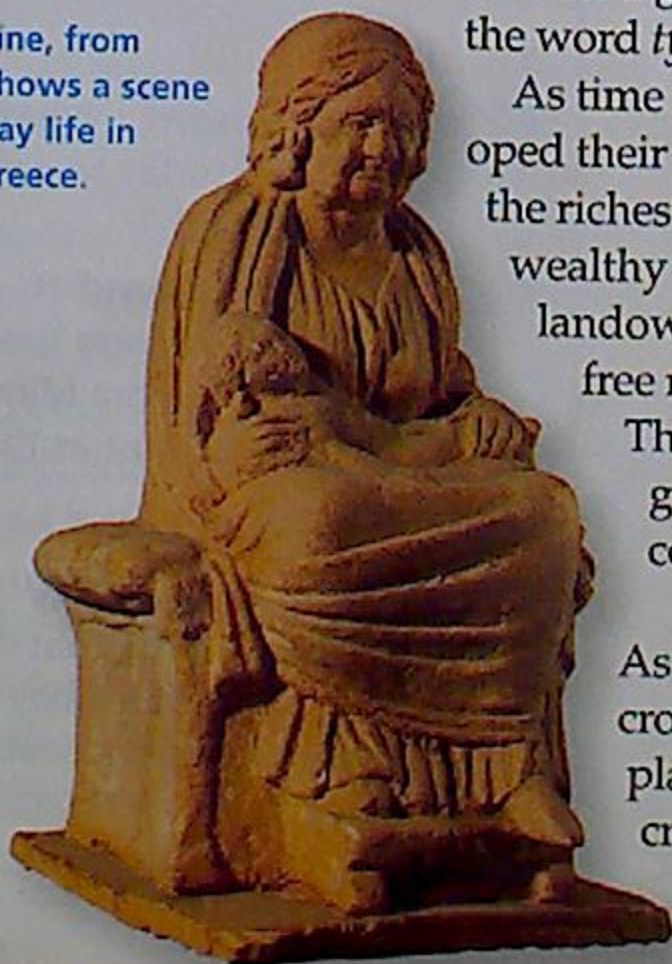
What might cause people to develop very different ways of life?

Main Idea As you read, look for reasons the peoples of ancient Greece developed different ways of life.

Vocabulary

polis
acropolis
agora
tyrant
aristocracy
assembly
helot
oligarchy
democracy
majority rule
cultural identity
myth

This figurine, from 375 B.C., shows a scene of everyday life in ancient Greece.



City-States and Greek Culture

Around 800 B.C. the people of Greece again began to build settlements. At first most Greeks lived in small villages. The growth of trade in local products helped villages grow into towns. In time each town joined with nearby villages and farms to form a **polis**, or city-state.

Rise of City-States

To protect themselves from invaders, Greek communities built forts on the tops of hills. Farmers from the countryside moved to these protected areas during enemy attacks. Later the fortress, or **acropolis** (uh•KRAH•puh•luhs), became the center for daily life in many city-states.

Outside the acropolis were houses, temples, and an open-air market and gathering place called an **agora** (A•guh•ruh). People met in the agora to exchange goods and discuss the news of the day.

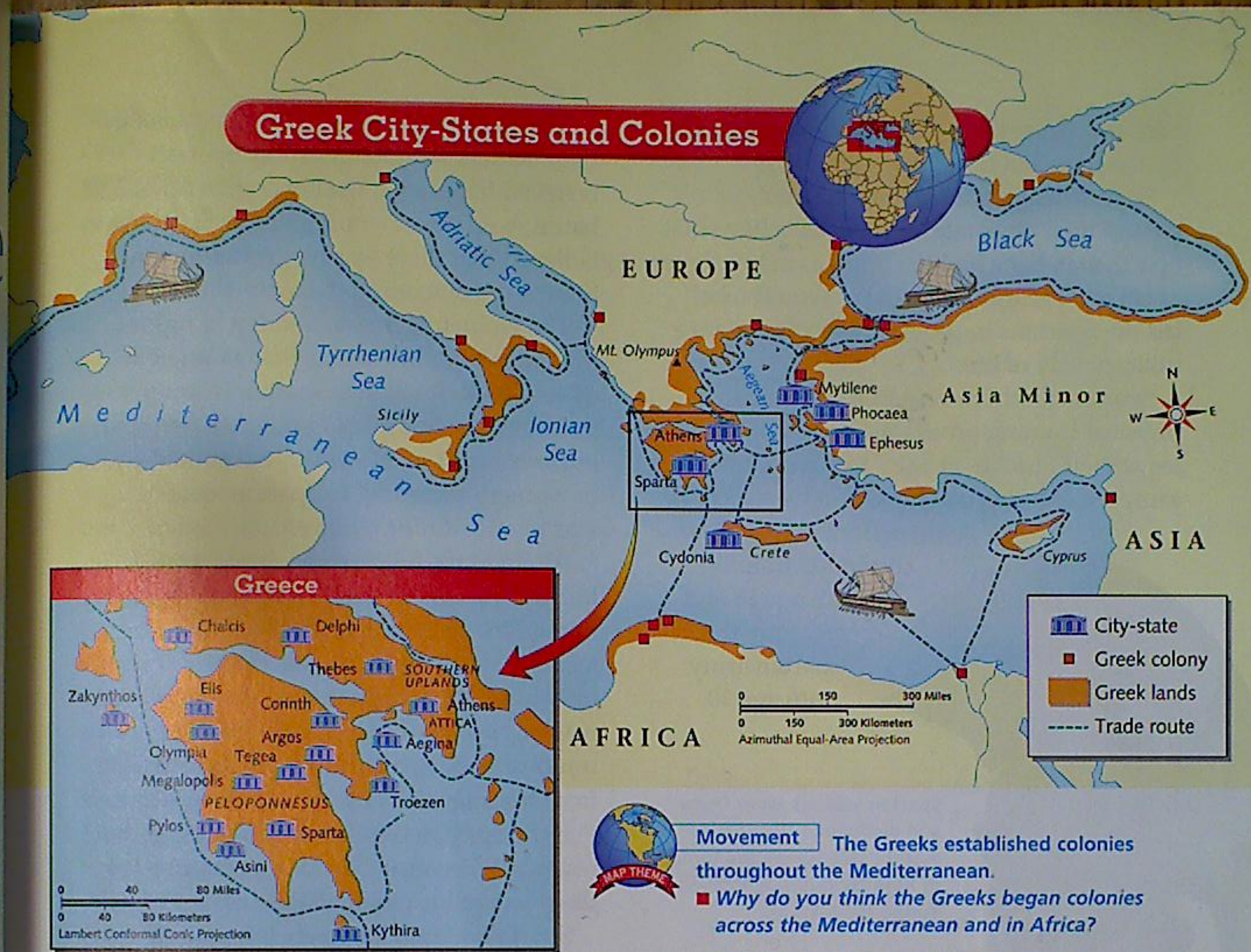
A king or tyrant ruled each city-state and made all political decisions. In ancient Greece a **tyrant** was someone who took control of a government by force and ruled alone. Today the word *tyrant* refers to a cruel ruler.

As time passed, the people in each city-state developed their own way of governing. In some city-states the richest men shared authority with a king. This wealthy ruling class, or **aristocracy**, was made up of landowners and merchants. In other city-states all free men, rich or poor, took part in government.

These men met in an **assembly**, or lawmaking group, to make decisions for the whole community.

Most city-states had fewer than 5,000 people. As the population of a city-state grew, overcrowding forced some people to look for new places to live. Several city-states set up colonies, creating new city-states in Asia Minor, southern Europe, and northern Africa.

Greek City-States and Colonies



Movement The Greeks established colonies throughout the Mediterranean.

■ Why do you think the Greeks began colonies across the Mediterranean and in Africa?

Besides providing space for more people, the colonies brought the Greeks new natural resources and trade markets. As more and more colonies were set up, Greek ideas and customs spread through the Mediterranean region.

Rivalries grew as the city-states began to compete for land and colonies. The city-states of Sparta and Argos both wanted control of the Peloponnesus. Athens and Thebes fought to rule the southern uplands northeast of the Peloponnesus. Sparta and Athens eventually became the most powerful city-states. While not rivals at first, Sparta and Athens had strikingly different ways of life.

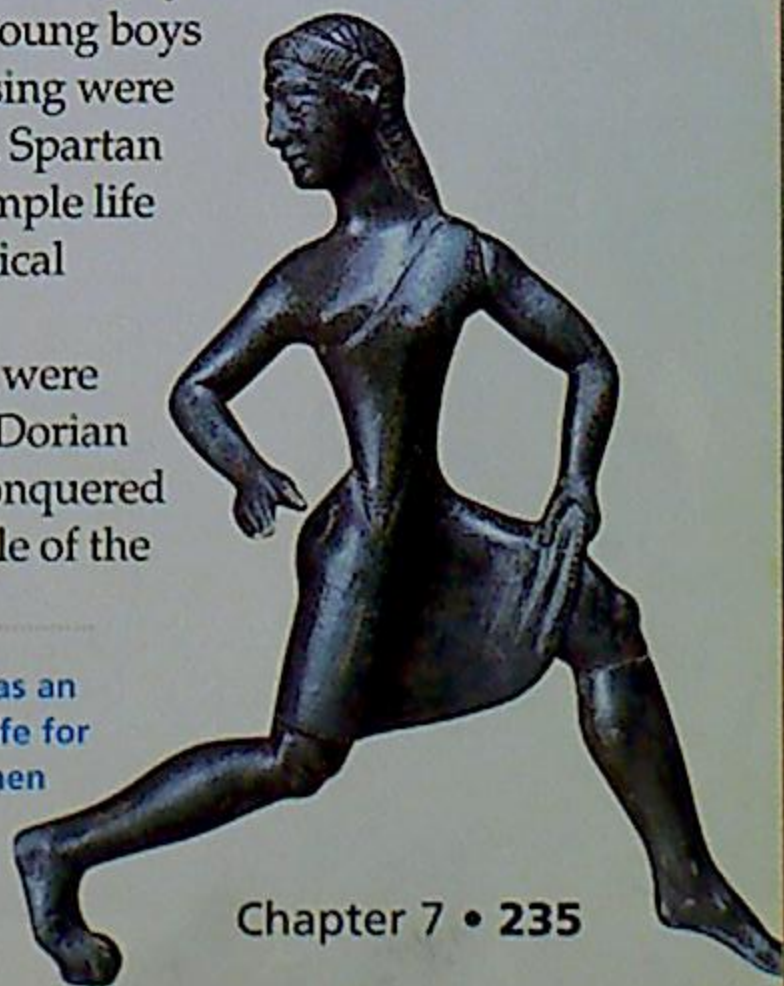
REVIEW What features did the city-states share? How were they different from one another?

Sparta

Sparta was located in the southern Peloponnesus. In this city-state, soldiers marching and young boys and girls exercising were common sights. Spartan citizens led a simple life filled with physical activity.

The Spartans were descendants of Dorian settlers. They conquered the earlier people of the

Physical training was an important part of life for both women and men in ancient Sparta.



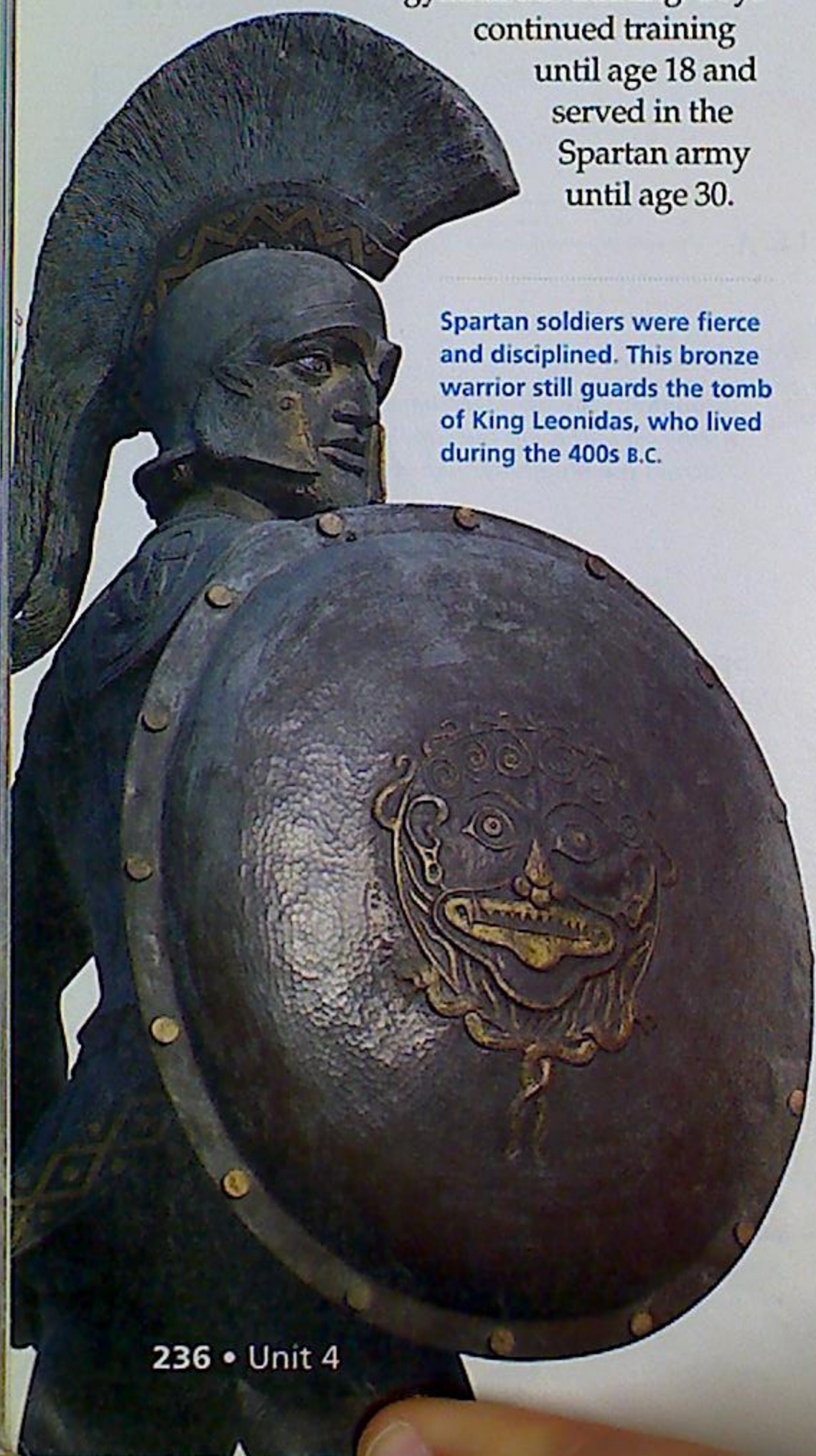
area and made them **helots**—slaves owned by the state, not by private citizens.

Spartan leaders used military strength to control their city-state. Historians believe that Sparta may have had ten times as many slaves as citizens. Fear that the slaves would rebel led the Spartans to protect themselves with a military way of life.

Spartan children went through long physical-training programs. Boys had to leave their families at age 7 to attend training camps. Girls stayed at home but received

gymnastics training. Boys continued training until age 18 and served in the Spartan army until age 30.

Spartan soldiers were fierce and disciplined. This bronze warrior still guards the tomb of King Leonidas, who lived during the 400s B.C.



The army camps taught Spartans to obey their leaders without question. Spartans believed that they must never give up a battle, even when wounded. The Spartans believed that there was no greater honor than to die defending their city-state.

The women of Sparta had fewer rights than men but more rights than women in other Greek city-states. Spartan women managed the household and often handled business matters. However, the main duty of women, according to Spartan leaders, was to raise strong children.

All Spartans followed a simple way of life. By law everyone ate "in common, of the same bread and same meat." Spartan leaders feared that new ideas would bring unwanted changes to their society. For this reason, citizens were rarely allowed to travel outside Sparta and were discouraged from trading with outsiders. This meant that the Spartans could use only their own resources. Because they kept to themselves, their way of life changed little over time.

Sparta had two kings, each from a different royal family. Except in times of war, the kings had little authority. Both kings served as part of a 30-member senate. The other members of the senate—all over the age of 60—were elected by an assembly of citizens. All male Spartans were allowed to be part of the assembly. The assembly elected five landowners called *ephors* (EH•ferz) to handle daily governing.

Only the senate or the ephors could suggest new laws in Sparta. The assembly of citizens voted for or against new laws, but their votes could be ignored by the ephors and the senate. This meant that the ephors and the senators held most of the power in Sparta. Any small ruling group such as this is called an **oligarchy**.

Although strict, Spartan government was among the most admired governments in all of Greece. Many Greeks thought that the

Spartan government's tight control over its citizens made it a strong city-state.

REVIEW Why did Spartans believe they needed a strong army?

Athens

Athens was the main city-state in Attica (A•tih•kuh), the ancient name for land in the southern uplands. Unlike Sparta, Athens required its young men to serve in the army only in time of war. Athenian government encouraged the people to take part in community decisions. This civic participation grew into a system of **democracy**, or rule by the people. The Greek historian Thucydides (thoo•SIH•duh•deez) said about Athens, "Its administration favors the many instead of the few."

The Athenian leader Solon had helped bring democracy to Athens about 594 B.C. Under his leadership male Athenians were able to take a greater part in government. About 508 B.C., a leader named Cleisthenes (KLYS•thuh•neez) changed the form of Athenian government to a full democracy. By the year 500 B.C., every free man over age 20 had full political rights.

All citizens took part in the city-state's assembly, called the Ecclesia. Every member of the assembly had one vote. All decisions were made by **majority rule**. In other words, the idea that received the most votes became law.

The reforms of Cleisthenes kept any one person from taking control of Athens. To get rid of a troublesome person, citizens held a special meeting.

Any citizen who received the most votes out of 6,000 was forced to leave Athens for ten years. The candidates' names were written on broken pieces of pottery called ostraca



Paintings on Greek pottery illustrated history and legend, religious ceremonies, or daily life.

Population of Athens

about 430 B.C.



LEARNING FROM GRAPHS Male citizens with the right to vote made up only a small part of Athens's population.

- Athens's population was about 285,000 people. About how many male citizens were there? About how many slaves were there?

(AHS•truh•kuh). This practice gave us the English word *ostracize*, meaning "to shut out."

The changes made by Cleisthenes let more people take part in government. But Athenian democracy did not include everyone. Women could not take part in government even though they were considered citizens. However, as in Sparta, women managed the family budget and the household.

The people who gained the least from Athenian democracy probably

helped make that democracy possible. These were the slaves, who made up about one-third of the population. The slaves of Athens did most of the work, giving the citizens the time to take part in democracy.

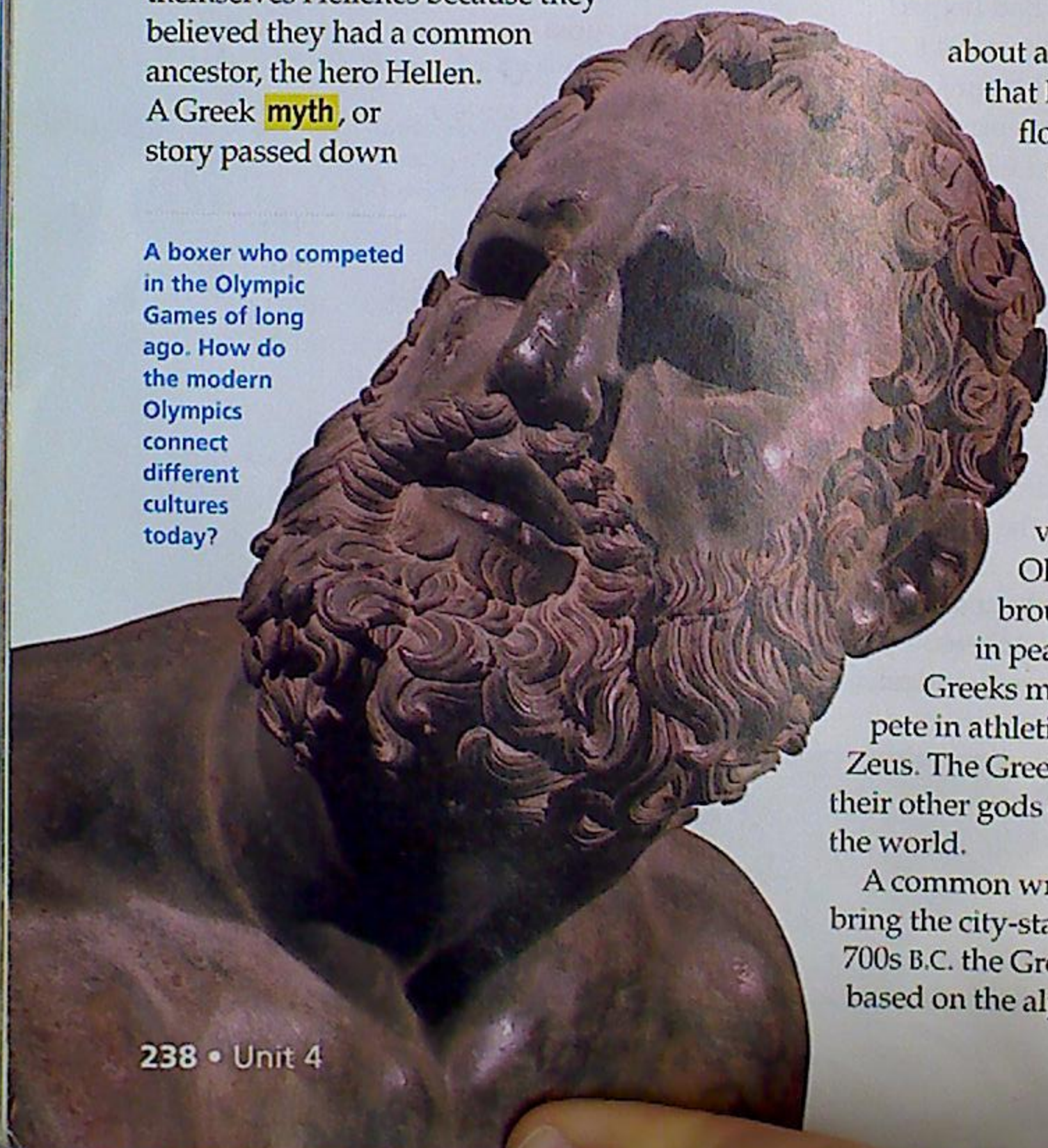
REVIEW *How were decisions made by the Athenian government?*

Greek Identity

During the time of the city-states, Greeks did not think of themselves as belonging to a single country. People identified with their city-state rather than with a country. They considered themselves Spartans, Athenians, and so on.

However, the Greek people did feel a cultural connection, or a **cultural identity**, with one another. All Greeks called themselves Hellenes because they believed they had a common ancestor, the hero Hellen. A Greek **myth**, or story passed down

A boxer who competed in the Olympic Games of long ago. How do the modern Olympics connect different cultures today?



HERITAGE

The First Olympics

The first Olympic Games were held in the valley of Olympia near the city-state of Elis in 776 B.C. As many as 40,000 people watched athletes from city-states throughout Greece compete in one event—a footrace. Women were not allowed to enter the stadium at Olympia to compete or even to watch. Later, however, women in Elis held their own footraces to honor the goddess Hera.

Early bronze discus



about an ancient god or hero, said that Hellen alone had survived a flood long ago. In addition, their shared religion set the Greeks apart, in their minds, from other peoples who lived alongside the Mediterranean, such as the Phoenicians and the Egyptians. The Greek cultural identity was seen in various activities. The Olympic Games, for example, brought the city-states together in peace. Beginning about 776 B.C. Greeks met every four years to compete in athletic contests to honor the god Zeus. The Greeks believed that Zeus and their other gods controlled daily events in the world.

A common written language also helped bring the city-states closer together. In the 700s B.C. the Greeks developed an alphabet based on the alphabet of the Phoenicians.

The Greek Alphabet

GREEK LETTER	WRITTEN NAME	ENGLISH SOUND
Α	alpha	a
Β	beta	b
Γ	gamma	g
Δ	delta	d
Ε	epsilon	e
Ζ	zeta	z
Η	eta	e
Θ	theta	th
Ι	iota	i
Κ	kappa	c, k
Λ	lambda	l
Μ	mu	m
Ν	nu	n
Ξ	xi	x
Ο	omicron	o
Π	pi	p
Ρ	rho	r
Σ	sigma	s
Τ	tau	t
Υ	upsilon	y, u
Φ	phi	ph
Χ	chi	ch
Ψ	psi	ps
Ω	omega	o

LEARNING FROM TABLES The Greek alphabet borrowed many letters from the Phoenicians but added its own vowels to form a 24-letter alphabet.

■ *In what ways is the ancient Greek alphabet similar to today's English alphabet?*

Like the Minoans long before them, the Phoenicians were traders and needed a writing system to keep track of their trade. Phoenician writing used symbols to stand for single sounds rather than whole ideas. In changing this system to fit their needs, the Greeks called the first letter *alpha*. The second letter was *beta*. The English word *alphabet* comes from the names of those Greek letters.

REVIEW *What helped the Greeks feel a cultural identity?*



The painting on this bowl is of Zeus, the chief god of the Greeks. The Greeks believed that many gods ruled both nature and people.

LESSON 2 REVIEW

Check Understanding

- Remember the Facts** Which Greek city-state was centered around its army? What Greek city-state was known for its democracy?
- Recall the Main Idea** What caused the people in different parts of ancient Greece to develop different ways of life?

Think Critically

- Think More About It** Why did the Athenians feel it was important for citizens to take part in government?
- Explore Viewpoints** Why do people around the world have different ideas about governing?



Show What You Know

Speech Activity Imagine that you are an observer first in Sparta and then in

Athens. Give a speech that describes the differences in the ways of life of the two city-states.