



KYNISKA

Date of birth: Kyniska (Greek Κυνίσκα; born c. 442 BC) was a wealthy Spartan princess.

Places of birth and living: She was born in the ancient Greek city-state of Sparta and she lived there.

Family, Husband(s) and/or romantic relationship:

Cynisca was born around 442 BC in the ancient Greek city-state of Sparta and was the daughter of the Eurypontid king Archidamus II. Her brother was Agesilaus II, who later succeeded his father and became a king of Sparta.

Physical characteristics:

We do not know what she looks like because no representation or statue of her has been found. As we know that she is coming from Sparta, we can however imagine that she must have been strong and athletic, as most of the Spartan women.

Personality: She is strong, ambitious and athletic

Hobbies: She is a princess from Sparta that is riding horses and participated at the Olympic games that she won! She joined a Roman chariot race and won it.

Experiences: Kyniska was an ancient Greek woman known for her experiences in horse training and participation in equestrian competitions. Born around 440 B.C., Kyniska gained fame for winning in the Olympic chariot racing discipline, traditionally reserved for men.

However, Kyniska did not personally compete but instead commissioned and managed her horses and charioteers. Her victories at the 396 B.C. and 392 B.C. The Olympics drew attention, showcasing that women could excel in prestigious sports competitions.

Texts where she appears (Title, author, date): There are references to Kyniska in some ancient texts. For example, the Greek historian Xenophon mentioned Kyniska in his work "Constitution of the Spartans" (Laconica) in the 4th century BC, around 390 BC, discussing the laws and institutions of Sparta. Pausanias, another Greek historian, refers to Kyniska in his "Descriptions of Greece" during the 2nd century CE. Information about Kyniska is limited and often relies on fragmentary ancient sources.



Sparta



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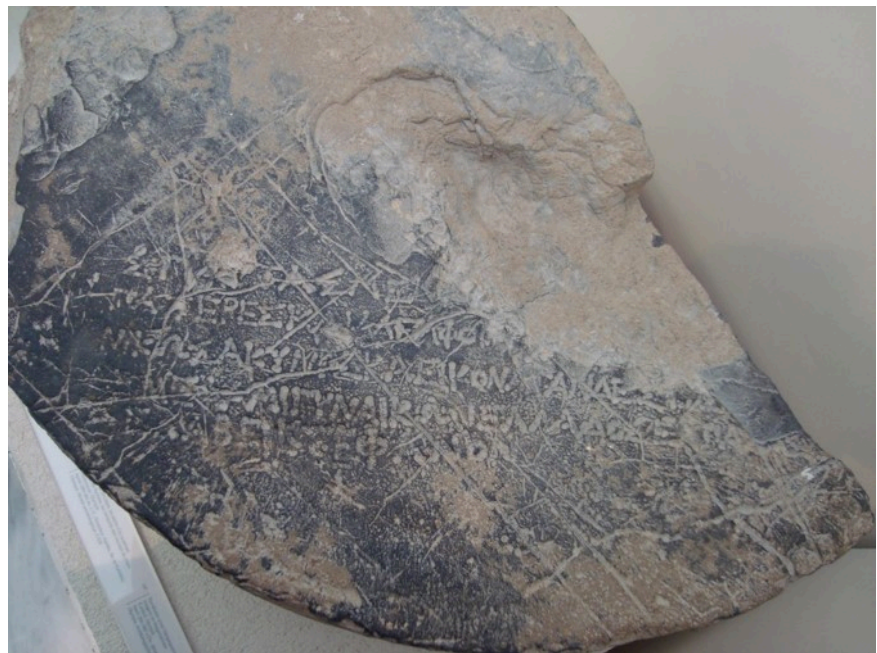
<https://www.kyniska.gr>

[Aphorisms and quotes related to her \(+ Sources\)](#)

Cynisca celebrated her victories with an inscription in Olympia (c. 390-380 BC) declaring that she was the only woman to win the wreath in the chariot events at the Olympic Games. She also dedicated another monument with a copy of the same inscription in Sparta. The inscription reads:

Kings of Sparta are my father and brothers
I, Kyniska, victorious with a chariot of swift-footed horses,
have erected this statue. I declare myself the only woman
in all Hellas to have won this crown.
Apelleas son of Kallikles made it.

[Communication: Artworks where she appears \(Title, artist, year\)](#)



The statue base with Cynisca's inscription from Olympia

[Sitography](#)

theconversation.com

<https://www.worldhistory.org/trans/fr/1-19939/cynisca/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cynisca>

<https://greekreporter.com/2023/06/10/women-history-kyniska-sparta-first-female-olympian/>

<https://www.girlguidinglaser.org.uk/news/woman-of-the-month-kyniska-of-sparta-the-first-woman-to-win-at-the-ancient-olympics>

Videos about Kyniska:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Upe7os_t4Y

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTKzP1woJds>

Quotations about Kyniska:

<https://www.girlguidinglaser.org.uk/news/woman-of-the-month-kyniska-of-sparta-the-first-woman-to-win-at-the-ancient-olympics>

Questions for a kahoot : (don't forget the suggested answers)

Where did Kyniska born?

- Atens
- Creta
- Sparta ✓
- Santorini

Where did she stay during is life?

- Sparta ✓
- Éfeso
- Cirene
- Olimpia

Did Kyniska compete in horse racing herself?

Yes.

No. ✓

Sometimes.

Maybe.

Who mentioned Kyniska in his text?

Xenophon. ✓

Newton. ✗

Albert Einstein. ✗

Geoffrey Chaucer. ✗

Who was Kyniska and what was she knows for in ancient Greece?

- Kyniska was a Spartan princess known for being the first woman to win at the Olympic games ✓
- Kyniska wasn't the daughter of Archidamus II, the king of Sparta, and she was known for her passion for horses and chariot racing.
- Kyniska wasn't a prominent figure in ancient Greece, renowned for challenging traditional gender roles by participating and winning
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