

THE EVIDENCE SORT

Directions:

- Provide an argument/claim for the students
- Ask the students to sort evidence strips and find evidence that supports the argument (or thesis). Evidence should be sorted into three categories:
 - o Evidence that supports the claim
 - o Evidence that counters the claim
 - o Evidence that you are unsure whether it supports or counters the claim
- Students can share which evidence they chose and why.

Historiography: Many historians have written about the freedoms associated with Athenian democracy, while others have argued that slavery was vital in supporting Athens' Golden Age.

Argument/Claim:

The Athenian Golden Age would have occurred with or without the existence of slavery.

Evidence: A fundamental part of the economy, the most prized slaves worked as tutors and police officials, and one group of elite slaves was even empowered to herd citizens to the assembly with a long rope dipped in paint! Next in status were domestic slaves who, under certain circumstances, might be allowed to buy their own freedom and often looked upon as 'one of the family', during certain festivals they would be waited upon by their masters. Lowest of all slaves were those who worked in the nearby Laurium silver mines - where most quickly perished.

Source: "The Populace of Athens: Slaves" [The Populace of Athens - Slaves](#)

Evidence: [S]lavery was basic to Greek civilization in the sense that, to abolish it and substitute free labor, if it had occurred to anyone to try this on, would have dislocated the whole society and done away with the leisure of the upper classes of Athens and Sparta.

Source: Anthony Andrews, The Greeks

Evidence: Most people who were slaves in Greece had been born free. They were sold into slavery by their parents when they were children because their parents were too poor to take care of them. Or they were captured by kidnappers or as prisoners of war and sold as slaves. A few slaves were the children of other slaves. Most slaves were Greek people from other cities, and some were Persians or Egyptians, or Scythians.

Source: "Greek Slavery"
<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/greeks/people/slaves.htm#!>

Evidence: The "golden age" of Greece lasted for little more than a century but it laid the foundations of western civilization. The age began with the unlikely defeat of a vast Persian army by badly outnumbered Greeks and it ended with an inglorious and lengthy war between Athens and Sparta...

During this period of time significant advances were made in a number of fields including government, art, philosophy, drama, and literature. Some of the Greek names most familiar to us lived in this exciting and productive time.

Source: "The Golden Age of Greece"
<http://www.historymuseum.ca/cmc/exhibitions/civil/greece/gr1050e.shtml>

Evidence: It is, of course, a common criticism of Athenian democracy that metics, women, and slaves were excluded from citizenship rights. In terms of numbers, it seems that during the fifth century, the number of male citizens varied between 30,000 and 50,000 out of a total population of around 250,000 to 300,000. There were perhaps 80,000 slaves (some estimates are over 100,000)...

Source: John Thorley, Athenian Democracy

Evidence: One might say that in the ancient world, there was no true freedom without true slavery.

Source: Michael H. Jameson, "Agriculture and Slavery in Classical Athens"

Adapted from Emma Hipolito, UCLA History-Geography Project.