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Mr. Mills, Period 2

Writing Exercise

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Comparison: Athens and Sparta (originally hand-written)

Athens and Sparta were both Greek city-states. However, they were very different in many areas of their societies. In my opinion, Athens was greater. Their government was a democracy, and all citizens could take part in decision making. Citizens were responsible for justice. While people in Sparta were “generally lacking in any excitement of the mind”, Athenians were “always eager to learn new ideas”. The Athenian navy was the strongest in the Mediterranean.

There were many great examples of Athenian architecture. The Parthenon, with its statue of Athena, is one of these examples. Their values of classical art were order, balance, and proportion. They produced magnificent architecture to glorify their gods. Pottery and sculptures were also superb. Athenians invented drama, which included tragedies and comedies. Unfortunately, Athens lost in a war with Sparta. However, this cleared the way for great Athenian philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.