SPARTA and ATHENS

I can compare and contrast the daily lives of people living in the ancient Greek city-states of Sparta and Athens.
IN YOUR NOTEBOOK CREATE A TREE MAP LIKE THE ONE BELOW.

ATHENS AND SPARTA: GREECE’S POWERFUL CITY-STATES

ATHENS

SPARTA

AS WE GO THROUGH THIS POWERPOINT YOU WILL SEE UNDERLINED INFORMATION. THAT UNDERLINED INFORMATION WILL NEED TO BE WRITTEN DOWN AS NOTES UNDER THE APPROPRIATE GREEK CITY-STATE.
The two largest Greek city-states at the time had very different sized populations. Around the year 500 B.C., Sparta had a population of around 140,000 people, while Athens boasted a population of 315,000 people. (1/3 of that population consisted of slaves).
Athens had two governing bodies. The Council of Four Hundred took care of day-to-day problems. The Assembly voted on policies proposed by the council. Citizens had to serve in the army whenever they were needed. They also had to serve on juries. Juries usually had several hundred people to hear charges against a person. In Athens, all citizens were equal in the courts. There were no professional lawyers or judges. Citizens argued their case directly before a jury.

Different reforms (changes) had organized citizens into four classes based on income. Foreigners, women, children, and slaves were not citizens. Slaves made up one-third of the population. They worked in homes, agriculture, industry, and mines. Some slaves worked alongside their masters. Some even earned wages and were able to buy their freedom.
ATHENIAN EDUCATION AND WOMEN

Boys of wealthy families started school at age six or seven. Education prepared them to be good citizens. They studied logic and public speaking to help them debate as adults in the Assembly. They also studied reading, writing, poetry, arithmetic, and music. Athletic activities helped develop strong bodies.

Athenians expected women to be good wives and mothers. These roles were respected because they helped to keep the family and society strong. In addition, some women fulfilled important religious roles as priestesses in temples. In spite of their importance to society, Athenian women had much less freedom than Spartan women. Women could inherit property only if their fathers had no sons. Girls did not attend school. They learned household duties from their mothers. A few learned to read and write.

Athens offered a wide variety of life choices for free male citizens. Athens was the cultural center of ancient Greece, and a city in which traders from all over the world sought out on their travels. It could boast the largest military force in ancient Greece and had the most powerful naval force of the ancient world at that time.
About 715 B.C., Sparta conquered a neighboring area to gain land. This conquest changed Sparta. The Spartans forced the defeated people to become slaves called helots. They worked mostly on farms and had to give the Spartans half their crops. The helots rebelled many times. Although they greatly outnumbered the Spartans and fought hard, the Spartans put down the revolts. Fear of these revolts led Sparta to become a state that focused on everything building a strong army.
SPARTAN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY

Sparta had a government that was part monarchy, part oligarchy, and part democracy.

• 2 kings ruled Sparta, each of whom shared in the responsibilities.
• 5 elected supervisors ran the government.
• The Council of Elders, made up of 30 citizens, proposed laws. Each member of the council had to be at least 60 years of age and from a noble family.
• All Spartan citizens were part of the Assembly. The Assembly elected officials and voted on the laws proposed by the council. Assembly members were only male citizens at least 30 years of age. Assemblies were held once a month.

Three social groups made up Spartan society. Citizens lived in the city and spent all their time training to be soldiers. Free noncitizens lived in nearby villages. They had no political rights. The lowest group was the helots. Their labor fed Sparta, making it possible for free Spartans to be full-time soldiers.
The goal of Spartan society was to have a strong army. At age seven, boys moved into military houses called barracks. Their education stressed discipline, duty, strength, and military skills. Boys learned to read just enough to get by. A Greek historian, Plutarch, wrote:

“As soon as the boys were seven years old they were taken from their parents and enrolled in companies. Here they lived and ate in common and shared their play and work. One of the noblest and bravest men of the state was appointed superintendent of the boys, and they themselves in each company chose the wisest and bravest as captain. They looked to him for orders, obeyed his commands, and endured his punishments, so that even in childhood, they learned to obey.”

All male citizens entered the army at the age of 20 and served until they were 60. Even after men got married, they had to eat with their fellow soldiers.

Spartan society expected its women to be tough, emotionally and physically. Education for girls in Sparta focused on making them strong. They had athletic training and learned to defend themselves.

The emphasis on the army made family life less important in Sparta than in other Greek city-states. In Sparta, husbands and wives spent much time apart. Women had more freedom. They were allowed to own property. A wife was expected to watch over her husband’s property if he was at war.

Spartan law discouraged anything that would distract people from the disciplined military life. Sparta did not welcome visitors from other cities, and Spartans would only travel during times of war. Spartans had no interest in other ways of life and discouraged the spread of new ideas throughout their city-state.