

Greece

Economy & Social Class



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Sea

- Shipping and fishing were easy since most cities were located along the coast.
- Panned the sea for salt, and fishers caught tuna fish, anchovies, and sardines.
- Some people lived in colonies. 
- Colonies were useful trading posts for merchants to trade goods they produced, such as olive oil and minerals, for wheat, wood, and other items they needed.



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Resources

- The forests of northern Greece provided timber to the south where wood was scarce
- Greece's rocky land provided minerals for tools and weapons, and marble and stone for buildings and sculptures.
- Mines near Athens were rich in silver, marble, iron, and lead. 
- Ships called triremes carried Greeks to new lands to live, trade, and fight wars.



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Markets

- Food and goods were sold and traded in a central marketplace of a city, called the agora.
 - Goods were hauled in carts they pulled themselves or with a donkey.
 - At the agora you could find items such as food, clothing, housewares, pottery, and slaves. 
 - Most city-states had their own gold or silver coins, and decorated them with local gods or symbols.
 - Local artisans kept their workshops near the agora to attract shoppers.
- It was also a place where men could meet and discuss ideas and politics.



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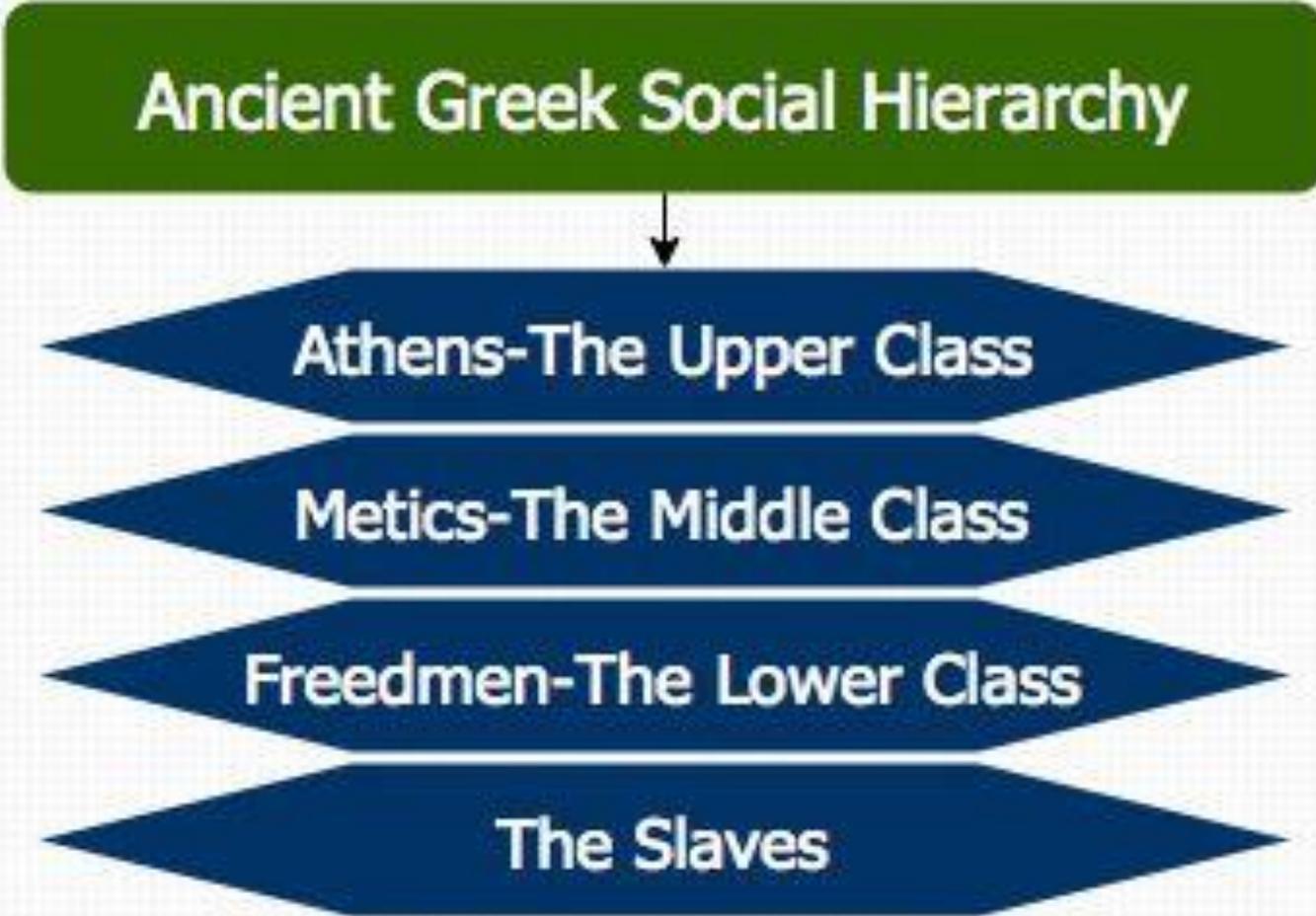


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Ancient Greek Social Hierarchy



Athens-The Upper Class

Metics-The Middle Class

Freedmen-The Lower Class

The Slaves



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Athenians

- Highest class – upper class (very small class)
- Possessed the most power and position in the society.
- Had to be born in Athens
- Rights for this class could only be inherited 
- Handled all the government work, philosophy as well as the literature department, and also the war
- Used slaves to perform their labor work
- Had time for leisure activities



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Metics

- 2nd class – middle class (largest class)
- Were not the natives of Athens, but came to Athens to settle down & earn their livelihood.
- They were free men, they were not slaves but they possessed very little rights (no citizenship, no voting, could not own land, or marry up).
- They were majorly involved in the trading and manufacturing related jobs.



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Freedman

- 3rd class – lower class
- These were individuals who were once slaves but somehow were freed by their owner
- No citizenship
- Little freedoms (could not vote & was told what to do by the upper class) 



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Slaves

- 4th class – never considered it as a class
- Used as servants and laborers
- Prisoners of war, criminals, brought over by foreign slave traders
- Zero rights or authority
- Most were non-Greeks
- Could gain their freedom

