

## SOCIAL STRUCTURE IN THE GREEK POLIS

### General Characteristics:

- \* Free adult males were allowed to be citizens
- \* Citizens enjoyed political rights but also had a responsibility to participate in government affairs
- \* Women and foreigners had no political rights
- \* Slaves had no political rights

### **ATHENS:**

- \* There were different forms of government in Athens throughout Athenian history. These forms included Monarchy, Aristocracy, Tyranny, and Democracy
- \* Draco and Solon were two tyrants who worked for legal reform
- \* Athens is the birthplace for democracy and democratic principles such as direct democracy, public debate, and the concept that citizens have duties to make society run efficiently

### **SPARTA:**

- \* Oligarchy (rule by a small group)
- \* Rigid social structure
- \* Very aggressive society based upon militaristic principles
- \* Economy was based on agriculture