

## ★ Children's work in Ancient Greece

Before you read the text:

What do you think 😞 What work did children have in Ancient Greece?

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Ancient Greece Neolithic Stone Tools & Weapons

We don't know much about childhood in Ancient Greece. This is because most of the documents were destroyed at some point in history.

What we know is that most of the people were poor and had to work a lot. Because there was so much work to do in the household, children of poorer families had to work, too. There were some tasks that very young children could do: scaring birds off the fields, herding animals or fetching water.

In the city of Sparta, life was even harder. Sparta was all about military and war. So, children were taken away from their families when they were 7. They did military training – the girls, too! As young children they played outside naked to get used to the cold and the weather.

Only the sons of the few rich families went to school. You probably know that they were often taught by slaves. There was no fixed number of years that they went to school.

Children of wealthy families had more time to play and did not work.

- 1) First reading: underline words that you need to look up.
- 2) Look up words and write them on the margin (Rand).
- 3) Second reading: highlight 3-5 most important facts.
- 4) Check your understanding with tasks online: [ogy.de/ancientwork](http://ogy.de/ancientwork)
- 5) Write down 2-3 sentences as a summary.
- 6) Write down 1 quiz question and hand it in.

Summary:

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Bonus: Watch how girls lived in Ancient Rome: [ogy.de/foursisters](http://ogy.de/foursisters)



Children playing ball games

Sources:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-06747-w>

<http://factsanddetails.com/world/cat56/sub406/entry-6198.html>