GREEK CITY-STATES

By the Archaic Period, mainland Greece was made up of a cluster of small city-states, politically independent from each other. The word the Greeks used for a city-state was *polis* - which is the origin of our word 'politics'. Although these states were often rivals, and sometimes fought wars against each other, they shared the same Greek identity - a common

language, culture and religion which created strong links between them.

This map shows the city-states in around 500BC. The most powerful cities were Athens, Corinth and Sparta.

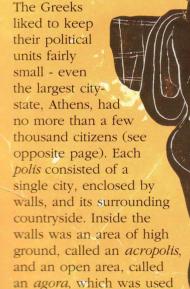
WHAT WAS THE

CITY-STATE LIKE?



FREE MEN AND SLAVES

Greek society was made up of two main groups: free men (and their wives and families) and slaves. Slaves were workers who were owned by free men and had no legal rights. Many lived closely with their owners, like members of the family, but were very rarely granted their freedom.



for markets and meetings.



