



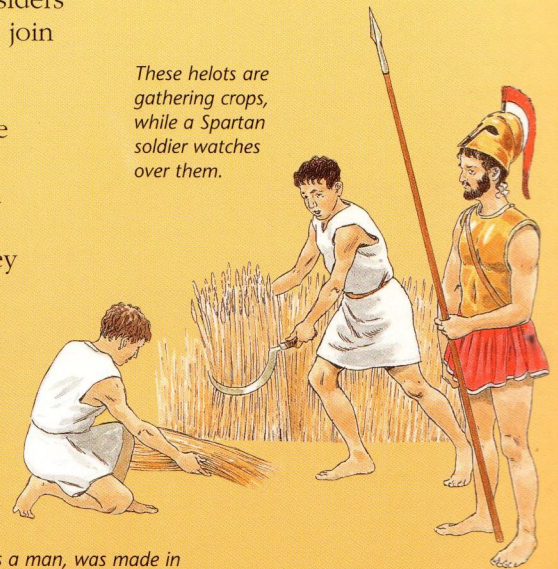
## SPARTAN SOCIETY

People who lived in Sparta belonged to distinct social classes. For instance, only men (and not women) who were born in the city of Sparta were regarded as citizens. Citizens all served in the army and could vote on important issues in an assembly. There were only ever around 9,000 citizens at any one time, and outsiders were never allowed to join their ranks.

The descendants of the people who had surrendered to Spartan rule were known as *perioikoi*. Although they were not Spartan citizens, they were free and were allowed to trade and join the army.

Descendants of people who had resisted Spartan rule were known as *helots*, and forced to work on the land - more or less as slaves. They were made to surrender most of their crops to their Spartan masters. Although there were many more helots than Spartans, the Spartans made sure they had no power - and no chance to rebel.

*These helots are gathering crops, while a Spartan soldier watches over them.*



## A SOLDIER STATE

The Spartans' solution was to set themselves up as a first-class military state. Every man had to become a full-time soldier and devote his life to training and fighting. All Spartans lived very hard lives, and had little contact with the outside world.

*This huge bronze pot, as tall as a man, was made in Sparta in the 6th century BC. It was found in the grave of a Celtic ruler at Vix in France.*

*The handles are shaped like mythological beasts called gorgons.*

*The rim is decorated with a scene showing hoplites and horse-drawn chariots.*

