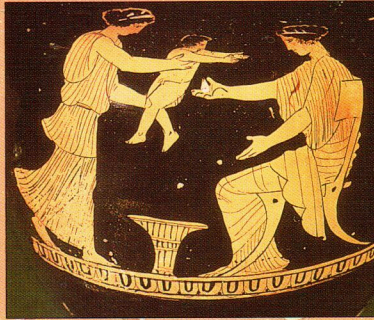
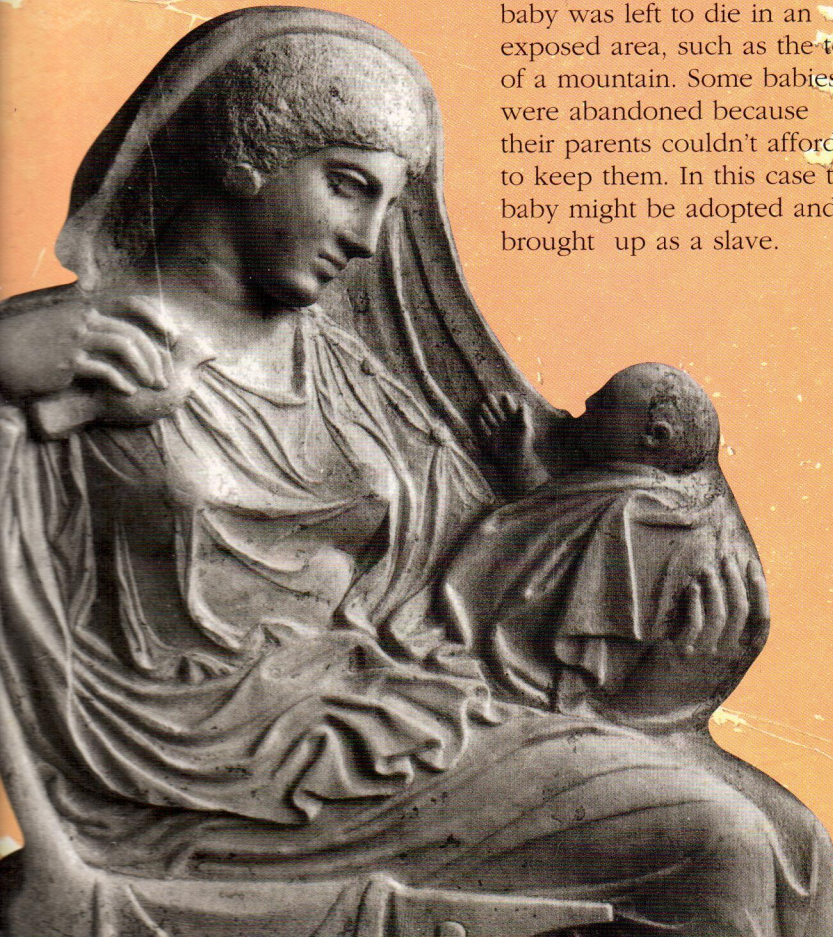


GROWING UP

Greek citizens were taught that it was their patriotic duty to marry and have children. Sons were always preferred, as they would become the next generation of citizens. They would also be able to look after their parents in old age. Daughters could not do this, because they were not allowed to inherit money or property of their own.

This portrait of a woman and her grandchild was carved on a tombstone.



This scene from a water jar shows a nurse handing a baby to its mother.

LIFE OR DEATH

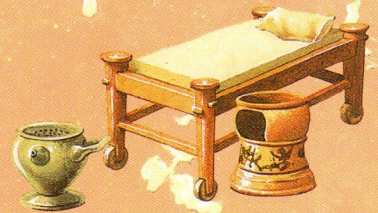
A father could reject a baby if he believed it wasn't his, or if it was disabled. Baby girls were often rejected too. The baby was left to die in an exposed area, such as the top of a mountain. Some babies were abandoned because their parents couldn't afford to keep them. In this case the baby might be adopted and brought up as a slave.

CELEBRATIONS

Seven days after the birth of a baby, friends and family were invited to a party to celebrate the birth. Sacrifices were made to the gods and the guests brought gifts for the child. The door of the house was decorated with garlands - olive branches for a boy and wool for a girl. A special ceremony, called the *Amphidromia*, was held. This was usually when the baby was given its name.

When children reached the age of three, they were no longer regarded as infants. In Athens, this stage of the child's life was celebrated at a spring festival in honour of the god Dionysus, called the *Anthesteria*, or festival of flowers. The children were presented with small jugs during the festivities.

CHILDREN'S TOYS



This odd-shaped feeding bottle (left), bed and potty belonged to a Greek child.

Babies were given rattles and dolls, while older children played with spinning tops, yo-yos and hoops. Richer families even had small-scale furniture, such as stools and cots, made for their children.