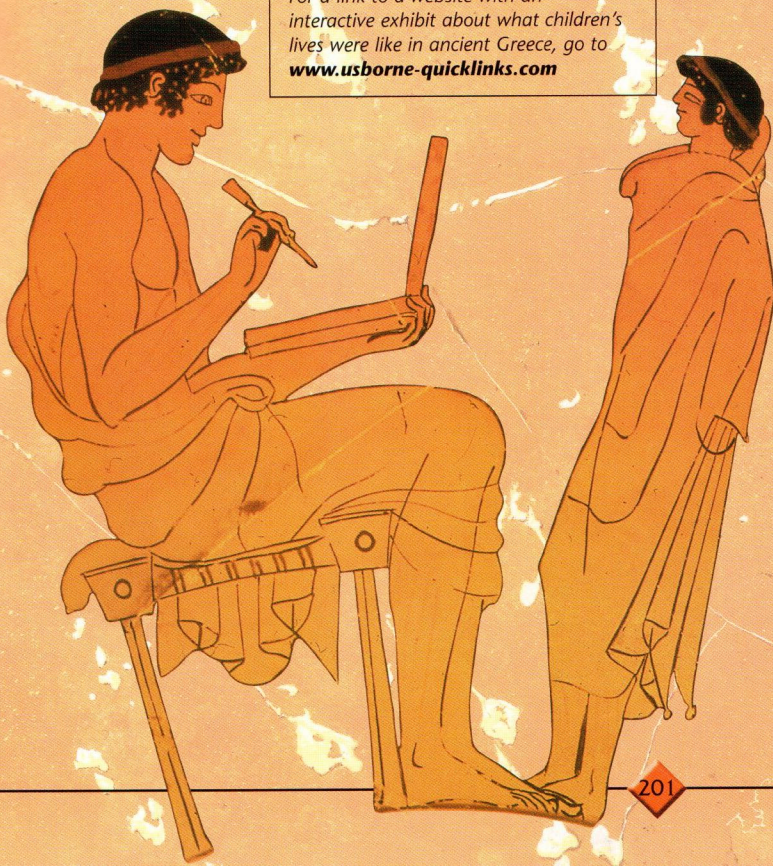


EDUCATION

To the ancient Greeks, the purpose of education was to bring up good citizens to take part in running the state. Inevitably, this meant school was limited to boys only. Girls stayed at home, and usually only learned to read and write if their mothers could teach them. School began at the age of seven, but it was not free, so most boys only received a basic education. Richer boys could stay on until the age of 18.

This scene from a Greek pot shows a pupil and his teacher, writing on something that looks like a laptop computer. It's actually a wooden slate coated with wax, which is what children wrote on.



INTERNET LINK

For a link to a website with an interactive exhibit about what children's lives were like in ancient Greece, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com

THREE SCHOOLS

There were three types of schools. At the first, the boys were taught reading, writing and arithmetic by a teacher called a *grammatistes*.

At the second school, poetry and music were taught by a teacher called a *kitbaristes*. Boys had to learn pieces of poetry by heart, and were taught musical instruments, such as the lyre and the pipes.

At the third school, boys were taught dancing and athletics by a man called a *paidotribes*. Boys took part in competitive games at a training ground called a *gymnasium*.



This Greek statue of a boy wearing a short cloak was found in Asia Minor (Turkey).

HIGHER EDUCATION

The ancient Greeks did not have universities as we do today, but from the 5th century BC teachers called sophists went from city to city, instructing young men in the art of public speaking. In the 4th century BC, philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle set up schools at *gymnasia* in Athens (see page 257).