



Much of a woman's day was taken up with making cloth. This painting shows a woman spinning.

TIED TO THE HOME?

In Athens, for rich married women at least, there was very little life outside the home. They were permitted to visit female friends, or to invite them to dinner, but these were women-only affairs. They had very few other opportunities to leave the house.

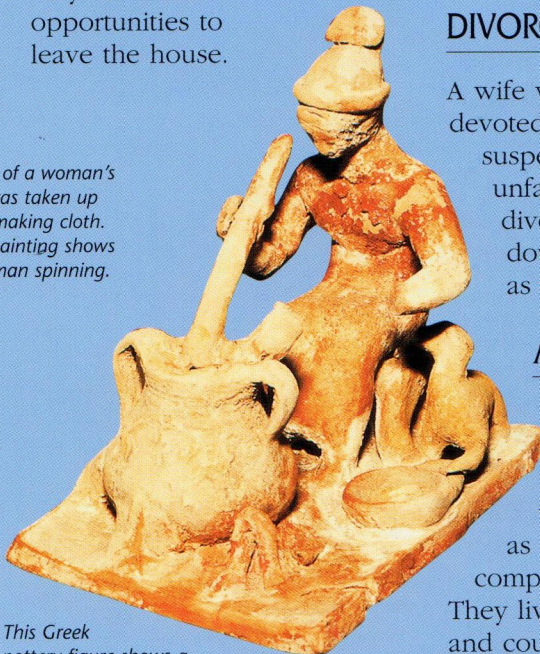
One compensation for women from poorer families was that they could get out more. They had to go shopping and collect water from the wells, which gave them more of a chance to see life outside the confines of their home. Some even had jobs as innkeepers.

DIVORCE

A wife was expected to be devoted to her husband. If he suspected her of being unfaithful, he could divorce her and keep her dowry - and the children as well.

A WOMAN'S ROLE

At home, a woman played a vital role. She managed the finances, food, housework, spinning and weaving, and cared for the children and for anyone else in the family if they fell ill.



This Greek pottery figure shows a woman cooking.

A DIFFERENT LIFE

Not all girls were brought up to be good, obedient wives. Some, known as *hetairai*, became companions to rich men. They lived in great comfort and could even attend men's dinner parties.

