Comparing Athens and Sparta

Although they shared a common culture, Athens and Sparta varied in many aspects of life. After your readings and discussion, review the following statements and decide if they apply to Athens (A) or Sparta (S).

1. Only free men were citizens of their democracy. A S

2. Women could own and control their own property

and even speak with their husband’s friends A S

3. People honored Athena as their special protector

and provider A S

4. Life revolved around an agora and an acropolis A S

5. Men were in the army until the age of 60 A S

6. Children competed in events like wrestling, boxing,

gymnastics, and racing A S

7. Girls grew up helping their mothers with cooking,

cleaning, and weaving A S

8. Their government was an oligarchy, ruled by a

small group of men A S

9. The economy was based on trade A S

10. The economy was based on farming and

taking over other people A S

11. The large, central marketplace was called an “agora” A S

12. The slaves were called “helots” A S

13. They excelled at hand to hand fighting A S

14. They had ready access to water, and excelled at

sailing and boating A S