Men had a much more superior life in Ancient Greece than women. Only men could be complete citizens. Only men made significant decisions. Normally, only men scrapped in armies & took part in sports.

Spartan women were educated in reading and writing and skills to defend themselves in battle. They had more liberty than women and girls living in Athens. As well as looking after the house & making clothes.

Women in Athens were taught abilities they would need to run a home like cooking and weaving. They were likely to look after the home, make the clothes, and look after children. Some women even managed the family finances.

Husbands were usually much older than their wife. The purpose of the marriage was to produce a son to continue the husband’s name.

Girls had to do exactly as their father told them.

When the time came to consider marriage Greek girls had to marry the man their father chosen for them. Greek parents negotiated an agreement which was pretty much the same as a business contract. The family of the bride had to provide a gift of either money or valuables. In some cases, the more valuable the gift, the more attractive the offer of marriage. The gift was held in trust for the bride throughout the marriage. If her husband died or divorced her, the gift could be re-used to contract a second marriage.

On the wedding day separate feasts were held in the homes of the bride and groom. It was not until later in the evening that the couple met. At the end of the day, the groom would get him best man to go pick up his bride on a mule-drawn country cart to bring her to his house. When she arrived he would lead her to the fireside where both knelt and bowed their heads. Family members then showered the couple with nuts and sweetmeats. This symbolic gesture much like the tradition of throwing confetti or rice, was intended to bring the man and woman success in their marriage. On the following day, the relatives of both families gathered to celebrate the wedding at the home of the groom. The relatives of the bride brought gifts as well as the gift chest. Sacrifices and prayers were offered before the couple sat down with family and friends to a light meal of sesame-seed cakes. Male and female guests were seated in separate parts of the room.

Even when married, a woman was not free. She had to do as her husband wished. She was not allowed out on her own and was not often seen by people other than her own family.

Men and women lived in different parts of the house. Women had the back and upstairs part.

Most houses in Ancient Greek towns were built from stone or clay. The roofs were covered with tiles, or reeds, and the houses had one or two stories. The floors of the rooms were tiled to keep them cool, although in winter fires in metal baskets were sometimes needed.

Larger homes had a kitchen, a room for bathing, a men's dining room, and sometimes a woman's sitting area.

The houses were planned around a courtyard, and had high walls and a strong gate. Much of ancient Greek family life centered around the courtyard.