

Core Knowledge

YEAR 3: ANCIENT GREECE (five lessons): Lesson 3. Rough, Tough Sparta

UK

TAGS: [Sparta](#)



General information	
<i>Title of the work</i>	YEAR 3: ANCIENT GREECE (five lessons): Lesson 3. Rough, Tough Sparta
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<i>Link (to resource)</i>	The link is to the whole ancient Greece Module, 5 lesson plans. coreknowledge.org.uk/resources
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Ayelet Peer, "Entry on: YEAR 3: ANCIENT GREECE (five lessons): Lesson 3. Rough, Tough Sparta by Core Knowledge ", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice, Daniel A. Nkemele. *Our Mythical Childhood Education* (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2025). Link: <http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/education-survey/item/115>.

Creators

Core Knowledge

Core Knowledge UK

The Core Knowledge Foundation is a nonprofit organization from Charlottesville, Virginia, which was founded in 1986 by E. D. Hirsch, Jr. The foundation offers open access curricula to schools, teachers, parents.

<https://www.coreknowledge.org/about-us/>

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Additional information

Contents & Purpose The aim of this lesson plan is to introduce the city-state of Sparta and its tough military regime

Further comments The title of this lesson is *Rough, Tough Sparta* which indicates its purpose but also provides a preliminary impression on Spartan society even before the lesson has begun. The students are probably a bit familiar with some stories about rough Spartan society and this lesson perpetuates the rigidity of that society, especially in comparison with Athens.

This lesson offers an adapted story from *The Story of the Greeks* by H. A. Guerber. It follows the life of a Spartan boy and his daily training regime. The story accentuates the difficult training for Spartan boys which can result in death. Hence it makes the Spartan appear almost as inhuman.

The teachers are advised to discuss the story with the students, write a diary entry as the boy or a reenactment.

In the "Activities for Learning" section, there are links to videos about the Spartan army from *Horrible histories*. We should remember that these are satirical videos which make a bit of fun of the strict Spartan society. For example, "Horrible Histories - Spartan High School Musical" emphasizes the physical punishment used in Spartan education and mocks it. There is no direct reference to a video from *300* movie (perhaps due to copyright issue?), although the beginning of the movie shows a very vivid reenactment of Spartan agoge.

