

Athens:

- Direct democracy – every citizen can vote firsthand on laws and policies
- Only citizens could vote
 - o Adult males (20+) born in Athens
- Solon, Cleisthenes, and Pericles – leaders who helped change Athens from an aristocracy to a democracy
- Society was divided by a strict social structure

Social Structure in Athens:

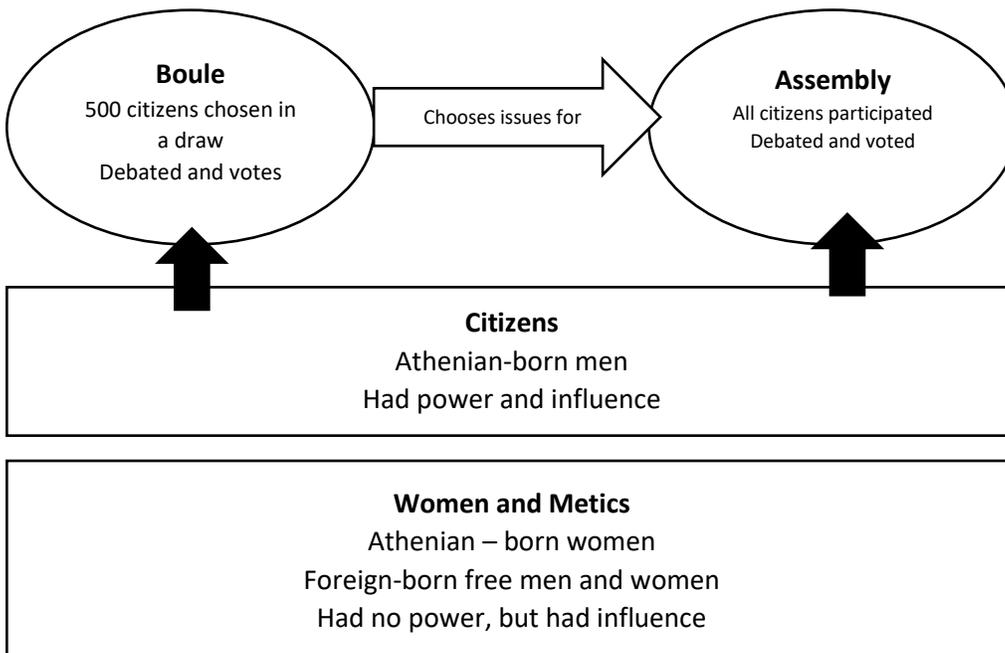
- Citizens – adult male (20+) born in Athens
- Metics – residents of Athens, but foreign born
 - o Could not own land
 - o Could not become a citizen
- Women – homebound, no rights
- Slaves – private or government owned
 - o Could not become citizens

Identity and status were defined by the level of social structure into which a person was born.

Principles of Athenian Democracy:

- Citizens are allowed to rule themselves
- Majority rule is fair
- People who belonged to the same class in society, should have equal rights
 - o All male citizens had the right to belong to the Assembly and vote
- Individual and minority rights were not part of the democracy

Athenian Structure of Government:



The Assembly:

- All citizens could be involved
- 40 meetings a year (every 8-10 days)
- At least 6,000 members needed to be present for a vote
- Met at a large open area at the top of a hill called the Pnyx [pu-NINKS]
- Every citizen's vote in the Assembly counted equally in decision making

The Bouleterion:

- 500 members
- Chosen each year in a draw from the citizens of Athens
- Made decisions about day-to-day affairs (tax collection)
- Decided what questions would require a vote of all Athenian citizens
- Members were paid