

# MURDER IN ATHENS



Was it murder or a simple mistake?

## COMPARING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM OF ANCIENT ATHENS WITH THE UNITED STATES TODAY

- Murder in Athens Part 1
  - Lets go over the worksheet
  - It is attached in Google Classroom
  - This worksheet is comparing the criminal justice system of ancient Athens to the United States today.

## LAND WITHOUT LAWYERS

- Prosecution ~ present the case, accuse an individual
- Defence ~ defending a person's innocence
- There were no lawyers in ancient Greece
- Court centered around 2 speeches
  - 1 for the defense
  - 1 for the prosecution
- An ordinary citizen facing trial needed help in court
- Both the defense and prosecution would hire professional writers to compose their speeches to the jury

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

- Trials were held in an outdoor court call the Areopagus
- The Greeks believed that any person or object responsible for shedding blood had been polluted
- That pollution was considered to be as dangerous as a disease
- No member of the court wanted to be under the same roof as a murderer.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE CRIME

Sometime between 450 and 411 BCE, an Athenian jury meeting at the Areopagus heard a murder trial about a woman accused of poisoning her husband and one of his friends. Antiphon, one of Athens' greatest legal speechwriters, wrote the address delivered by the prosecutor in that case. Antiphon's speech has been preserved, unfortunately no other information about this case, including the jury's verdict, has survived. Daphne is a made-up name for a real person, as are all the names used in this trial.

## CHARACTERS

**Timotheus** ~ citizen who dies under suspicious circumstances

**Philoneos** ~ citizen who dies under suspicious circumstances, Timotheus' best friend

**Daphne** ~ Timotheus' wife

**Themis** ~ slave and Philoneos' girlfriend, Daphne's friend

**Milo** ~ Timotheus son by his first marriage, Daphne's step-son, Leon's half-brother, prosecuting Daphne

**Leon** ~ Timotheos' and Daphne's son, Milo's half-brother, Daphne's defender

## HOW IT HAPPENED

The two victims, Timotheos and Philoneos, were friends who both planned to make trips to far away cities. They decided to have a good-bye feast together with Daphne, and Timotheos' wife, and Themis, Philoneos' slave and girlfriend. Timotheos and Daphne had been having marital trouble, and Philoneos and Themis had not been getting along well either. So before the feast, both women agreed that they needed to do something to save their relationships. They decided to give the men a love potion, a special powder that, if consumed, was believed to make someone fall head over heels in love. After Daphne obtained the potions in Athens, Themis gave a bigger dose to Philoneos, her boyfriend, and he dropped dead immediately. Timotheos, who had a smaller dose, became ill and finally died after 3 weeks of intense suffering. Since Themis was a slave, she had no rights and was quickly executed for her part in killing 2 men. Daphne insisted that she thought the poison was truly a love potion. Since she was the wife of a citizen, she had to be put on trial.

## FACTS OF THE CASE

1. Both men died after their drinks were spiked with a poisonous love potion
2. Daphne does not deny supplying the love potion. She believed it was a potion
3. The person who sold Daphne the love potion cannot be found
4. Love potions are commonly sold in Athens
5. Daphne has refused to allow her slaves to be questioned
6. Under Athenian law, all slaves who witnessed a crime had to be questioned under torture.
7. Milo says that his dying father claimed that he was deliberately poisoned by Daphne. However, nobody else heard Timotheos say this.
8. Milo says that on a previous occasion, Timotheos caught Daphne preparing a "love potion" that was actually poison. Again, no other person can confirm Milo's story.

## ACTIVITY

Choose any of the 3 activities to complete.

### Choice #1

Write a short paragraph explaining which judicial system you believe to be more fair ancient Athens or the United State today. Explain with evidence.



## ACTIVITY

### Choice #2

You are a jury member. You just listened to the defense and prosecution give speeches about the death of Timotheos and Philoneos. Based on the facts presented would you have found Daphne guilty of innocent of murder? Explain your answer, give evidence to support your answer in a short paragraph.



## ACTIVITY

### Choice #3

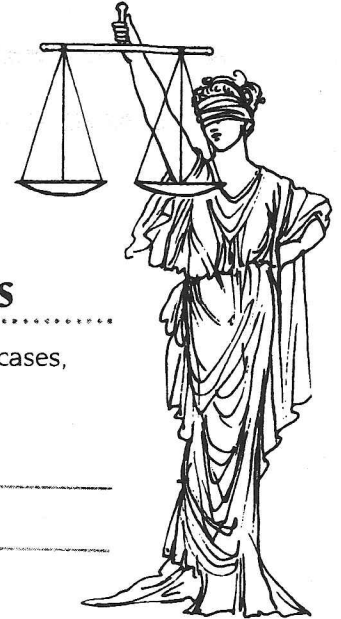
Which system of government do you think is the most fair for all people: Mesopotamia, Egypt, China (specific dynasty), Athens or Sparta? Explain in a short paragraph. Support you claim with specific details.





# Murder in Athens! Part I:

## ~ Athenian Justice Versus U.S. Justice ~



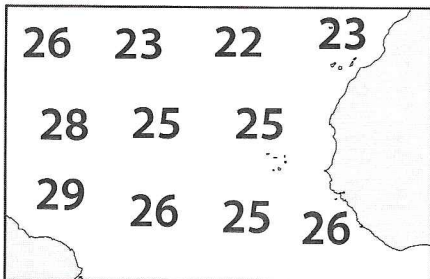
Use this chart to compare the criminal justice system of ancient Athens with that of the United States today.

	<b>ATHENS</b>	<b>UNITED STATES</b>
Who decides the guilt or innocence of somebody accused of a crime?	A jury	A jury or, in some cases, a judge
How big are the juries?	100 to 2,000 people	Usually 12 people
Who can serve on a jury?	Adult male citizens (women, slaves, and children are excluded)	All adult citizens
How are verdicts reached?	By a majority vote (a tie vote means the accused person goes free)	By a unanimous vote (if the vote is not unanimous, the accused person is usually retried with a different jury)
Who prosecutes accused criminals in court?	If the victim of the crime is an adult male, then the victim himself prosecutes. If the victim is a woman or child—or if someone has been murdered—then the closest male relative prosecutes.	A publicly paid lawyer called a district attorney prosecutes.
Who handles the defense?	The person accused of the crime defends himself if he is an adult male. If the accused is a woman or child, then the closest male relative handles the defense.	Accused individuals usually hire a lawyer to defend them, although they are allowed to defend themselves.
Who makes sure the trial is fair?	A city official called a magistrate makes sure that the trial is orderly. But he cannot force the prosecutor or defense to follow laws governing trials.	A judge with legal training makes sure the law is followed and that both sides present a fair case.
How long do trials last?	Usually less than one day	Length varies; most usually last no longer than a week or two
What are their trials like?	Most trials revolve around two speeches, the first given by the prosecutor and the second by the defense. Both sides are allowed to call witnesses. However, the opposition is not allowed to question those witnesses.	The prosecution first tries to prove that the accused person is guilty by calling witnesses and presenting evidence. The defense then gets a chance to reply by calling its own witnesses and presenting its own evidence. Both sides are allowed to question the opposition's witnesses. And both sides can make speeches at the beginning and end of the trial.

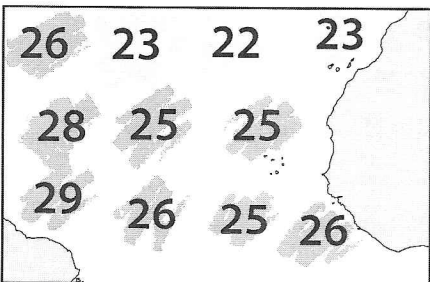
## VISUAL AID 7.2

### HOW TO COMPLETE STUDENT SHEETS 7.1A–D, “MAPPING MEAN OCEAN SURFACE TEMPERATURES”

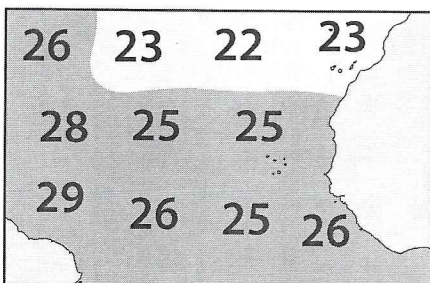
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Look at the mean ocean surface temperatures shown on your map. Land areas have been shaded gray.



Using the “Temperature Color Key” on the bottom of your map, shade the oceans with their corresponding colors.



When shading, connect regions in the same temperature range.

Be sure to use your colors all the way to the borders of the land.

