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Period 1 Hahn

Compare/Contrast Essay

**The Greeks vs. The Romans**

When you think of two great empires, ancient Greece and Rome come to mind. This is because they are the ones that are most commonly known because they accomplished many theories and devices. The empires were influenced by each other greatly, which spread the culture around the world. The Roman’s adopted many ideas from the Greeks, but they also made into their own version like: the role of women, religion and entertainment.

The role of women was not the same on all civilizations, especially for the Greeks and Romans. Despite their differences education was still important, and girls were still limited in learning and participating. For example, in Ancient Rome the father contained all the power, but the mother was not pushed aside. Mothers had a responsibility of managing the household, purchasing food, entertaining guests, and discussing family issues. At the end of the republic, women had a political influence, could own property, and they could even accept inheritances. However, the same story did not happen for the women in Ancient Greece, because marriages were arranged, women were considered inferior to men, and women were supposed to stay in the background of their own homes. The Greek woman’s duty was to manage the household, slaves, and children. This just shows that the empires had a diverse attitude for how women should be treated.

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The Roman and Greek empires both had a polytheistic religion. They shared the same gods and goddesses, but had different names. Such as Athena, her Roman name was Minerva. Despite the names, temples ceremonies and processions still happened in honor of the Gods. In daily life the people felt the need to praise and please the Gods, so they would have rituals or sacrifices. Early Romans sought to achieve harmony with the Gods, while Greeks felt religion was only there to explain nature, emotions and to give them benefits in life. The Greeks had oracles, any person or thing serving as an agency of divine communication, who told travelers their prophecies. Romans had religion to unify a state, though Greece had religion to better understand why things are the way they are.

Life was not just chores and worship for the empires, because they had all types of entertainment. The Greeks enjoyed tragedies, but the Romans preferred comedies. Even chariot races took place in the empires. Greece had the Olympic Games where only men could participate in or watch, and where it tested your strength. The Romans had gladiators, who fought to the death against men and wild beasts. These gory, intense games were not the only forms of entertainment. In Greece the agora, marketplace where people would talk about issues, was similar to the Forums in Ancient Rome.

This compare and contrast essay had taught me to do better in researching a topic to find out the similarities and differences. Maybe if I or friends have a question on Greece and Rome, we can reference back to this paper for help. This essay has also taught me that no matter how much you influence a person or empire that they can turn out completely different. All of my

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topics; the role of women, religion, and entertainment were alike but had different versions of the ideas that came from Greece.

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