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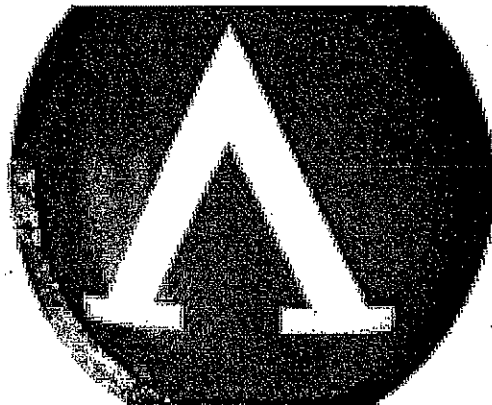
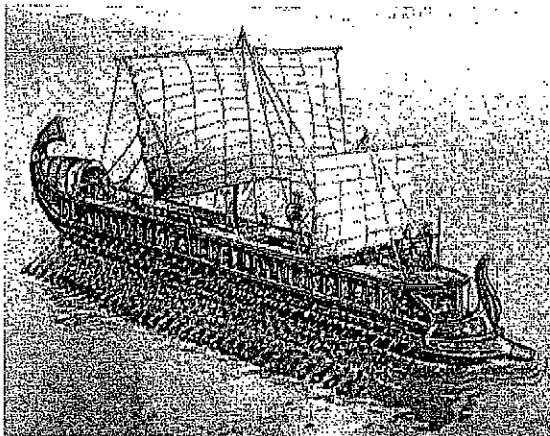
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Greco-Persian Wars

Resource Packet

In this chapter, we will learn about an important war fought between the Greek city-states and the Persian Empire, the most powerful country in the world during the 400s BCE. We will study the generals, battles, and strategies that shaped the course of history.



Textbook:

Chapter 28- "Fighting the Persian Wars"

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HERODOTUS

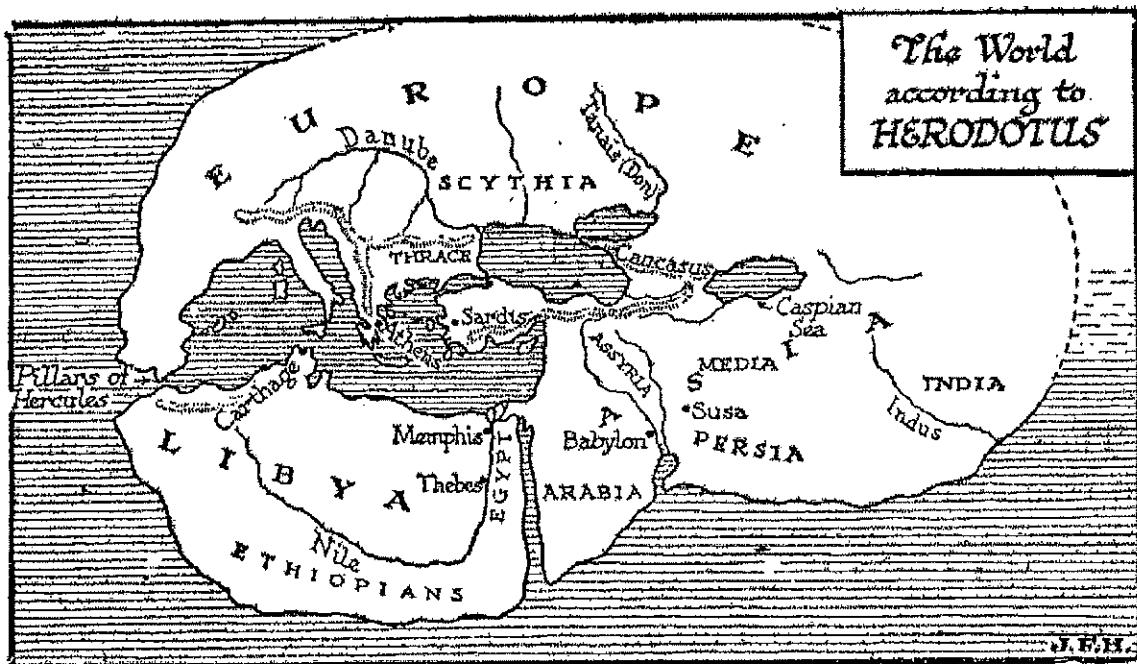
* 484-425 BCE

* "Father of History"

* Born in Halicarnassus

* "The Histories"

* Pro-Greek



Herodotus Quotes: *What do they mean?*

No one is so foolish as to prefer war to peace: in peace children bury their fathers, while in war fathers bury their children.

Historia (Inquiry); so that the actions of people will not fade with time.

If a man insisted always on being serious, and never allowed himself a bit of fun and relaxation, he would go mad or become unstable without knowing it.

The Persians

Around 1200 BC, some new people invaded West Asia from the north. These people were called the Persians and the Medes. Both of them were Indo-European people, distantly related to the Hittites, the Greeks and the Romans. Like the Scythians, the Medes and the Persians were nomadic people. They travelled around Siberia with their horses and their cattle, and grazed the cattle and the horses on the great fields of grass there. Usually they lived well enough this way.

But sometimes the weather was worse than usual, and the Medes and Persians could not find enough to eat. This time, when that happened, the Medes and Persians headed south into West Asia. Maybe they had heard that there were Dark Ages there and they thought it would be easy to take over. Maybe they just thought it would be nicer in the south, where it was warmer.

They settled in what is now Iran, and we don't hear much about them until about 600 BC. Probably they could not fight the Assyrians and didn't try to. But by 600 BC the Assyrians were getting weaker. At this time the Medes and the Persians mixed into one group, under one king.

At first the Medes were in charge, but in 559 BC Cyrus, who was a Persian, made himself king, and from then on the Persians were in charge. Cyrus (SIGH-russ) soon also conquered the whole rest of West Asia: the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Jews, the Phoenicians and the Syrians, and also the Lydians and the Greeks in modern Turkey. He is remembered as a good ruler. He managed to unify a very diverse group of people, with many different languages and religions. At the same time, he allowed each group to keep their own religion. This is especially surprising because he himself had recently converted to Zoroastrianism and clearly felt strongly about his new faith.

When Cyrus died in 530 BC, his son Cambyses (cam-BYE-sees) became king. Cambyses added Egypt to the Persian Empire, beating an Egyptian army that also had many Greek soldiers fighting for pay. But according to Herodotus Cambyses suffered from severe mental illness later in his life, and eventually his own people killed him.

In 521 BC Darius (da-RYE-us), who was a Persian and a Zoroastrian but only a distant cousin of Cyrus and Cambyses, seized the throne. He moved the Persian capital to the new city of Persepolis, and hired workmen from all over to work on the new buildings there. Some of the men working at Persepolis seem to have been Greek.

Darius also tried to conquer the Scythians, but failed.

In 490 BC, Darius tried to conquer Athens and mainland Greece. Some of the Greek cities, like Thebes, surrendered to Darius or made treaties with him. But Athens fought back and defeated the Persians, and Darius took his troops and went home.

The next Persian king, Xerxes (ZERK-sees), put down a big rebellion in Egypt and then attacked Greece again in 480 BC. But Xerxes was also defeated, and went home. The Persians pretty much stopped trying to expand their empire then. But they continued to rule from Afghanistan to Turkey and Egypt for another 150 years, until they were conquered by Alexander the Great.

History for Kids

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/westasia/history/persians.htm>

The Persians questions

Directions: Please answer the following questions in complete sentences.

What led the once nomadic Persians to eventually settle permanently in Iran?

What made Cyrus a good ruler?

Ultimately, how did the Persian Empire come to an end?



READING NOTES 28

Step 1: Identify eight details in this image of Darius at a war council. Draw a line to each detail, and label it.



Step 2: Write three guesses about what is happening at this council of war. Support each guess with details from the picture.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Step 3: Read Section 28.2. Answer the questions below.

- 1. Why did the Ionians revolt against Persian rule?
- 2. What happened to the Ionians?

Step 4: Circle the soldier who represents the stronger force at this time.



Persian soldier

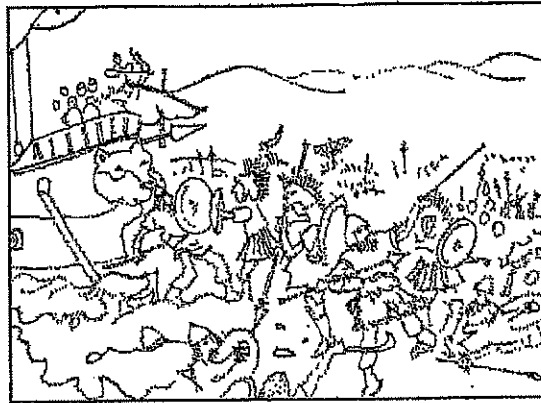


Greek soldier

READING NOTES 28



Step 1: Identify eight details in this image of the Battle of Marathon. Draw a line to each detail, and label it.



Step 2: Write three guesses, based on what you see, about what is happening at the Battle of Marathon.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step 3: Read Section 28.3. Answer the questions below.

1. What happened at Marathon?

2. Why was the Battle of Marathon important to the Greek city-states?

Step 4: Circle the soldier who represents the stronger force at this time.



Persian soldier

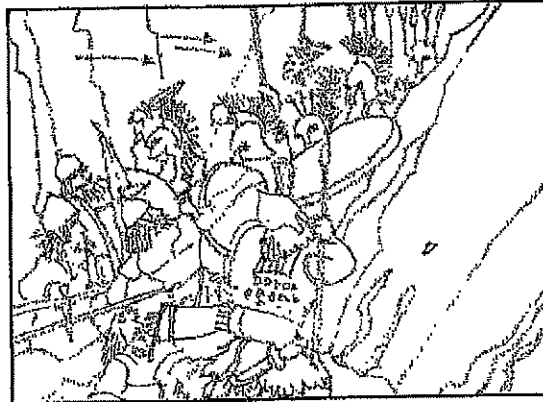


Greek soldier



READING NOTES 28

Step 1: Identify eight details in this image of the Battle of Thermopylae. Draw a line to each detail, and label it.



Step 2: Write three guesses, based on what you see, about what is happening at Battle of Thermopylae.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step 3: Read Section 28.4. Answer the questions below.

1. How were the Spartans able to hold off such a large Persian army?
2. How were the Persians eventually able to defeat the Spartans?
3. Why did the Spartans refuse to escape although they knew they would be killed?

Step 4: Circle the soldier who represents the stronger force at this time.



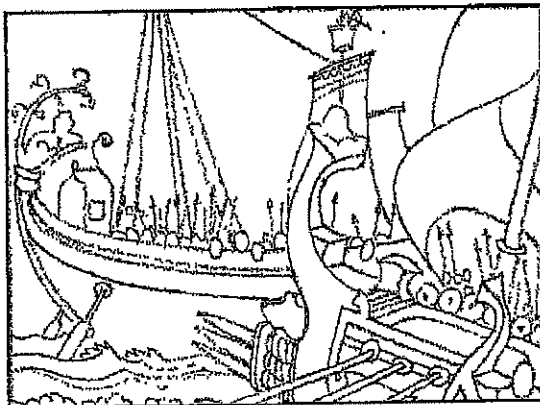
Persian soldier



Greek soldier



Step 1: Identify eight details in this image of the Battle of Salamis. Draw a line to each detail, and label it.



Step 2: Write three guesses, based on what you see, about what is happening at the Battle of Salamis.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step 3: Read Section 28.5. Answer the questions below.

1. Why did the Athenians sail to nearby islands in panic?

2. How were the Greeks able to defeat the Persian fleet, even though they were outnumbered?

Step 4: Circle the soldier who represents the stronger force at this time.



Persian soldier

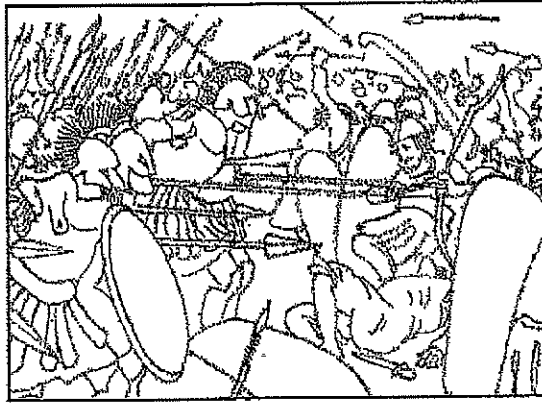


Greek soldier



READING NOTES 28

Step 1: Identify eight details in this image of the Battle of Plataea.
Draw a line to each detail, and label it.



Step 2: Write three guesses, based on what you see, about what is happening at the Battle of Plataea.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step 3: Read Sections 28.6 and 28.7. Answer the questions below.

1. What happened at the Battle of Plataea?

2. Why were the Persian wars important?

Step 4: Circle the soldier who represents the stronger force at this time.



Persian soldier



Greek soldier

"The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization"
The Persian Wars

Answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. What city was Pheidippides a citizen of?

2. What did the Greek culture emphasize?

3. Who were the hoplites? What did you need in order to be one?

4. About how many hoplites were there?

5. How many miles did Pheidippides run?

6. How many Persians died at Marathon?

7. How did Themistocles rise to power? Where did he learn his leadership skills?

8. What was the advanced fighting technique Themistocles decided to rely on?

9. What lucky discovery made the construction of Themistocles' fleet possible?

10. Why did Xerxes want to destroy Athens?

11. How did the Greeks react to the news that the Persian army was marching towards them?

12. What did the Athenians ask the Oracle at Delphi?

13. What did Themistocles think the Oracle meant by "the wooden wall only shall not fail"?

14. How many times larger was the Persian fleet than that of the Athenians?

15. What was one important effect of the Athenian naval victory at Salamis?

16. What was the purpose of the Delian League founded by the Athenians?

17. Athens became the "_____ " of the eastern Mediterranean.

Battle of Thermopylae Documentary

1. Why was it so important that the Greeks stop the Persians at Thermopylae?
2. What did the oracle at Delphi predict would happen to the Spartan king at Thermopylae?
3. What side (Persians or Greeks) used arrows shot from a bow as a weapon?
4. Leonidas joked, "Xerxes has plenty of men, but no soldiers." What might this mean?
5. What was the "miracle" that helped Xerxes?
6. Even though the Greeks did not technically "win" the battle, how was it some ways a victory?

Study Guide for *Greco-Persian Wars* Test

Please define the following terms:

People:

King Darius-

Miltiades-

Pheidippides-

King Xerxes-

King Leonidas-

Themistocles-

Places/Battles:

Ionia-

Ionian Revolt-

Marathon-

Hellespont-

Thermopylae-

Salamis-

Plataea-

4 Key Battles of the Greco-Persian Wars

	Marathon	Thermopylae	Salamis	Plataea
Date				
Who was Fighting? (Include key historical figures who were present).				
What Happened?				
Why was this Battle so Important?				

Ch. 28 (*Fighting the Persian Wars*)

Directions: Please answer the following questions.

28.1

1. How did Athens and Sparta work together between 499 and 479 BCE?
2. What are allies?

28.2

3. In what modern country did the Persians originate?
4. At its height, what areas were parts of the Persian Empire?
5. How did Darius control his vast empire?
6. Why did the Ionians revolt against Persian rule?

7. What happened to the Ionians?

28.3

8. How did Darius find out whether the Greeks would accept his rule or not?

9. What body of water did the Persians cross to attack the Greeks?

10. Why did the Athenians have to face the Persians alone, without the help of the Spartans?

11. Why was the Battle of Marathon important to the Greek city-states?

28.4

12. Who was King Darius' son?

13. How did Xerxes get his army to Greece?

14. How were the Spartans able to hold off such a large Persian army?

15. Why did the Spartans refuse to escape, despite knowing they would be killed?

16. Why might the authors of this textbook have subtitled this section "The Bravery of 300"?

28.5

17. Why did the Athenians sail to nearby islands in a panic?

18. How were the Greeks able to defeat (beat) the Persian fleet, even though they were outnumbered?

28.6

19. After the Greeks' defeat of the Persians at Salamis, what did Xerxes do? Why?

20. Why did the Spartans fear the Athenians might surrender when the Persians approached Athens?

21. What happened at the Battle of Plataea?

22. Why were the Persian wars important?