



War in Ancient Greece

Essential Question: Why does conflict develop?

“I can” statements and Essential Standards:

Compare and contrast warring factions

Identify evidence about the course of ancient Greek wars

6.H.2.1 Explain how invasions, conquests, and migrations affected various civilizations, societies and regions

6.G.1.2 Explain the factors that influenced the movement of people, goods, and ideas and the effects of that movement on societies and regions over time (e.g., scarcity of resources, conquests, desire for wealth, disease and trade).

Background Info:

Who were the Persians?

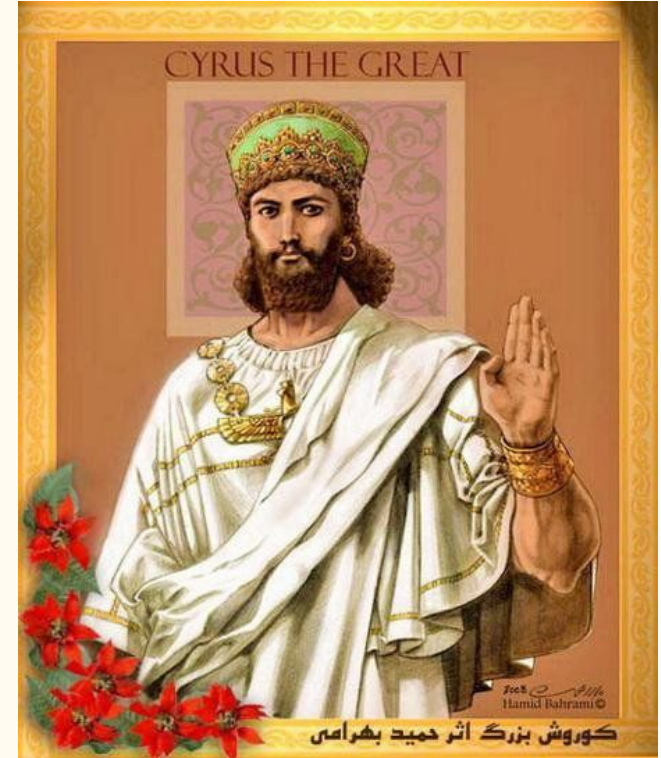


Early Persians

- Cattle herders and warriors from central Asia who settled in highlands of Persia (present-day southwestern Iran)
- After being under control of other groups, Cyrus the Great brought all Persians together into a very powerful kingdom
- Built a strong army and began conquering other civilizations
- Created largest empire in ancient world

How to create an EMPIRE in three (3) easy steps!

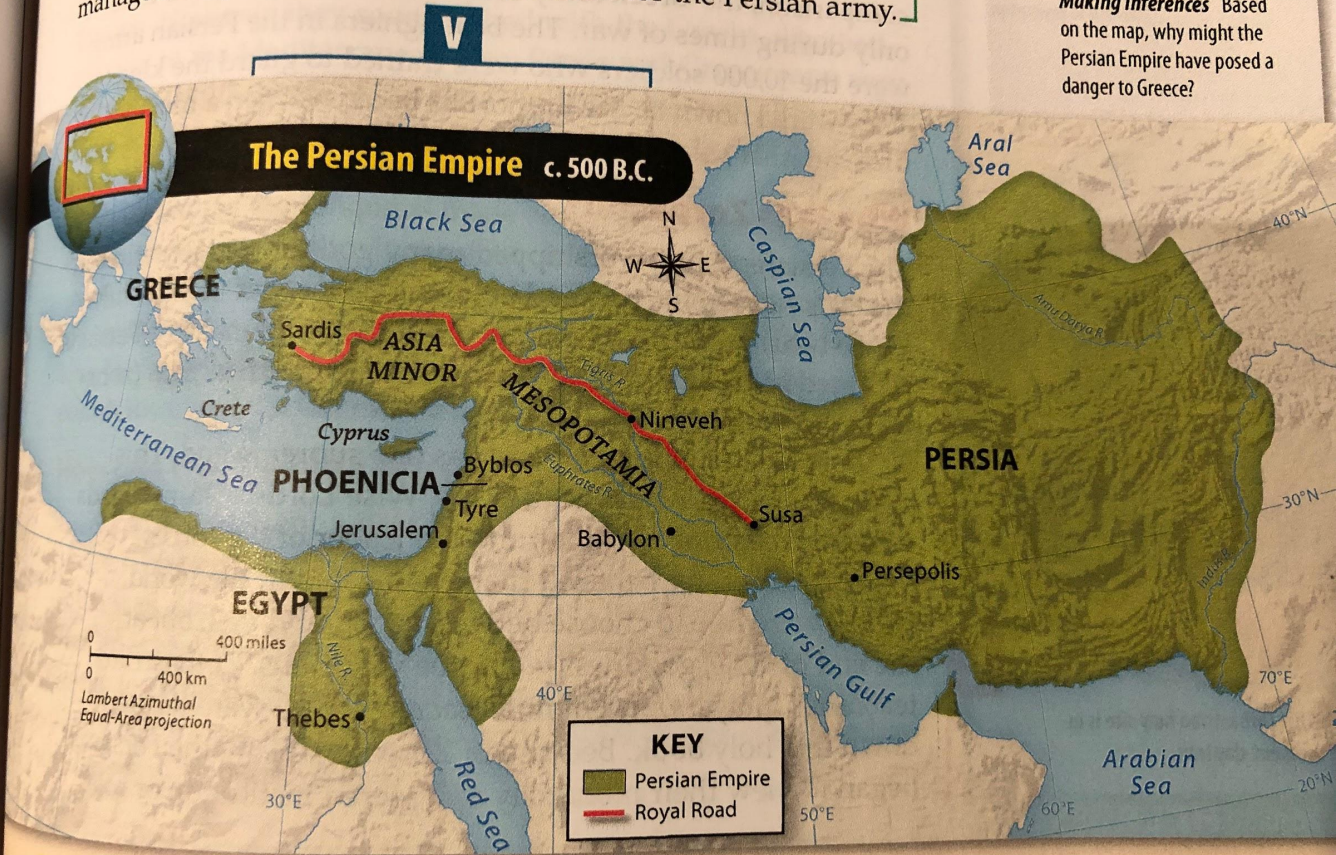
- 1) Sweep into neighboring territories and bring them under your rule
(Mesopotamia, Syria, Judah, Greek city-state of Anatolia)
- 2) Allow them to maintain their cultures
(religions, laws, and languages)
- 3) Treat conquered people fairly--for example, Cyrus let the exiled Jews in Babylon return to their homeland



Extent of the Persian Empire around 500 BC

a gov... of the kingdom." The satrap collected taxes, judged legal cases, managed the police, and recruited soldiers for the Persian army.

2 CRITICAL THINKING
Making Inferences Based on the map, why might the Persian Empire have posed a danger to Greece?



satrapy the territory governed by an official known as a satrap

satrap the governor of a province in ancient Persia

Academic Vocabulary

obtain to acquire or receive something

After Cyrus...

- Empire continued to be expanded
- Conquered Egypt, western India, and regions to the northeast of Greece
- 546 BC--Persian conquered Ionia (a city-state of Greece in western Asia)
- Ionia rebelled in 500BC and soldiers from Athens supported them by burning Sardis, a Persian city

Why do we care about this? Are you starting to see the connection?



The 1st Persian War

The Persian king, Darius, was furious that Athens had helped Ionia

490BC--Darius sent about 600 ships and an army to invade Greece by landing at Marathon (25 miles NE of Athens)

What happened next? Well....it depends on what you read...

Our textbook:

“Although Athenian infantry, or foot soldiers, rushed to Marathon, their situation looked hopeless. ...Despite disadvantages, the Athenians attacked the day after the Persian landing. At dawn, Greek phalanxes raced across the plain, taking the Persians by surprise. In panic, the Persians fled to their ships. The unexpected Greek victory at the Battle of Marathon ended the first Persian War.”

The McGraw-Hill textbook:

“The Persians landed at Marathon...waited there for several days. They expected the Greeks to come there and fight them. However, the Athenians did not come forward...When their enemy refused to fight, the Persians decided to sail directly to Athens and attack it by sea. The Persians began loading their ships with their strongest units...as soon as the Persian horsemen were on the ships, the Athenians charged down the hills and onto the plains of Marathon...the Persians suffered a terrible defeat.”

Bottom line?

Athenians were incredibly outnumbered yet were able to secure an impressive victory over the powerful Persian Army.



“According to Greek legend, a young messenger raced 26 miles from Marathon to Athens with news of the victory. When the runner reached Athens, he cried out, ‘Victory!’ and then collapsed and died from exhaustion. Today’s marathon races are named for that famous run and are just over 26 miles long.”

The 2nd Persian War

480BC

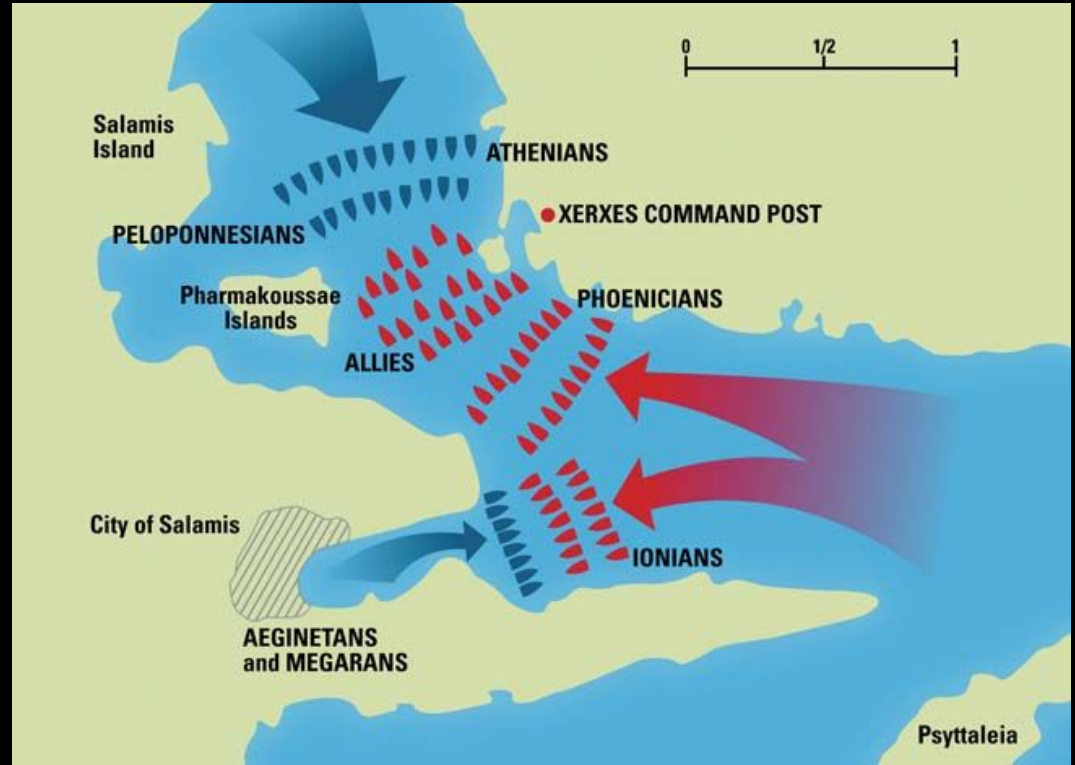
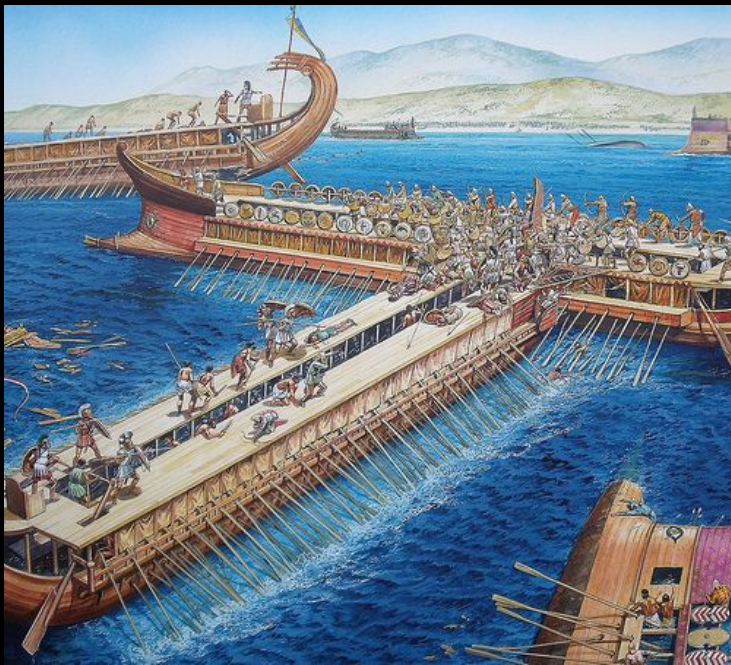
Xerxes, son of Darius, was king of Persia now and how vowed revenge on the Greeks

He “invaded Greece with about 200,000 troops and thousands of warships and supply vessels”--they added Egyptian warriors to their army and Phoenician ships to their naval attack (both were under Persian control)

Greek city-states, including Sparta, banded together to help Athens

Themistocles tricked the Persians by having everyone leave Athens to make it look like they had retreated

With Greek ships hidden, they were able to launch a surprise attack on the Persians at the Battle of Salamis and to win against the Persians once again



The Peloponnesian War

Athens

— v.

Sparta



Athens Rivals Sparta (page 330 in textbook)

Pericles was leader of Athens after defeating Persians

Rebuilt city and became famous for art and learning; increased power and wealth of Athens

Delian League = Athens formed alliance with other city-states on island of Delos; members promised to protect one another from Persian attacks and share money/ships to defend the league

Spartans formed a league of their own on the Peloponnesian Peninsula

They did not agree with the government of Athens (democracy) and did not want Athens to have too much power

Each league placed economic bans (restricting trade with another country as a form of punishment) on one another

The result:

431 BC Peloponessian War

- A war between Athens and Sparta
- Lasted on and off for 27 years
- Siege of Athens led to truce in 421BC
- Fighting began again a few years later
- Athens eventually lost when Persia provided the Spartans with a new navy (who cut off food supply to Athens, causing surrender)