



Persian Empire: Extends from Egypt to present-day Pakistan

- The Empire began in present-day Iran
- Persians built their empire by conquering neighbors
 - Mesopotamia
 - Asia Minor
 - Egypt
 - Parts of India and Europe

Greek city-states: had less land, people, money. They did have better military strategies than the Persians

King Darius

- Divided his empire into 20 provinces
- Established a system of tax collection
- Appointed officials to rule local areas

Ionian Revolt

- Greeks had established wealthy settlements in Ionia
- Persians conquered the settlements in Ionia and took their land
- Persians forced Ionians to pay tribute and serve in Persian Army
- Ionians asked Greece for help. Athens sent soldiers and ships
- Eventually, Persians defeated the Ionians
- Persians punished Ionians by
 - Destroying the city of Miletus
 - Sold some of the people into slavery

Battle of Marathon

After the Ionian Revolt:

- King Darius sent messengers to Greek mainland and asked for “presents of Greek earth and water” as a sign that Greeks accepted Persian rule
- Greeks refused and punished messengers



King Darius wanted revenge:

- Sent a large army of foot soldiers and **cavalry** by boat to Greece
- Met on the plain of Marathon

Athenians:

- Outnumbered
- Miltiades used clever military strategy to attack Persians
 - Athenians stretched across a narrow valley
 - Ordered center portion of army to attack
 - Once Persians came forward he ordered left and right sides to attack
 - Persians fled

The Battle of Thermopylae

- After King Darius died, his son, Xerxes, organized another attack on Greece.
- His large army crossed the Hellespont to get from Asia into Europe and marched to Greece.
- Athens used its navy to fight the Persians at sea, and Sparta attempted to stop the Persian army.
- The Spartans made their stand at the narrow pass of Thermopylae, and drove the Persians back. But a Greek traitor showed the Persians a secret route that allowed the Persians to surround the Spartans.
- King Leonidas of Sparta kept about 300 men to defend the pass, while the rest of his army escaped. All the Spartan soldiers were killed.

The Battle of Salamis

- After Thermopylae, fearful Athenians left the city, and the Persians burned Athens.
- The leader of the Athenian navy **Themistocles**
 - thought that he could defeat the Persian navy by fighting in the narrow channels between the islands and the mainland.
 - He set a trap to lure the Persian ships into a channel near Salamis, by sending a message that he was going to surrender and join the Persians.
- Persian King Xerxes ordered his ships into the channel, where the Greeks were hiding.
- The Greek ships surrounded them and sank 300 Persian ships.

The Battle of Plataea

- After Salamis, Xerxes and some of his soldiers fled back across the Hellespont.
- He left the rest of his army in Greece, with orders to attack again in the spring.
- The Spartans feared that the Athenians, with their city destroyed, would make peace with the Persians.
- But the Athenians agreed to fight alongside the Spartans.
- In 479 B.C.E., a force of 80,000 Greeks, led by the Spartans, destroyed the Persian army in a battle outside the town of Plataea.
- Persia did not conquer Greece
- The Persian wars were over.