

L3 - Classical Greece (500 BC-338 BC) p. 87

The Challenge of Persia - the Greek colonies that had settled outside the mainland many years ago in IONIA came into conflict with the Persians. When the Athenian navy tried to help them, it caused the Persian King, DARIUS, to be furious with the Greeks and war eventually broke out.

The Battle of Marathon (490 BC)- King Darius and the Persians greatly outnumbered the Athenians, but the Greeks won. **Pheidippides**, a messenger, ran all the way to Athens at a distance of **26 miles** to give them news of the victory, then he died. *** Do you have any idea how history of this is still remembered today? (marathon - 26 miles)

King Darius died in **486 BC** and his replacement, King **XERXES**, vowed revenge. The Greeks knew they would return, so at the urging of an Athenian general, they built up their navy with some special ships.

480 BC: The Greeks were still **preparing for war** when the Persians and Xerxes arrived with a huge force of 180,000 men. At the Battle of Thermopylae, a much smaller force of Greeks, including **300 Spartans**, held them off in a **mountain pass** so that the others could prepare.

Battle of Salamis 480 BC - the vastly outnumbered Athenian navy **defeated** the Persians because their ships were smaller and faster. Finally the Persians were defeated, they went back to **Persia**, and left the Greeks alone.

The Athenian Empire - after the wars with Persia, Athens began to lead the other city-states

The Delian League: **defensive alliance of city-states to join together in case of attack / they eventually moved the treasury to Athens**

Pericles: (461 BC-429 BC) << he led Athens during this time. He believed in democracy and **worked to expand it there**

Direct Democracy: every male citizen voted on every issue How is our democracy different? Compare.

Age of Pericles: this was the high point of Athenian power and cultural brilliance.

The Assembly:

1	<u>Passed all laws in Athens</u>	2	<u>43,000 members (male/cit)</u>
3	<u>usually about 6,000 attended</u>	4	began the fundamental ideas of western

ostracism: if someone was thought to be **harmful** to society, he could be **voted** out of the city and **banned for 10 years**.

Athens became the center of Greek **culture** and had the largest **population** of about **300,000**. About **10,000** were foreigners and there were about 100,000 slaves.

Greek Economy: **trade** was the most important activity: Products: **grapes and wine, olives and olive oil**. They had to **import** most of their grain.

Family Life: family was very important. Women were **excluded** from public life, but stayed home to care for the family. Greeks even regarded their **slaves** as family.

The Peloponnesian War; after the Persian Wars, the city-states divided into two groups:

The Delian League: as noted earlier, this group was led by Athens

The Peloponnesian League: led by Sparta and her allies

Many disputes among these groups eventually led to civil war between the Greek city-states...

Athens' plan: they knew they would lose against Sparta in open battle, so they chose to stay within their city walls and receive supplies from the nearby port (Piraeus) because their navy was there.

Deadly plague: Athens was so crowded, that when a plague broke out, thousands died, including Pericles.

Athens held out for several more years, until a Naval defeat brought about the end. They lost the war, and the Golden Age of Athens was at an end. This Peloponnesian War had greatly weakened the Greeks and would cause them to be overtaken later.

(If time permits, relate this to the U.S. after our Civil War)