

# The Persian Wars



# The Persian Wars: Overview



Despite their cultural ties, the Greek city-states were often in conflict with one another.

The threat of the powerful Persian empire united the Greek city-states.

# The Persian Wars: Overview



**United, the city-states defeated the Persians and ended the threat of Persian invasions.**

# *The First Persian War*

*546 B.C. E.*

- **Cause**
  - Persian Empire conquers Greek colonies in Ionia
- **Response**
  - Ionians refuse to pay tribute and begin to rebel
  - Secretly the Athenians send weapons and a ship to aide the rebellion



# *The First Persian War*

*546 B.C. E.*

- **Result:**

- Darius I of Persia crushes rebellion
- He leaves Athens alone but...

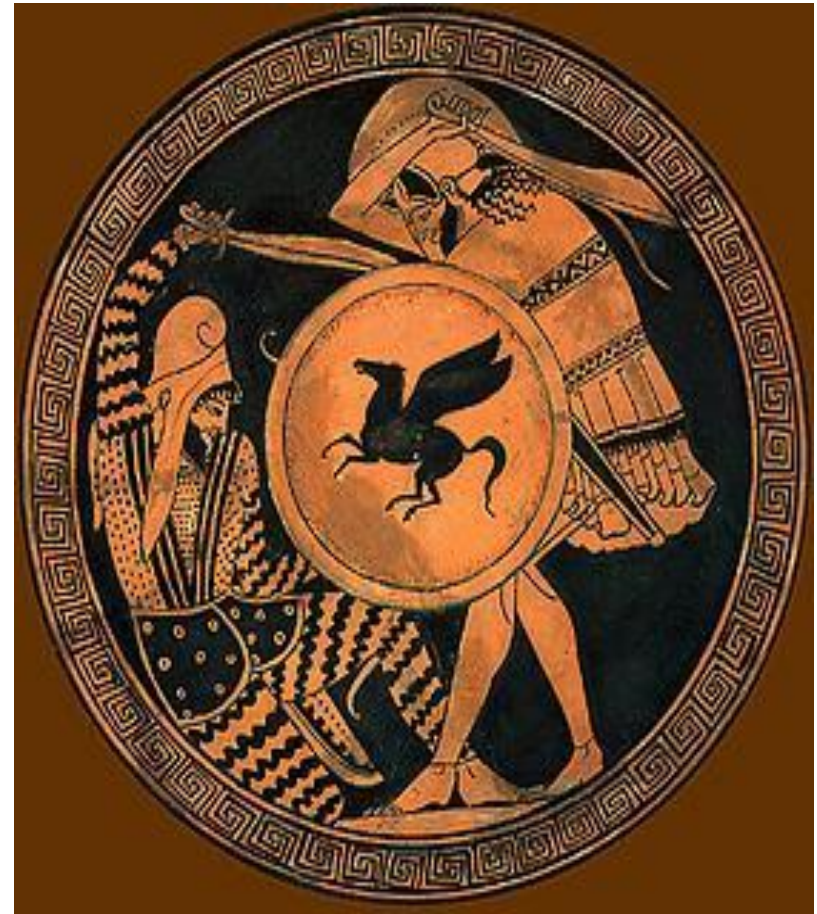


**Greeks vs. Persians**



# *The Second Persian War 490 B.C. E.*

- Cause
  - Revenge for Athenian interference
    - Every day, a servant said, “**Master, Remember the Athenians**”, to King Darius!



# *The Second Persian War 490 B.C.E.*

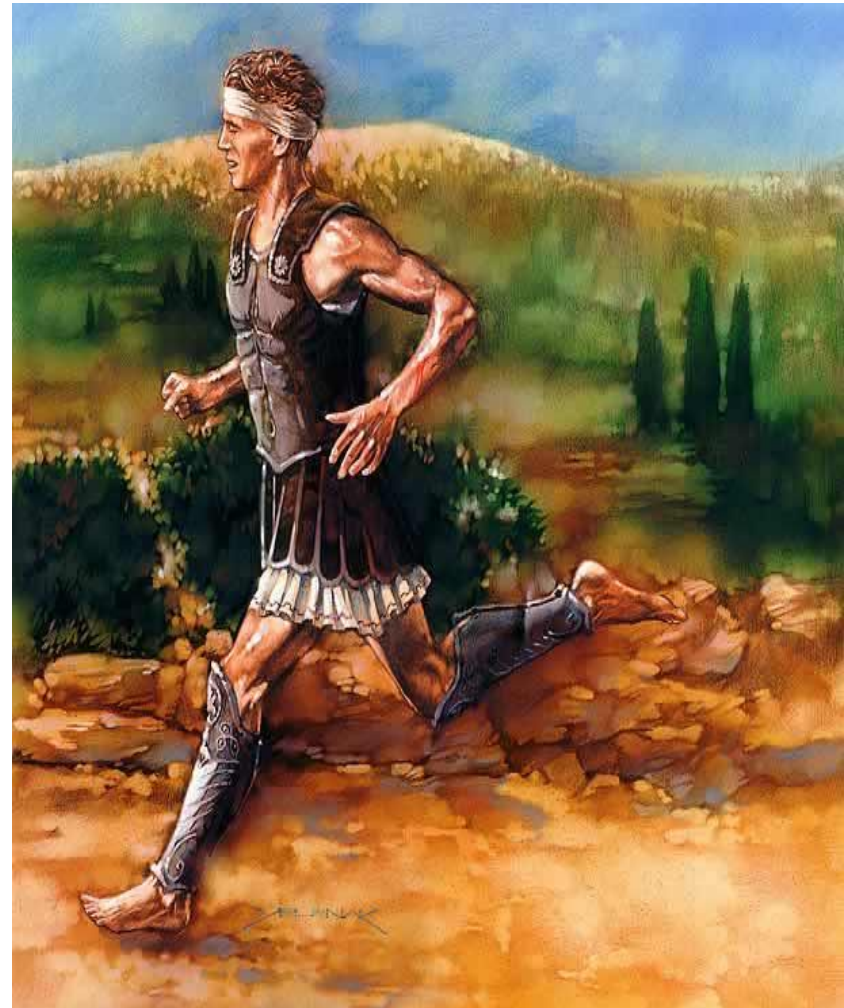
- **Results**

- **Battle of Marathon**

- **Outnumbered Greeks defeat Persians**
- **6,400 Persians die**
- **Pheidippides carries message of victory home to Athens 26 miles**
- **This is the distance of a marathon today.**
- **He shouted,**

***“Rejoice, we conquer.”***

**Then he died.**



# *The Second Persian War 490 B.C.E.*

- **Results**

- Built a fleet of faster ships to prepare for another attack
- Athens asks other city-states to form an alliance (1<sup>st</sup> ever in Greek history)





# Third Persian War 480 B.C.E.

- Cause

- Persians want revenge
- They come after Athens by land and by sea

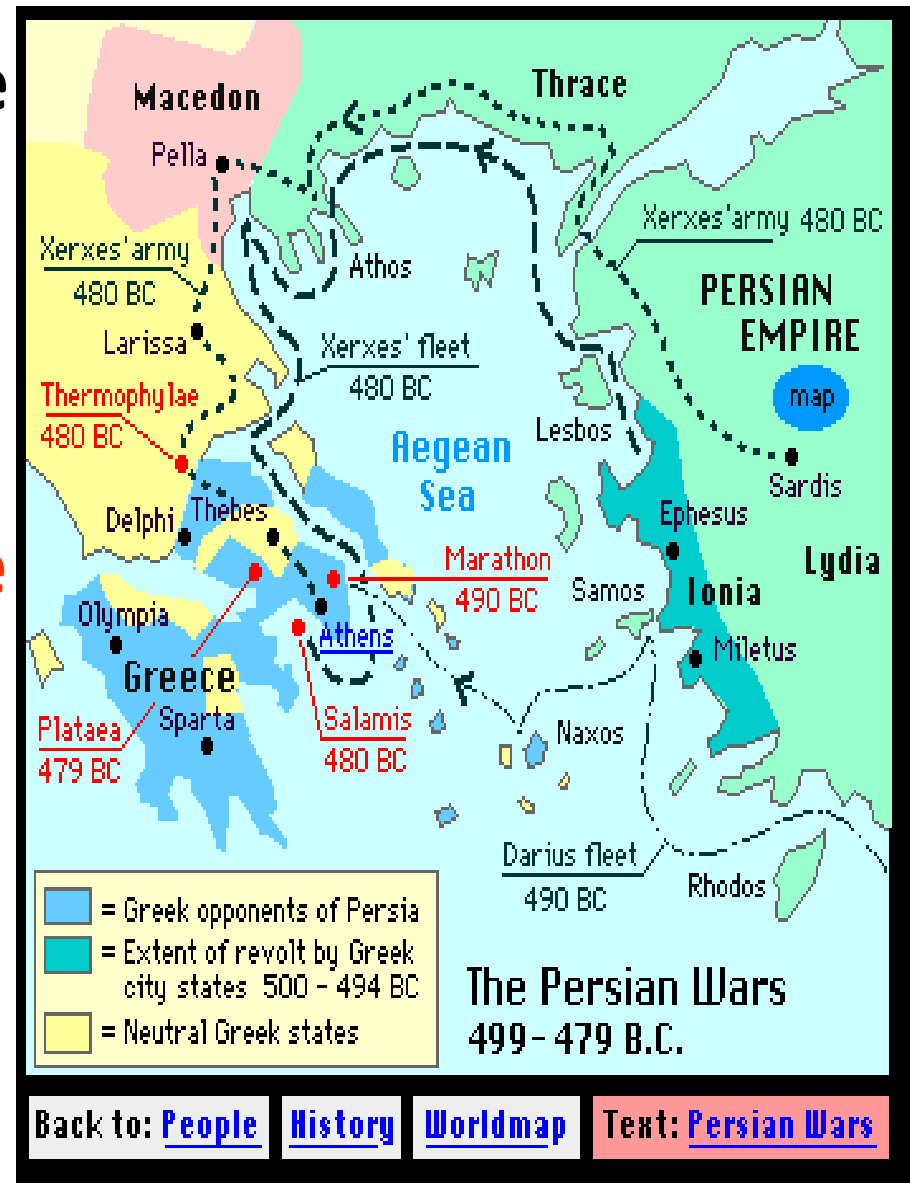
## Major Battles

- **Battle of Thermopylae**

Led by Spartan King Leonidas

6,000 Spartans vs.  
200,000 Persians

Athens is burned



# Third Persian War 480 B.C.E.

## Major Battles

–Strait of Salamis:  
**Naval Battle where  
the Persian fleet  
sunk. They are  
forced to  
retreat!**

–Battle of Plataea

**A year later, final  
Persian forces  
defeated**



**Battle of Salamis**

# *Third Persian War:* *The Outcome!*

## *Results*

- Athens increases its status among the city-states.
- Athens wants a permanent alliance with the city-states but with them remaining in charge
- Sparta is upset!



# *The Delian League Formed*

- Alliance headed by Pericles of Athens
- To defend further Persian invasion
- Collected dues from members
- Problems
  1. Forced members to remain
  2. Used money to rebuild Athens
  3. Promoted democracies only



# ***The Impact of the Persian Wars***

- 1. Athens emerged as the most powerful city-state.**
- 2. Athens organized the Delian League, an **alliance** with 150 Greek city-states and colonies in the Aegean region.**
- 3. Athens used the Delian League to create an Athenian empire.**
- 4. With Pericles as its leader, Athens enters into its Golden Age! But who was paying the bill?**
- 5. Sparta will eventually form an opposing alliance with the neutral city-states**