

The Trojan War

The story of the Trojan War is told in the *Iliad*, a poem thought to have been written by the Greek poet, Homer. It describes how a city called Troy was destroyed by the Greeks after a ten year siege. For many years, historians thought that the Trojan War was just a story. But in the 19th century AD, the remains of Troy were discovered in modern Turkey. We still cannot prove that the Trojan War happened exactly as the *Iliad* describes. But a war may have taken place around 1250BC, and this may have inspired the poet of the *Iliad*.

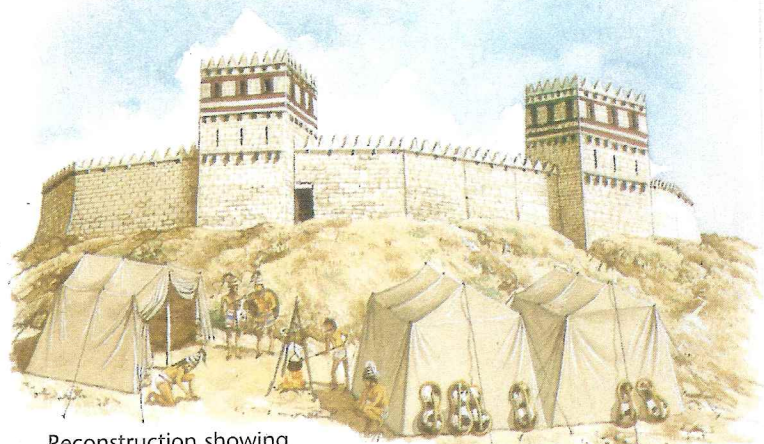
The legend of the Trojan War

The cause of the war between Greece and Troy was Helen of Sparta. She was so beautiful that all the Greek kings wanted to marry her. Helen eventually married Menelaus, brother of King Agamemnon of Mycenae. Her father made all her suitors swear to support Menelaus and to help if anyone tried to kidnap Helen.

Unfortunately, Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty, promised Helen to Paris, a prince of Troy. She made Helen fall in love with him, and the pair eloped to Troy. Agamemnon was angry. He reminded the Greek kings of their oath, and organized a military expedition to Troy, to get Helen back.

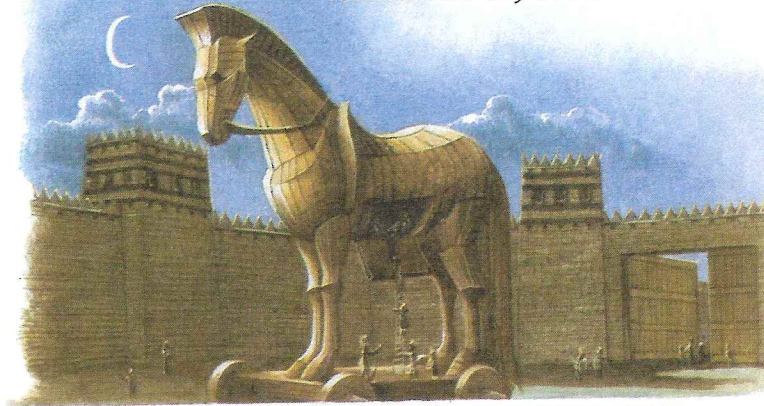
Troy was a heavily fortified city and could not easily be defeated. For ten years, the Greeks laid siege to the city. Then Odysseus, the king of Ithaca, thought of a trick to help them seize Troy.

They built a huge wooden horse, left it outside the city and then sailed away. When they had gone, the Trojans brought the horse into the city, thinking it would bring them luck.



Reconstruction showing the city of Troy under siege from the Greeks

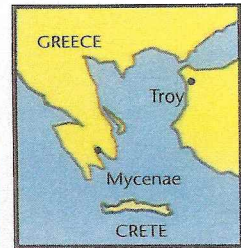
That night, Greek soldiers, who were concealed inside the hollow horse, crept out and opened the city gates. The Greek army, which had sneaked back under cover of darkness, charged in and destroyed the city. They killed the men and made the women and children slaves. Only one Trojan prince, Aeneas, escaped alive with his family. He fled to Italy, where his descendants are said to have founded the city of Rome.



The search for Troy

At the end of the 19th century AD, a German archaeologist named Heinrich Schliemann set out to discover the city of Troy. He had complete faith in Homer and the *Iliad*, and used the descriptions in the poem to locate the city.

A picture of the wooden horse, taken from a Greek vase



In AD1870, Schliemann started to dig at a site at Hisarlik, in modern Turkey. He uncovered the ruins of a city which he believed to be Troy. Several archaeologists have since excavated the site. We now know that the city was built around 3600BC, but it was rebuilt at least eight times. Experts disagree about which of the layers is the city described in the *Iliad*.

Several of the cities uncovered at Hisarlik were destroyed violently, but we do not know whether this was by earthquake or war. People from the Greek mainland may well have destroyed the city, but there is not yet any evidence to prove that the Trojan War took place as the *Iliad* describes.

The Golden Age and the Peloponnesian War

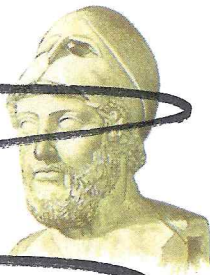
The Persian Wars were followed by an era of great prosperity and achievement in Athens. This is known as its Golden Age (479-431BC). Trade flourished and the city became very rich. Athens became a leading city for the arts, attracting the best sculptors, potters, architects, dramatists and philosophers. This security was shattered by the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta. It lasted for 27 years (431-404BC) and left the city-states weak and exhausted. Athens never regained its former power.

During the Golden Age, the city was improved and the temples on the Acropolis were rebuilt.



Pericles

The democratic system was finalized during this time. The most famous politician was Pericles, who dominated Athenian politics from 443-429BC, as he was elected repeatedly. He was a powerful public speaker and usually persuaded the Assembly to vote the way he wanted. One of his most notable achievements was to organize the rebuilding of the Acropolis.



Bust of Pericles

Relations between Sparta and Athens

Soon after the Persian Wars, relations between Sparta and Athens began to deteriorate. As Athens grew powerful and wealthy, the Spartans felt threatened.

In c. 460BC the *helots* and the people of Messenia rebelled against Sparta. The Spartans asked Athens for help, but by the time the Athenians arrived, the Spartans had changed their minds.

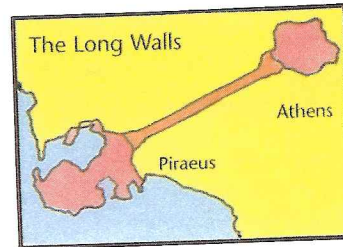
They were so distrustful of democrats that they would not let the Athenians intervene. The Athenians felt bitterly insulted and abandoned their alliance with Sparta.



The Long Walls

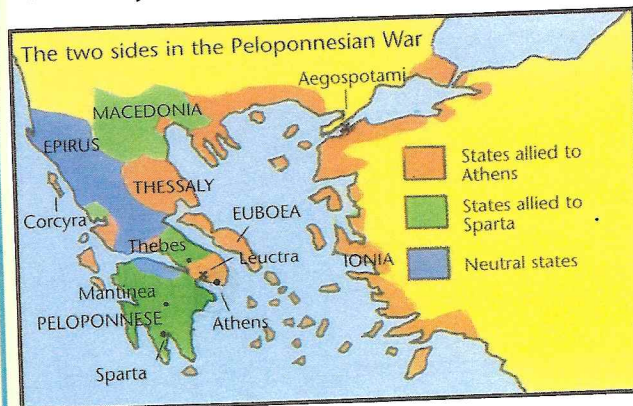
In 460BC, the Athenians began building huge walls linking their city to its port at Piraeus. They are known as the Long Walls. They meant that Athens could not be cut off from its navy. The Spartans thought this meant that Athens was preparing for war, and fighting broke out between the two states in 448-447BC.

After this, Sparta and Athens signed a treaty known as the Thirty Years' Peace, but relations between them remained hostile.



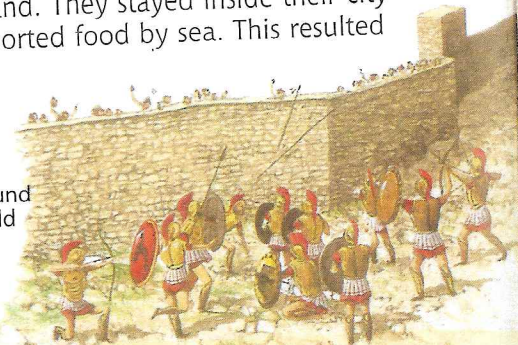
The Peloponnesian War begins

In 431BC, hostilities broke out between Corinth and its colony of Corcyra (modern Corfu). Sparta supported Corinth and Athens backed Corcyra. This began the Peloponnesian War. It was given this name because Sparta was supported by a league of states in the Peloponnese, which is the southern part of mainland Greece. Athens was backed by its allies in the Delian League.



The Spartans were nearly unbeatable in land battles. They were easily able to invade Attica. The Athenians had a superior navy and a weaker army than the Spartans. They tried to avoid fighting the Spartans on land. They stayed inside their city walls and imported food by sea. This resulted in a long deadlock.

The Spartans devastated the countryside around Athens, but could not get through the Long Walls.



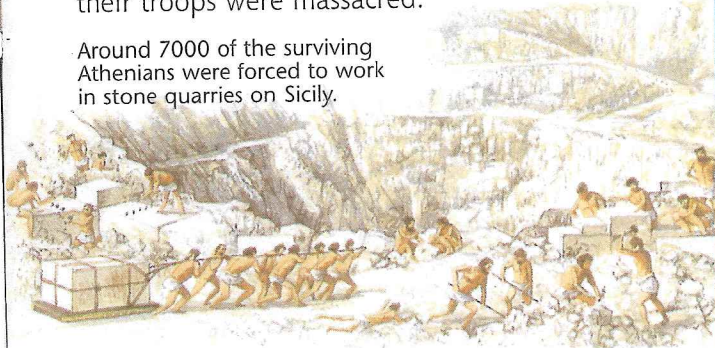
For a link to a website where you can read an animated story about the Peloponnesian War, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com

The Sicilian expedition

In 430BC, a plague broke out in Athens, in which around a quarter of the people died. By 421BC both sides were exhausted and signed a treaty.

But war broke out again and events soon turned against Athens. In 415BC a politician called Alcibiades persuaded the Athenians to attack Syracuse, in Sicily. Before the attack, he was told to return to Athens to face charges brought against him by his enemies. Instead, he fled to Sparta and advised the Spartans on how to defeat Athens. The Athenians were defeated at Syracuse and many of their troops were massacred.

Around 7000 of the surviving Athenians were forced to work in stone quarries on Sicily.



Political unrest in Athens

In 411BC a council of 400 men seized power in Athens and abolished democracy. The news caused Athenian forces overseas to mutiny. After three months, democracy was restored. The Athenians needed a strong leader, so they recalled Alcibiades and made him *strategos*. But he failed to fulfil their hopes and was not re-elected. Support for the Athenians declined and some of their allies withdrew from the Delian League.

The Spartans build a fleet

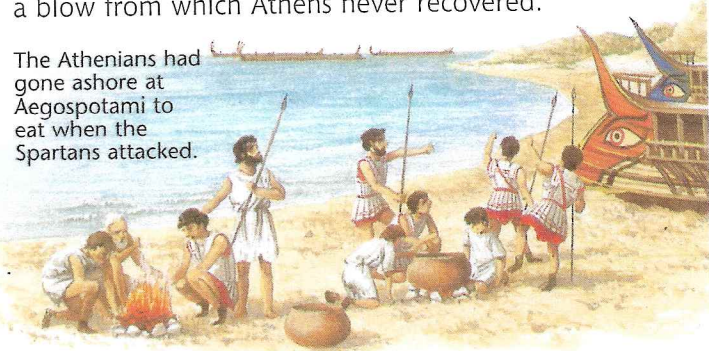


Meanwhile the Persians intervened. They were fighting the Greek colonists in Ionia, who were supported by the Spartans. The Persians persuaded the Spartans to withdraw from Ionia by giving them money to build a fleet. This enabled the Spartans to attack the Athenians at sea as well as on land.

The Battle of Aegospotami

In 405BC, the Spartans scored a decisive naval victory. They launched a surprise attack on the Athenian fleet when it was docked at Aegospotami in Thrace. The Spartans captured 170 Athenian ships and executed around 4000 prisoners. It was a blow from which Athens never recovered.

The Athenians had gone ashore at Aegospotami to eat when the Spartans attacked.



The Spartans then laid siege to Athens. Without a fleet, the Athenians were unable to import food, and many people starved. In 404BC, they had to surrender. The Spartans pulled down the Long Walls, ended the Delian League and abolished democracy. They installed an oligarchic government known as the Thirty Tyrants.

After the Peloponnesian War

The Spartans' victory did not bring peace or unity to Greece. They began to lose control in Athens, where democracy was restored in 403BC. Wars broke out again between the various states. Most Greeks were too absorbed in these problems to notice a new power rising in Macedonia, to the northeast. The Macedonians began expanding their territory, and took advantage of the wars in Greece. Within 50 years of the end of the Peloponnesian War, the Macedonians had conquered many of the Greek states (see page 72).

Key dates

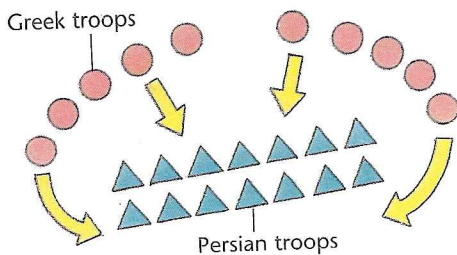
- 479-431BC The Golden Age of Athens.
- 460BC The Spartans reject Athenian help in stopping a rebellion. The Athenians start to build the Long Walls.
- 431BC Start of the Peloponnesian War.
- 415-413BC Athens sends an expedition to Sicily which is defeated.
- 405BC The Spartans defeat the Athenian fleet at the Battle of Aegospotami.
- 404BC The Athenians surrender. End of the Peloponnesian War.
- 371BC The Spartans are defeated by the Thebans at the Battle of Leuctra and Thebes becomes a leading power in Greece.
- 362BC The Thebans are defeated by the Spartans and Athenians at the Battle of Mantinea.

The Persian Wars

In the 6th century BC, the Greeks were threatened by a people known as the Persians, who came from the area that is now Iran. As the Persians expanded their empire to the west, they tried to seize Greek territory. In 546BC, they conquered the Ionian states on the west coast of Asia Minor. In 500-499BC the Ionians rebelled, helped by a naval force from Athens and Eretria. The Ionians were successful at first, but the Persians eventually crushed the revolt. This was the start of a series of wars between the Greeks and the Persians, which lasted from 490-449BC.

The Battle of Marathon

The Persians did not forgive Athens and Eretria for helping the Ionians. In 490BC, led by King Darius, they crushed Eretria. Then they landed at Marathon, on the coast northeast of Athens. The Athenians and their allies raised an army of 10,000 troops, led by a general called Miltiades. Although the Greeks were heavily outnumbered by the Persians, they won the battle. This was due to Miltiades' superior military tactics and the strength of the hoplite phalanx.



The Greeks concentrated their troops on the wings. They were able to attack the Persians at the sides and then from behind.

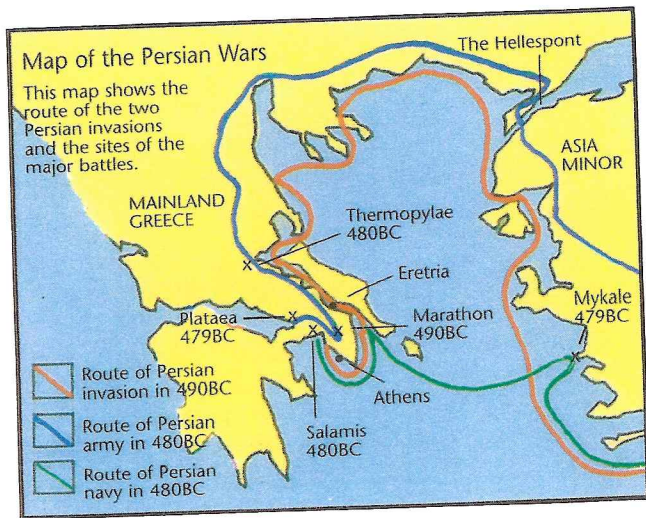
The second Persian invasion

Many Greeks thought the Persians would invade again. A politician called Themistocles persuaded the Athenians to increase the city's safety by building up its navy. In 480BC the Persians did invade, led by King Xerxes. Many of the Greek states joined forces to fight the Persians.

The Athenians consulted the Oracle at Delphi (see page 68) and were told that Athens would be saved by a wooden wall. Themistocles convinced the Athenians that this meant the wooden ships of the Athenian navy. He prepared for a naval battle.



In 480BC the Persians crossed the Hellespont on a bridge made of boats.



The Battle of Thermopylae



The first battle took place in 480BC in a narrow mountain pass called Thermopylae. A small army of Spartans and Boeotians, led by King Leonidas, held back the Persians. But a Greek traitor showed some of the Persians another route around the pass. Leonidas sent most of his soldiers away to safety. To delay the Persians, he fought on bravely with just a few troops, but they were all killed.

The destruction of Athens

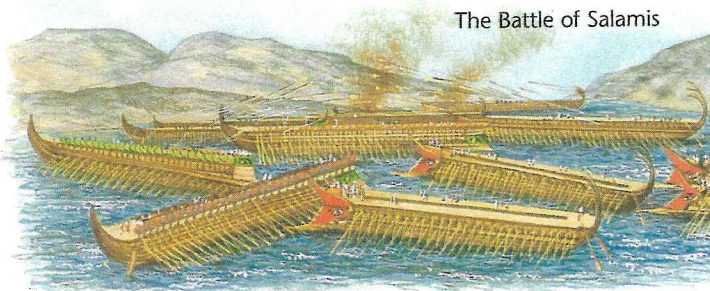


After Thermopylae, the Persians marched to Athens. The Athenian leader Themistocles was still determined to fight the Persians at sea, so he withdrew most of his troops and allowed the Persians to seize the city. They murdered the few defending Athenians and plundered the city.

For a link to a website with more information on the Persian wars, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com

The Battles of Salamis and Plataea

The Persians also sent a naval force to attack the Greeks. There was a decisive sea battle in 480BC around the island of Salamis, off the coast of Athens. Themistocles lured the Persians into the channel of water between Salamis and the mainland. There the Greeks took them by surprise, and after a fierce battle, the Persians were defeated.

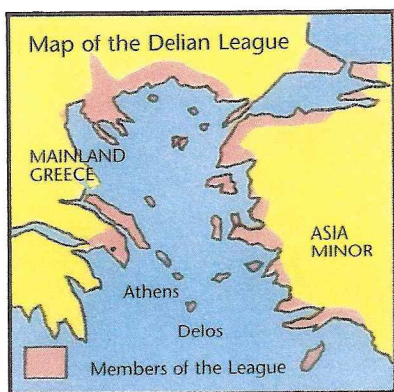


The Battle of Salamis

In 479BC the Greeks assembled an enormous army, led by the Spartan general Pausanias, and defeated the Persians at Plataea. At the same time the Greek navy attacked and burned the Persian fleet, while it was beached at Mykale on the coast of Asia Minor. This marked the end of the Persian invasion.

The Delian League

Many Greeks believed that the Persians would try to avenge their defeat. To be ready for this, many of the Greek states formed a league, led by Athens.



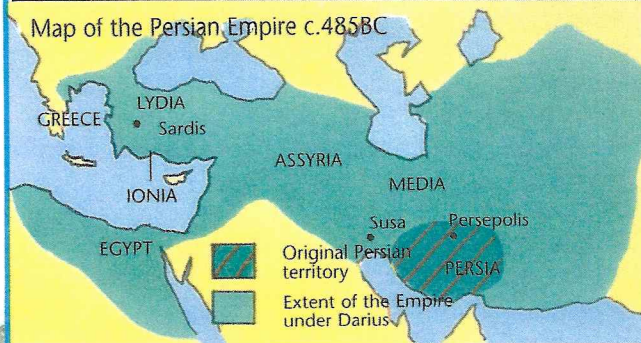
Members of the league contributed ships and money to provide a navy to defend them. This is known as the Delian

League, because it first met in 478BC, on Delos, one of the many Cyclades islands.

The end of the Persian Wars

Although the Greeks had stopped the Persian invasion, the wars did not come to an abrupt end. The Greeks and Persians continued to fight over various territories around the Mediterranean, such as Egypt, Cyprus and Ionia. In 449BC, the Delian League signed a peace treaty with Persia, but most Greeks continued to dislike and fear the Persians.

The Persians



In 550BC, the Persians conquered the kingdom of Media and started to expand their territory, eventually acquiring a huge empire. Their empire was divided into 20 provinces. A system of roads made communication between the king and the provinces easy.

The Persians owed their success to an extremely efficient army. Most of their troops were Persian, and there was an elite force of 10,000 warriors, known as the Immortals.

Relief of two Immortals from the palace at Susa

Part of the staircase from Darius' palace at Persepolis



Key dates

550BC King Cyrus II of Persia defeats the Medes and founds the Achaemenid dynasty.

522-485BC Reign of the Persian king, Darius I. The Persian Empire reaches its largest extent.

500-499BC The Greek colonies in Ionia revolt against the Persians, but are defeated.

490BC First Persian invasion of Greece. The Persians are defeated at the Battle of Marathon.

480BC Second Persian invasion of Greece; Battle of Thermopylae; destruction of Athens; naval Battle of Salamis.

479BC Battle of Plataea; the Greeks defeat the Persian invasion.

465-330BC Persian Empire declines and is eventually conquered by Alexander the Great (see pages 74-75).

Alexander the Great

Alexander became King of Macedonia in 336BC after the murder of his father, Philip. He was only 20. He immediately embarked on a career of military conquests, which gained him the largest empire the ancient world had known, and earned him the title of Alexander the Great. He was a military genius, who inspired great loyalty in his followers and who had extraordinary courage.

In 334BC, Alexander led 35,000 troops into Asia Minor to attack the Persians. This began an 11-year campaign, during which he captured vast territories in Asia Minor, Egypt, Afghanistan, Iran and India.



Picture of Alexander taken from a Roman mosaic

Alexander founded many new cities, most of which he named 'Alexandria', after himself. The most famous of these was the

port of Alexandria in Egypt, which became the country's new capital.

Alexander did little to change the administration of the lands he seized, although he usually replaced the local governors with his own men. He left Greeks behind in all the areas he conquered, which helped to spread Greek language and culture across an enormous area. This Greek influence lasted long after Alexander's empire had collapsed.

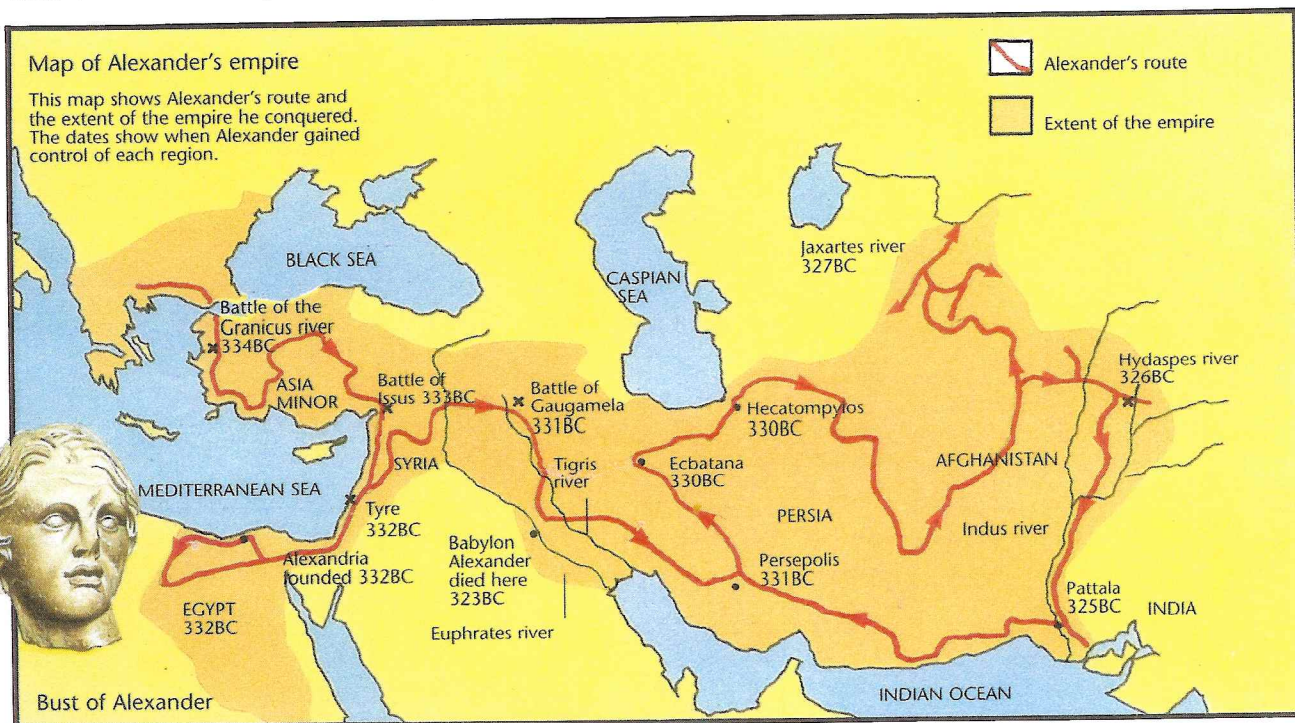


This reconstruction shows the Battle of Issus (333BC), where Alexander defeated the Persians. It is based on a Roman mosaic in Pompeii.

Alexander realized that his empire was too big to be administered from Greece. In Persia, he tried to include Persians in the government to help unify the empire. He planned to give them equal rights and to let them serve in the army. The whole empire was to have one currency, and use Greek as the official language. Alexander himself adopted Persian dress and married a Persian noblewoman named Roxane.

In 323BC, Alexander died suddenly of a fever. He does not seem to have made plans for the government of the empire after his death. Roxane was pregnant with Alexander's heir, but his generals divided the empire up between themselves.

Alexander was often shown on coins of the time.



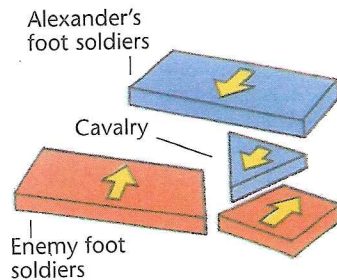
Alexander's army

Alexander inherited a large, well-trained army with high morale. He invaded Persia with an army of 30,000 infantry and 5000 cavalry.

The cavalry

The basic cavalry unit consisted of 49 men. It charged in a wedge-shaped formation with the commander in front. The cavalry was usually used to break up a phalanx of enemy foot soldiers.

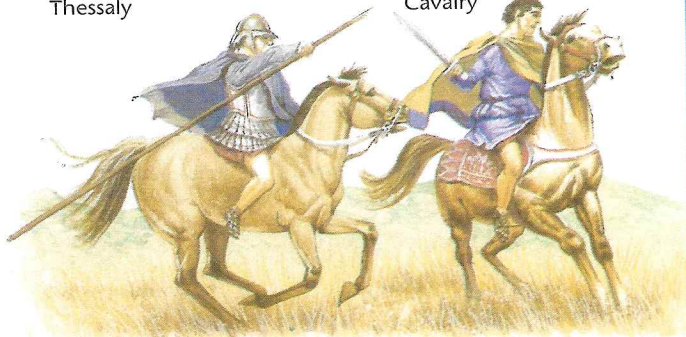
The cavalry often attacked by charging at the right end of the phalanx, which was its weakest point (see page 37). A phalanx of foot soldiers could then move in from behind in hand-to-hand fighting.



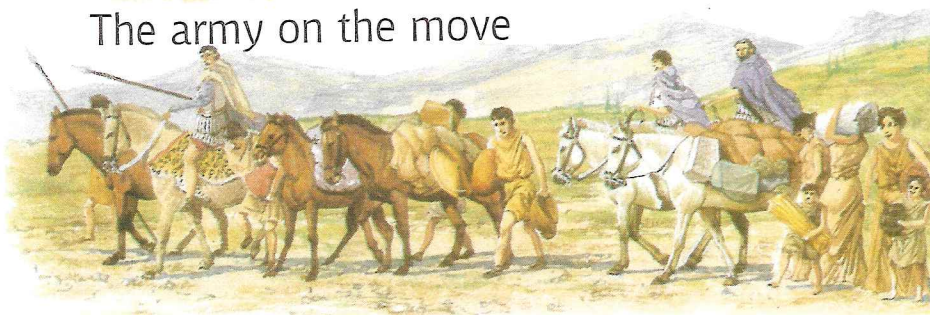
The cavalry was mostly made up of horsemen from Thessaly, with troops from the states of the Corinthian League. The elite troops, or Companion Cavalry, consisted of eight squadrons of Macedonian noblemen.

Cavalryman from Thessaly

Member of the Companion Cavalry



The army on the move



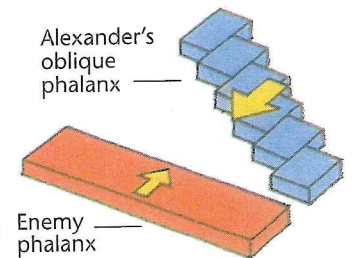
Each soldier was expected to carry all his own weapons, as well as a personal pack containing bedding and cooking equipment. Pack animals and baggage wagons were used to carry bulky equipment such as tents, water skins and siege equipment, and to move wounded men. The army was accompanied by servants and grooms, and by many women and children.

Macedonian troops formed the core of the army. It also contained troops from conquered provinces, and professional soldiers from all over Greece.

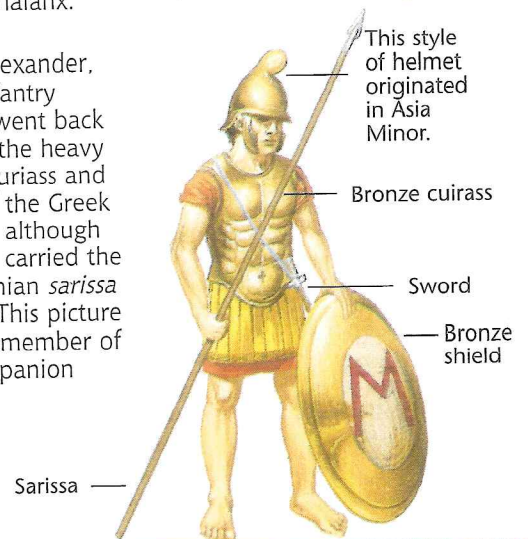
The infantry

The infantry was made up of foot soldiers, javelin throwers, archers and slingers. Alexander continued to use the Companion Infantry, and he also had a bodyguard known as the *hypaspists*.

Foot soldiers continued to fight in a phalanx. Alexander often used the phalanx in an oblique formation, shown here. It enabled him to attack the weaker right wing of an enemy phalanx.



Under Alexander, many infantry soldiers went back to using the heavy bronze cuirass and shield of the Greek *hoplites*, although they still carried the Macedonian *sarissa* (spear). This picture shows a member of the Companion Infantry.



Key dates

336BC Philip is murdered and Alexander comes to the Macedonian throne.

334BC Alexander invades Persia. He defeats the Persian governors of Asia Minor at the Battle of the Granicus river.

333BC Alexander defeats the Persians, led by King Darius, at the Battle of Issus.

332BC Siege and destruction of the city of Tyre in the Lebanon. Alexander conquers Egypt and founds the city of Alexandria.

331BC Alexander defeats the Persians at the Battle of Gaugamela and becomes King of Persia.

327BC Alexander invades India.

326BC Alexander defeats the Indian King Porus at the Battle of the Hydaspes river.

323BC Alexander dies in Babylon.

Greece At War

	Dates	Who was involved	Where did it happen	Weapons used	Who Won	Facts: how it started, details of war
Trojan War Pg. 157-158						
Persian Wars Pg. 132-137						
Peloponnesian Wars Pg. 144-146						
Macedonia Alexander the Great The Fall Pg. 175-181						

World EXPO Final Project

Purpose ~

- Share the knowledge you have gained about your country and to teach others
- To learn how to put together a final project based on researched information

Project of Choice ~ Please select a project from the list below or create your own

1. Option 1: Submit a final written report. We can provide formatting, examples and basic instructions.
2. Option 2: Choose a project from the list below
 - a. Create a banner ~ Dotson can provide paper (5/26)
 - b. Create a tri-fold board ~ Dotson can provide paper (5/26)
 - c. ABC Book
 - d. Pop-up Book
 - e. Google Slides
 - f. Create a video
 - g. Write a song or rap and perform it
 - h. Create a paper or electronic brochure
 - i. Be a news reporter and create a news report
 - j. Recipe book
 - k. Authentic dress
 - l. Give a speech & record it
3. Option 3: Create your own project using the information you have researched
4. Option 4: Complete both the written report **and** a project of your choice.



Directions ~

- Include the researched information you have done into your project
- This is an opportunity to teach others about your country
- For some projects we can provide examples, formatting or basic instructions
- Have Fun! Choose something you want to do
- Be creative, neat, organized, informative

EXPO Celebration ~

- June 3: If you would like to participate in our virtual World EXPO please have the project to your homeroom teacher by 5 p.m.
- June 10: Virtual World EXPO Day, this will be a celebration we all get to enjoy, details will be coming soon.



The Wars

As we know Greece was not one country, but a collection of city-states. The Greeks were very proud of their city-state. If you asked a Greek where he was from, he would not say Greece, instead he would say Athens, Olympia, Mycenae, Marathon or Sparta. This pride often led to war.

The Greeks also knew that they could unite together to fight an invader, like the Persians. War wasn't just about boundaries and power, sometimes it involved love and drew warriors far from home. With any war heroes and tactics emerge.

Army



1. Sparta had the best land army
2. Warriors often had to provide their own equipment, so the rich dominated the army with the best weapons (spears, javelin, flame throwers, catapult, etc)
3. Shields were large enough to protect the body from neck to thigh
4. Athenian shields had a Greek "A" on it
5. Spartans would decorate their shield with a symbol of their family or city
6. The Hoplites were the majority of Spartan soldiers. They were foot soldiers who fought with a long spear and used a round shield for protection.
7. Hoplites wore a jointed breast and back plate for protection

Navy



1. Athens had the best navy
2. Greek ships had oars and sails
3. The largest ships had 3 rows of oars, with one man per oar, requiring up to 170 men to row their largest ships
4. Fixed to the front of the ship was a sharp metal ram, which could be used to ram an enemy ship

Assignment

1. Select a war to study
 - a. Trojan War ~ 10 year war about a love triangle
 - b. Peloponnesian Wars ~ long battle between Athens and Sparta
 - c. Persian War ~ All of Greece united to fight the Persians
 - d. Alexander the Great ~ Macedonian King
2. Study the pages attached in google classroom on your selected topic
3. Create a visual to describe or fill out the graphic organizer
 - a. who was involved,
 - b. where the war took place,
 - c. why it happened
 - d. who won.
 - e. Interesting details

