World History I

The Persian Wars: 499 BC – 449 BC

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The Persian Wars (499 – 449BC)
   1. **The Persian wars were fought between the Persian Empire and the Greeks**
      1. The war began in Ionia, located on Asia Minor
         1. Greek Colonies exist on the coast
         2. The city states were located on the edge of Persian territory
      2. **King Darius**, leader of the Persians, attacks the Greek city states in **Asia Minor and conquers the area in 520 BC**
         1. Athens sends ships and soldiers to help their Greek brothers
            1. Darius defeats those soldiers and the rebels in Anatolia
            2. Vows to destroy the Athenians in revenge
   2. **The Battle of Marathon**
      1. 490 BC – Darius attacks Greek mainland with an army of 25,000
         1. Landed at a plain called Marathon
         2. Met by 10,000 Athenians
            1. Better soldiers
            2. Better sailors
            3. **Utilized the Phalanx form of fighting**
         3. The Persians outnumbered the Athenians, but the Greeks were better soldiers
            1. After 4 hours, the Persians retreated

6,200 Persians dead

Only 192 Athenians

* + - 1. The Persians were defeated and retreated back to Persia
    1. The city of Athens was defenseless, as the army was engaged at Marathon
       1. Pheidippides was sent to run to Athens to tell them of their victory
          1. **It was 26 miles to Athens from Marathon**
          2. **Birth of the modern marathon**
  1. Ten years Later
     1. **Darius, king of Persia, is dead. Son Xerxes has taken throne**
        1. Decides to avenge his father’s greatest defeat and again attacks Greece
           1. Went over land this time, attacking from the North
           2. Greece divided over how to handle the invasion

Some wanted to fight, some wanted to wait

Xerxes comes down the Greek peninsula unhindered

* + 1. **The Battle of Thermopylae**
       1. Sparta decides to delay the Persian army at the mountain pass of Thermopylae
          1. Sends 300 Spartans + about 7,000 other Greek soldiers picked up along the way
          2. Fights the Persians for three days before they are defeated
          3. Spartan sacrifice got the rest of Greece going
       2. **After Thermopylae, the Greeks decide to band together and fight the Persians**
    2. **The Battle of Salamis**
       1. While the Spartans and other cities defended the land, Athens moved to defend the seas
          1. **Athenian navy (best in the world) met the Persian navy at an island by Athens called Salamis**
          2. Took position in a narrow channel

Persians unable to maneuver

Athenian ships ram the Persians, sinking 1/3 of their ships

Persians retreat, defeated on both land and sea

* 1. Outcomes of the Persian War
     1. **Greece freed from threat of invasion, having defeated the greatest army on Earth**
     2. **Athens became both popular and powerful, having been very important in both Persian defeats**
        1. Becomes leader of a powerful alliance of Greek city states, the **Delian League.**
     3. Victory in battle and peace at home sets stage for a great period of growth and wealth in Athens, **the Golden Age of Pericles.**