

# The Persian Wars

*Ancient Greece meets its  
match*

# Today's Learning Goals

Explain how the Persian War started

Briefly describe the battle of Marathon

Briefly describe the battle of Thermopylae

Briefly describe the battle of Salamis

Explain how the Persian War led to Golden Age of Athens

Describe the Golden Age of Athens

# The war begins

City-state of Miletus rebelled against Persian rule in 499 BC. They ask for help.

Sparta refuses, Athens agrees. Miletus succeeds in overthrowing Persian control. Other city-states nearby start to do the same.

Within 3 years, King Darius of Persia puts down revolts and decide to punish Athens.



*The Greek World during the Persian Wars (500-479 BC)*

- ★ Ionian revolt
- ✕ Main battle
- Greek opponents of Persia
- Greek neutral states
- Persian empire
- Persian vassal states
- Ionian rebels (498 BC)
- Mardonius (492 BC)
- Artaphernes/Datis (490 BC)
- Xerxes/Mardonius (480 BC)

0      50      100 km

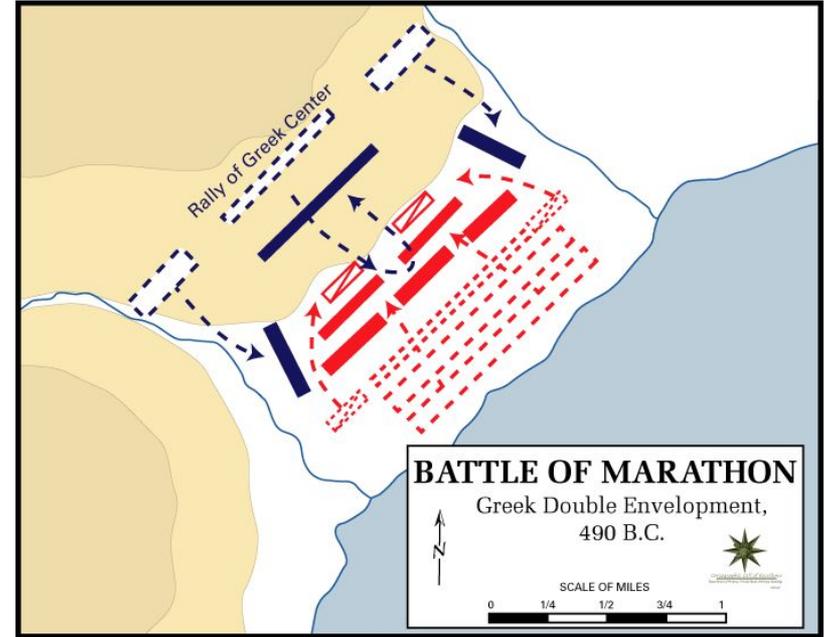
# The Battle of Marathon

Athenian forces meet Persian forces 26 miles outside of the city at the plain of Μαραθῶνος (Marathon).

Athenians are badly outnumbered but decide to attack while the Persians are unprepared.

They succeed. Over 6000 Persians die, while fewer than 200 Greeks perish

Athenians began to feel confident; many begin to believe they are the best of the Greeks.



# The Battle of Thermopylae

10 years later, Persian King Xerxes invades Greece to conquer all of it in revenge.

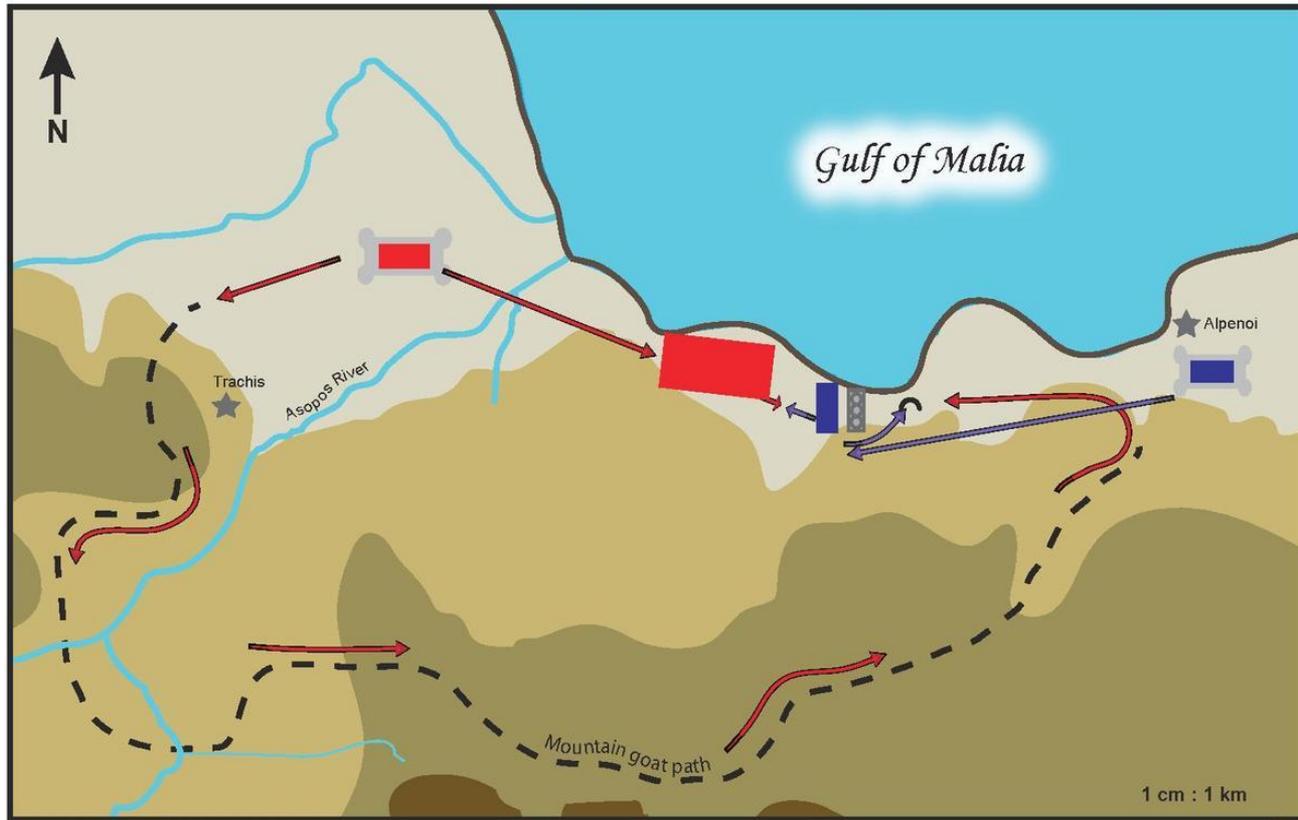
Athens and Sparta unite to fight off the Persians. Persians have 100,000 men and 700 ships, the Greeks have 10,000 men and 300 ships.

They decide to block the Persians at the pass of Thermopylae. A traitor shows the Persians a mountain path.

300 Spartan troops led by King Leonidas of Sparta sacrifice themselves to allow the rest of the Greek army to escape and get help.



# The Battle of Thermopylae, 480 B.C.



Legend:

- Blue rectangle: Allied Greek camp
- Blue rectangle: Allied Greek forces
- Blue arrow: Allied Greek movements
- Red rectangle: Persian camp
- Red rectangle: Persian Forces
- Red arrow: Persian movements
- Grey rectangle with dots: Phocian wall
- Star: Town
- Semi-circle: Hill of the last stand
- Color gradient: Increasing elevation
  - Lightest tan: Lowest (Ground level/passable)
  - Dark tan: Impassable
  - Dark brown: Highest

Brian Martens  
11/8/2012  
Source: [www.livius.org/a/1/maps/thermopylae\\_map.gif](http://www.livius.org/a/1/maps/thermopylae_map.gif)

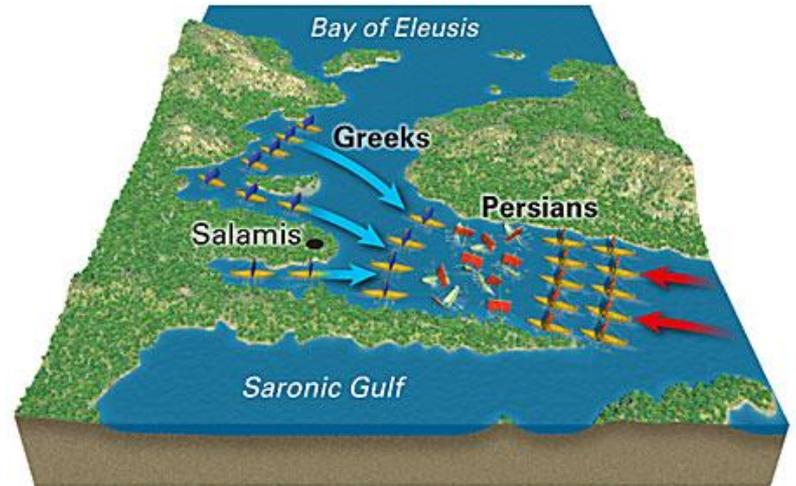
# The Battle of Salamis

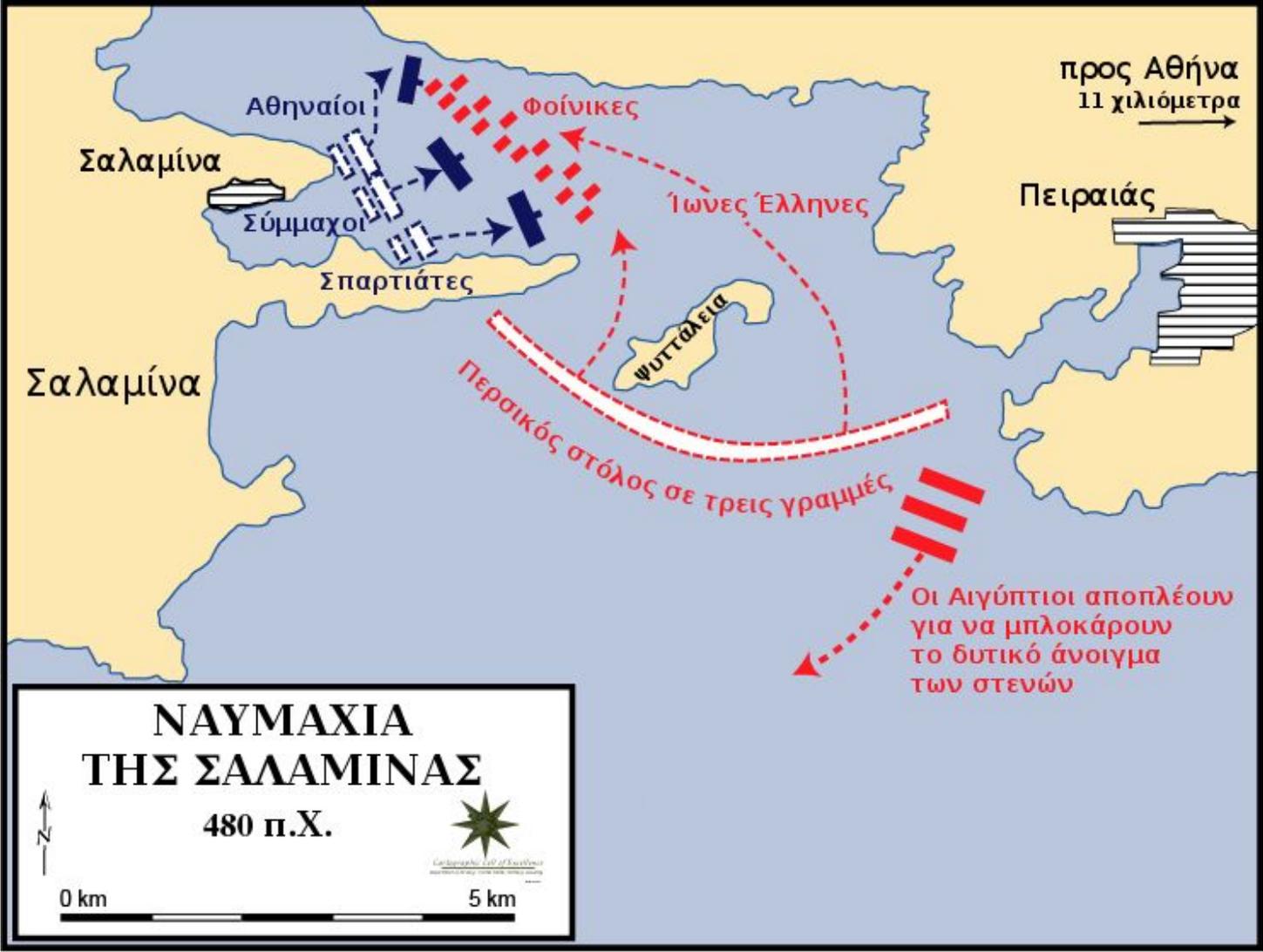
After burning Athens to the ground, Xerxes sets out to conquer all of Greece. He decides to lead with his navy.

Athenian navy is small, but they load up their ships with soldiers.

Athenian navy lures Persian navy into shallow waters near Salamis and ram them, boarding and sinking them.

Defeated, Xerxes leaves Greece. Persians are finally completely defeated in 479 BC.





# The Rise of Athens- a Golden Age

## Golden Age of Greece

### *Age of Pericles*

Advancements in architecture, drama, philosophy

## Delian League (Alliance of Athenian allies)

Money used to rebuild Athens

Athens forced all to stay in League

## Peloponnesian League (Allies with Sparta)

Enemy of Athens

# PERICLES AS LEADER...

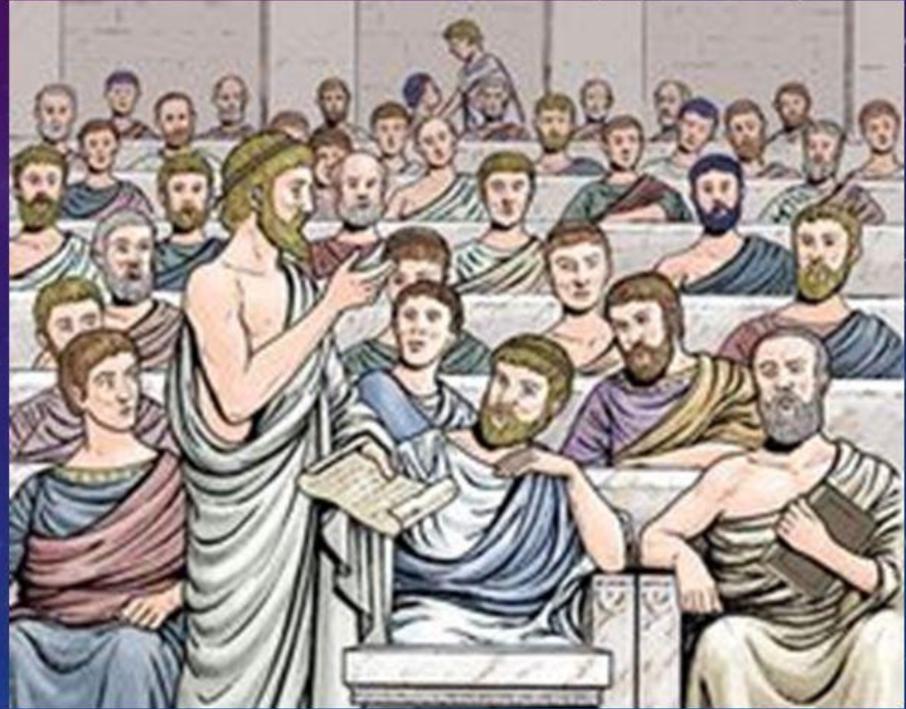
\* The leadership of Pericles began a time which is known as the **Golden Age of Athens**.

\* Pericles worked on reforming the **Athenian democracy**:

~ He **introduced new laws and ideas**, for example, that people who served on a jury would be paid.

~ He **appointed people to positions because of their abilities**, not because they were members of a certain social class.

~ He brought **more ordinary Athenians into government**.



Read pages 52-58