The Greek World

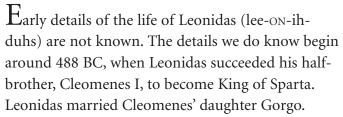
c. ?-480 BC



WHY HE MADE HISTORY Leonidas was a king of Sparta in Ancient Greece. He is known for his heroic death during the Persian War at Thermopylae, where he and his soldiers were all killed defending their land.



As you read the biography below, think about the courage Leonidas must have had in facing his enemies at Thermopylae.



In 480 BC, the Persian king Xerxes I invaded Greece. His large army could easily overpower the Greek army, but Leonidas, commander of the Greek army, was determined to save his country. Leonidas planned to stop the larger Persian army until the rest of the Greek army and the Greek navy could rally.

Leonidas went to Thermopylae (thuhr-MAHpuh-lee) with between 5,000 and 7,000 men to stop the Persians. The battle took place at a narrow valley between the mountains and the sea. This valley was the main pass from northern Greece into central Greece. Leonidas and his men held the valley for two days. But the Persians were shown a goat path around the valley and attacked Leonidas from behind. Leonidas sent most of his soldiers back, but remained at Thermopylae with about 300 Spartans and about 700 men from other city-states in Greece.



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Name	Class	Date
Leonidas, continued		Biography
At Thermopylae, Leonidas and I Greece from the Persians, but all w battle. However, Leonidas' sacrifice enough time to prepare for battle a Salamis. Inspired by the bravery of men, the Greeks were able to defeat that been said that Leonidas ket to his doom, which might have been so many men home. Whether that Leonidas' heroic action made history is the main reason he is re	vere killed in the e gave the Greeks at the straits of f Leonidas and his at the Persians. new he was going en why he sent is true or not, ory, and his	
WHAT DID YOU LEARN?		
1. What is Leonidas most famous	s for?	
2. Make Judgments What might his country?	have motivated Leoni	idas to fight to the death for

ACTIVITY

Think about what you have learned about Leonidas in this passage. Make a list on scrap paper of a few facts about him. Use your list to make an epitaph for Leonidas.