

The Greek World

Section 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. Persia became an empire under Cyrus the Great.
2. The Persian Empire grew stronger under Darius I.
3. The Persians fought Greece twice in the Persian Wars.

Key Terms and People

cavalry a unit of soldiers mounted on horses

Cyrus the Great founder of the Persian Empire

Darius I Persian emperor who organized and expanded the empire

Persian Wars a series of wars between Persia and Greece beginning in 490 BC

Xerxes I Persian emperor who led the second invasion of Greece in 480 BC

Section Summary

PERSIA BECOMES AN EMPIRE

Early in their history, the Persians often fought other peoples of Southwest Asia. In 550 BC the Persian king Cyrus II won independence from a group called the Medes. He went on to conquer almost all of Southwest Asia. His well-organized army included many war chariots and a powerful **cavalry**. Cyrus let the people he conquered keep their own customs. As a result, few people rebelled and the empire remained strong. By the time he died around 529 BC, Cyrus ruled the largest empire the world had ever seen. He became known in history as **Cyrus the Great**.

Why did few people rebel against Cyrus's rule?

Why do you think King Cyrus became known as "the Great"?

THE PERSIAN EMPIRE GROWS STRONGER

Darius I seized power when the death of Cyrus's son left Persia without a clear leader. Darius organized the empire by dividing it into 20 provinces. Then he chose governors called satraps (SAY-traps) to rule the provinces for him.

Section 1, *continued*

Darius expanded the Persian Empire eastward to the Indus Valley and westward into Southeastern Europe. He called himself king of kings to remind other rulers of his power.

Darius's many improvements to Persian society included roads. Messengers used these roads to travel quickly throughout Persia. Darius also built a new capital called Persepolis.

During his reign a popular new religion called Zoroastrianism (zawr-uh-WAS-tree-uh-nih-zuhm) arose in Persia. This religion taught that the forces of good and evil were fighting for control of the universe.

What new religion arose during the reign of Darius?

THE PERSIANS FIGHT GREECE

In 499 BC several Greek cities in what is now Turkey rebelled against Persian rule. They were joined by a few city-states from mainland Greece. The Persians put down the revolt, but nine years later Darius invaded Greece and began the **Persian Wars**. The Greeks won the first battle, at Marathon, because they had better weapons and armor.

Ten years later, Persian Emperor **Xerxes I** (ZUHRK-seez) sent another army into Greece. The city-states of Athens and Sparta joined forces to defend Greece. Despite a brave stand by the Spartans at Thermopylae (thuhr-MAH-puh-lee), the Persians succeeded in attacking and burning Athens. However in the subsequent battles of Salamis (SAH-luh-muhs) and Plataea (pluh-TEE-uh), the Greeks prevailed and brought an end to the wars. They had defeated a powerful foe and defended their homeland.

Circle the sentence that explains why the Greeks defeated the Persians at the Battle of Marathon.

Who won the Persian Wars?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Draw a simple map of a location where three armed soldiers could prevent an entire army of foot-soldiers from moving forward.

Section 1, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and circle the term in the word pair that best completes each sentence.

1. _____ let conquered people keep their own customs in the hope that this would make them less likely to rebel. **(Cyrus the Great/Darius I)**
2. A unit of soldiers mounted on horseback is called a _____. **(cavalry/satrap)**
3. A young prince named _____ claimed the Persian throne and killed all of his rivals, after which he restored order in Persia. **(Darius I/Xerxes I)**
4. Greece fought off two major Persian invasions in the _____. **(Battle of Salamis/Persian Wars)**
5. Darius I organized the Persian Empire by dividing it into 20 provinces ruled over by governors called _____. **(cavalry/satrap)**

DIRECTIONS Write three adjectives or descriptive phrases that describe the term or person.

6. cavalry _____
7. Cyrus the Great _____
8. Darius I _____
9. Persian Wars _____
10. Xerxes I _____

Vocabulary Terms

6. d
7. a

SECTION 3**Summary**

(First Page) Answers will vary. Sample answer: No, because the Greeks did not use myths to lie but to explain the world around them; spring and summer

(Second Page) Answers will vary. Sample answer: maybe by a group of writers; poetry in which the poet recites poetry while playing the lyre; democracy

Challenge Activity

Answers will vary. Accept all reasonable responses.

Vocabulary

Answers will vary. Sample answers:

1. Achilles heel refers to a person's weak spot.
2. Greek writers wrote fables to teach people about life.
3. The ancient Greeks used mythology to explain the world.
4. It is believed that Homer wrote the *Odyssey* and *Iliad*.
5. Hercules was a Greek hero.

The Greek World**SECTION 1****Summary**

(First Page) He let the people he conquered keep their customs; He created the world's largest empire at that time and was fair.

(Second Page) Zoroastrianism; Students should circle the sentence: *The Greeks won the first battle, at Marathon, because they had better weapons and armor*; the Greeks

Challenge Activity

Answers will vary. Student maps might show a very narrow opening between tall hills or mountains.

Fill in the Blank

1. Cyrus the Great
2. cavalry

3. Darius I
4. Persian Wars
5. satraps

Descriptive Phrases

Answers will vary. Sample answers:

6. soldiers in the Persian army, horse-riders, effective military strategy
7. conqueror, ruler, treated conquered people well
8. conqueror, ruler, improved Persian society
9. series of wars, destructive, won by Greece
10. Darius's son, conqueror, involved with Persian Wars

SECTION 2**Summary**

(First Page) courage and strength; because Spartan men were often away at war

(Second Page) Students should underline the sentence: *They believed that studying the arts made people better citizens*; boys; Students should circle: *resentment*.

Challenge Activity

Answers will vary. Student poems or songs should include the feeling of sadness.

Summary

Answers will vary. Sample answer: After the Persian Wars, many Greek city-states formed alliances. The two main alliances were the Delian League headed by Athens and the Peloponnesian League headed by Sparta. Eventually, Sparta became alarmed by Athens's growing influence over the rest of Greece and declared war. This war became known as the Peloponnesian War.

Descriptive Phrases

Answers will vary. Sample answers:

1. democratic, valued education, had powerful army
2. disciplined, obedient, courageous

SECTION 3**Summary**

(First Page) with military strategy and weaponry; He enslaved the Theban people.