NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL STUDIES

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER FOUR



SECTION ONE

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* The Minoans
* The First Greek Kingdoms
* A Move to Colonize
* The Polis

SECTION TWO

* Tyranny in the City-States
* Sparta
* Athens

SECTION THREE

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* The Athenian Empire
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SECTION ONE

The Geography of Greece

If you fly over Greece today, you will see a mountainous land framed by sparkling blue water. To the west is the Ionian (eye • OH• nee • uhn) Sea, to the south is the Mediterranean Sea, and to the east is the Aegean (ih • JEE • uhn) Sea. Hundreds of islands lie offshore, stretching across to Asia like stepping-stones. Mainland Greece is a **peninsula** (puh •NIHN• suh • luh)—a body of land with water on three sides.

Many ancient Greeks made a living from the sea. They became fishers, sailors, and traders. Others settled in farming communities. Greece’s mountains and rocky soil were not ideal for growing crops. However, the climate was mild, and in some places people could grow wheat, barley, olives, and grapes. They also raised sheep and goats.

Ancient Greeks felt deep ties to the land, but the mountains and seas divided them from one another. As a result, early Greek communities grew up fiercely independent.

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1. Ancient Greeks made their living raising

A. sheep. C. horses.

B. cattle. D. rabbits.

2. How did geography discourage Greek unity?

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3. How did the geography of Greece influence where people settled and how they made a living?

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The Minoans

The island of **Crete** (KREET) lies southeast of the Greek mainland. There, in 1900, an English archaeologist by the name of Arthur Evans made the find of a lifetime. Evans uncovered the ruins of a grand palace that had been the center of Minoan (muh•NOH•uhn) civilization. The Minoans were not Greeks, but their civilization was the first to arise in the region that later became Greece.

The palace at Knossos (NAH • suhs) revealed the riches of an ancient society. Its twisting passageways led to many different rooms: private quarters for the royal family and storerooms packed with oil, wine, and grain. Other spaces were workshops for making jewelry, vases, and small ivory statues. The palace even had bathrooms.

The Minoans made their wealth from trade. They built ships from oak and cedar trees and sailed as far as Egypt and Syria. There they traded pottery and stone vases for ivory and metals. By 2000 B.C., Minoan ships controlled the eastern Mediterranean Sea. They carried goods to foreign ports and kept the sea free of pirates.

About 1450 B.C., the Minoan civilization suddenly collapsed. Some historians think undersea earthquakes caused giant waves that washed away the Minoans’ cities. Others think the cities were destroyed by a group of Greeks from the mainland. These invaders were called the Mycenaeans (MY• suh •NEE• uhns).

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1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ civilization was the first to arise in ancient Greece.

A. Phoenician C. Mycenaean

B. Dorian D. Minoan

2. The Minoans made their living as

A. soldiers. C. weavers.

B. traders. D. farmers.

3. How did the Minoans become a trading civilization?

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The First Greek Kingdoms

The Mycenaeans were originally from central Asia. They invaded the Greek mainland around 1900 B.C. and conquered the people living there. The Mycenaean leaders became the first Greek kings. Their warriors became nobles who ruled the people they had conquered. In the late 1800s, a German named Heinrich Schliemann (HYN• rihk SHLEE • MAHN) discovered one of their walled palaces in **Mycenae** (my • SEE • nee). He named the people of this civilization the

Mycenaeans.

What Were Mycenaean Kingdoms Like?

The centerpiece of each Mycenaean kingdom was a fortified palace on a hill. The ruler lived there, surrounded by giant stone walls. Beyond the palace walls lay large farms, or estates, that belonged to the nobles. Slaves and farmers lived on the estates and took shelter inside the fortress in times of danger.

Mycenaean palaces hummed with activity. Artisans tanned leather, sewed clothes, and made jars for wine and olive oil. Other workers made bronze swords and ox-hide shields. Government officials kept track of the wealth of every person in the kingdom. Then they collected wheat, livestock, and honey as taxes and stored them in the palace.

Power From Trade and War

Soon after the Mycenaeans set up their kingdoms, Minoan traders began to visit from Crete. As a result, Mycenaeans learned much about Minoan culture. They copied the ways Minoans worked with bronze and built ships. They learned how the Minoans used the sun and stars to find their way at sea. The Mycenaeans even started worshiping the Earth Mother, the

Minoans’ chief goddess.

Around 1400 B.C., the Mycenaeans replaced the Minoans as the major power on the Mediterranean. They traded widely, sailing to Egypt and southern Italy. Some historians think they conquered Crete and nearby islands.

Although trade made the Mycenaeans wealthy, they were prouder of their deeds in battle. Their most famous victory is probably the Trojan War. In the next chapter, you will learn the legend of how the Mycenaean king **Agamemnon** (A • guh •MEHM• nahn) used trickery to win that war.

What Was the Dark Age?

By 1200 B.C., the Mycenaeans were in trouble. Earthquakes and fighting among the kingdoms had destroyed their hilltop forts. By 1100 B.C., Mycenaean civilization had collapsed.

The years between 1100 B.C. and 750 B.C. were difficult for the Greeks. Overseas trade

slowed and poverty took hold. Farmers grew only enough food to meet their own family’s needs. People also stopped teaching others how to write or do craftwork. Before long, the Greeks had forgotten their written language and how to make many things. As a result, historians call this time the Dark Age.

The changes that took place in the Dark Age were not all bad, however. One positive development was a huge population shift. Thousands of Greeks left the mainland and settled on islands in the Aegean Sea. Other Greeks moved to the western shores of Asia Minor, to what is now the country of Turkey. This wave of movement expanded the reach of Greek culture.

Meanwhile, people known as the Dorians (DOHR • ee • uhns) invaded Greece. Many settled in the southwest on the **Peloponnesus** (PEH • luh •puh•NEE• suhs) peninsula. The Dorians brought iron weapons with them, giving Greece more advanced technology. Iron weapons and farm tools were stronger and cheaper than those made of bronze.

Gradually, people began to farm again and to produce surplus food. As a result, trade revived. One benefit of the increased trade was a new way of writing. As you read in Chapter 3, the Greeks picked up the idea of an alphabet from the Phoenicians, one of their trading partners who lived on the coast of the eastern Mediterranean.

The Greek alphabet had 24 letters that stood for different sounds. It made reading and writing Greek much simpler than ever before. Soon people were writing down tales that had been passed down by storytellers for generations.

1. Name one factor that started the collapse of the Mycenaean civilization.

A. the Trojan War

B. The people forgot their written language.

C. earthquakes

D. Thousands left the mainland to settle on islands.

2. The Mycenaeans came to Greece from

A. Western Europe. C. Central Asia.

B. India. D. China.

3. What changes occurred during Greece’s Dark Age?

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A Move to Colonize

As Greece recovered from its Dark Age, its population rose quickly. By 700 B.C., farmers could no longer grow enough grain to feed everyone. As a result, cities began sending people outside Greece to start **colonies** (KAH• luh • nees).Acolony is a settlement in a new territory that keeps close ties to its homeland.

Between 750 B.C. and 550 B.C., adventurous Greeks streamed to the coasts of Italy, France, Spain, North Africa, and western Asia. With each new colony, Greek culture spread farther.

Colonists traded regularly with their “parent” cities, shipping them grains, metals, fish, timber, and enslaved people. In return, the colonists received pottery, wine, and olive oil from the mainland. Overseas trade got an extra boost during the 600s B.C., when the Greeks began to mint coins. Merchants were soon exchanging goods for money rather than for more goods.

The growth of trade led to the growth of industry. As the demand for goods grew, producers had to keep pace. People in different areas began specializing in making certain products. For example, pottery making became popular in places with large amounts of clay.

1. What was the central cause for colonization in the Greek civilization?

A. constant war C. rapid growth in population

B. power D. education

2. How did new colonies affect industry?

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3. Why did the use of money help trade to grow?

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The Polis

By the end of the Dark Age, many nobles who owned large estates had overthrown the Greek kings. They created citystates. Like the Mesopotamian city-states you read about in Chapter 1, those in Greece were made up of a town or city and the surrounding countryside. Each Greek city-state, known as a **polis** (PAH• luhs), was like a tiny independent country.

The main gathering place in the polis was usually a hill. Afortified area, called an acropolis (uh •KRAH•puh• luhs), stood at the top of the hill. It provided a safe refuge in case of attacks. Sometimes the acropolis also served as a religious center. Temples and altars were built there to honor the many Greek gods and goddesses.

Below the acropolis was an open area called an **agora** (A •guh• ruh). This space had two functions: it was both a market and a place where people could meet and debate issues.

City-states varied in size. Some were a few miles square, while others covered hundreds of square miles. They also varied in population. More than 300,000 people lived in Athens by 500 B.C. Most city-states were much smaller, however.

What Was Greek Citizenship?

Each Greek city-state was run by its citizens. When we speak of citizens, we mean members of a political community who treat each other as equals and who have rights and responsibilities. This was very different from ancient Mesopotamia or Egypt. There, most people were subjects. They had no rights, no say in government, and no choice but to obey their rulers.

The Greeks were the first people to develop the idea of citizenship. Today, the word applies to almost everyone in a society. However, in most Greek city-states, only free native-born men who owned land could be citizens. From their point of view, the citystate was made up of their lands, and it was their responsibility to run it. They did not think anyone else should be a citizen.

Some city-states, such as Athens, eventually dropped the land-owning requirement. Slaves and foreign-born residents, however, continued to be excluded. As for women and children, they might qualify for citizenship, but they had none of the rights that went with it.

What exactly were the rights of Greek citizens? They could gather in the agora to choose their officials and pass laws. They had the right to vote, hold office, own property, and defend themselves in court. In return, citizens had a duty to serve in government and to fight for their polis as citizen soldiers.

Citizens as Soldiers

In early Greece, wars were waged by nobles riding horses and chariots. As the idea of citizenship developed, however, the military system changed. By 700 B.C., the city-states had

begun to depend on armies of ordinary citizens called hoplites (HAHP• LYTS).

Unable to afford horses, the hoplites fought on foot and went into battle heavily armed. Each carried a round shield, a short sword, and a 9-foot (2.7-m) spear. Row upon row of soldiers

marched forward together, shoulder to shoulder. With their shields creating a protective wall, they gave their enemies few openings to defeat them.

Hoplites made good soldiers because, as citizens, they took pride in fighting for their city-state. However, “hometown” loyalties also divided the Greeks and caused them to distrust one another. A lack of unity always existed among the Greek city-states.

1. Greek city-states were run by their

A. soldiers. C. politicians.

B. citizens. D. kings.

2. Under the Greek definition of “citizen,” who qualified for citizenship?

A. free native-born men who owned land

B. freed slaves who owned land

C. wealthy women who owned land

D. foreign-born men with land

3. How did citizenship make the Greeks different from other ancient peoples?

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4. Name three rights granted to Greek citizens that American citizens have today.

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SECTION TWO

Tyranny in the City-States

As you read in the last section, kings ruled the first Greek communities. However, by the end of the Dark Age, the nobles who owned large farms had seized power from the kings.

Rule by the nobles would also be short lived. The first challenge to their rule came from the owners of small farms. These farmers often needed money to live on until they could harvest and sell their crops. Many borrowed money from the nobles, promising to give up their fields if they could not repay the loans. Time and time again, farmers lost their land. Then they had to work for the nobles or become laborers in the city. In desperate cases, they sold themselves into slavery.

GIST NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

By 650 B.C., small farmers began to demand changes in the power structure. Merchants and artisans also wanted to share in governing. Both groups had become very wealthy from the trade between city-states. Because they did not own land, however, they were not citizens and had no say in running the polis.

The growing unhappiness led to the rise of tyrants. A **tyrant** (TY • ruhnt) is someone

who takes power by force and rules with total authority. Today the word describes a harsh, oppressive ruler. Most early Greek tyrants, though, acted wisely and fairly.

During the 600s B.C., tyrants managed to overthrow the nobles because they had the backing of the common people. Key support came from the hoplites in the army, many of whom were also farmers.

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Tyrants made themselves popular by building new marketplaces, temples, and walls. However, rule by one person was the opposite of what most Greeks wanted. They longed for rule by law with all citizens participating in the government.

By 500 B.C., tyrants had fallen out of favor in Greece. Most city-states became either oligarchies or democracies. In an **oligarchy** (AH• luh • GAHR • kee), a few people hold power. In a **democracy** (dih • MAH • kruh • see), all citizens share in running the government. The oligarchy of **Sparta** (SPAHR• tuh) and the democracy of **Athens** (A • thuhnz) became two of the most powerful governments of early Greece.

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1. The type of leader who came to power in Greece around 600 B.C. was

A. an ephor. C. a tyrant.

B. a democrat. D. an oligarch.

2. Why were tyrants popular in the city-states?

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3. Why did the tyrants fall out of favor with the Greeks?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Rewrite #2

Class \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Sparta

As you read in the last section, Sparta was founded by the Dorians—Greeks who invaded the Peloponnesus in the Dark Age. Like other city-states, Sparta needed more land as it grew, but its people did not set up colonies. Instead, they conquered and enslaved their neighbors. The Spartans called their captive workers **helots** (HEH • luhts). This name comes from the Greek word for “capture.”

Why Was the Military So Important?

Spartans feared that the helots might someday rebel. As a result, the government firmly controlled the people of Sparta and trained the boys and men for war.

At age seven, boys left their family to live in barracks. They were harshly treated to make them tough. The Greek historian Plutarch describes life for Spartan boys:

**“After they were twelve years old,**

**they were no longer allowed to**

**wear any undergarment; they had**

**one coat to serve them a year; . . .**

**They lodged together in little**

**bands upon beds made of the**

**reeds [grasses] . . . which they**

**were to break off with their hands**

**without a knife.”**

***—*Plutarch, “Spartan Discipline”**

At age 20, Spartan men entered the regular army. The men remained in military barracks for 10 more years. They ate all their meals in dining halls with other soldiers. Atypical meal was a vile-tasting dish called black broth—pork boiled in animal blood, salt, and vinegar.

Spartans returned home at age 30 but stayed in the army until age 60. They continued to train for combat. They expected to either win on the battlefield or die, but never to surrender. One Spartan mother ordered her son to “Come home carrying your shield or being carried on it.”

Girls in Sparta were trained in sports — running, wrestling, and throwing the javelin. They kept fit to become healthy mothers. Wives lived at home while their husbands lived in the barracks. As a result, Spartan women were freer than other Greek women. They could own property and go where they wanted.

What Was Sparta’s Government Like?

The Spartan government was an oligarchy. Two kings headed a council of elders. The council, which included 28 citizens over age 60, presented laws to an assembly. All Spartan men over age 30 belonged to the assembly. They voted on the council’s laws and chose five people to be ephors (EH • fuhrs) each year. The ephors enforced the laws and managed tax collection.

To keep anyone from questioning the Spartan system, the government discouraged foreign visitors. It also banned travel abroad for any reason but military ones. It even frowned upon citizens who studied literature or the arts.

The Spartans succeeded in keeping control over the helots for nearly 250 years. However, by focusing on military training, the Spartans fell behind other Greeks in trade. They also knew less about science and other subjects. However, their soldiers were especially strong and swift. The Spartans would play a key role in defending Greece.

1. Sparta used \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to control its citizens.

A. the helots C. the government

B. the military D. sports

2. Spartan women were trained in

A. cooking, cleaning, and combat.

B. art, music, and poetry.

C. sewing, swordplay, and trade.

D. running, wrestling, and javelin throwing.

3. Why did the Spartans stress military training?

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4. Who were the helots?

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Athens

Athens lay northeast of Sparta, at least a two-day trip away. The two city-states were also miles apart in their values and systems of government.

What Was Life in Athens Like?

Athenian citizens raised their children very differently from Spartans. In Athenian schools, one teacher taught boys to read, write, and do arithmetic. Another teacher taught them sports. A third teacher taught them to sing and to play a stringed instrument called the lyre. This kind of education created well rounded Athenians with good minds and bodies. At age 18, boys finished school and became citizens.

Athenian girls stayed at home. Their mothers taught them spinning, weaving, and other household duties. Only in some wealthy families did girls learn to read, write, and play the lyre. When they married, women stayed home to keep house and to teach their own daughters.

A Budding Democracy

Early Athens, like other city-states, was ruled by landowning nobles during the 600s B.C. An assembly of all citizens existed, but it had few powers. Actually, the government was an oligarchy, as in Sparta.

Around 600 B.C., the Athenians began to rebel against the nobles. Most farmers owed the nobles money, and many sold themselves into slavery to pay their debts. Over and over, farmers demanded an end to all debts, along with land for the poor.

In 594 B.C. the nobles turned to the one man both sides trusted: a noble named **Solon** (SOH• luhn). Solon canceled all the farmers’ debts and freed those who had become slaves. He also allowed all male citizens to participate in the assembly and law courts. A council of 400 wealthy citizens wrote the laws, but the assembly had to pass them.

Solon’s reforms were popular among the common people. However, the farmers continued to press Solon to give away the wealthy nobles’ land. This he refused to do.

After Solon, there were 30 years of turmoil. Finally, a tyrant named **Peisistratus** (py• SIHS • truht • uhs) seized power in 560 B.C. He won the support of the poor by dividing large estates among landless farmers. He also loaned money to poor people and gave them jobs building temples and other public works.

The most important leader after Peisistratus died was **Cleisthenes** (KLYS• thuh• NEEZ). When he came to power in 508 B.C., he reorganized the assembly to play the central role in governing. As before, all male citizens could belong to the assembly and vote on laws. However, members had new powers. They could debate matters openly, hear court cases, and appoint army generals.

Most importantly, Cleisthenes created a new council of 500 citizens to help the assembly carry out daily business. The council proposed laws, dealt with foreign countries, and oversaw the treasury.

Athenians chose the members of the council each year in a lottery. They believed this system was fairer than an election, which might favor the rich.

Cleisthenes’ reforms did not bring all Athenians into the political process. Non-citizens, which included all women, foreign-born men, and slaves, were still excluded. Nonetheless, Cleisthenes is credited with making the government of Athens a democracy.

1. In what way did a boy’s life in Athens differ from a boy’s life in Sparta?

A. Athenian boys went to school; Spartan boys served in the military.

B. Athenian boys studied combat; Spartan boys played sports.

C. Athenian boys lived in barracks; Spartan boys lived at home.

D. Athenian boys became citizens at 30; Spartan boys became citizens at 18.

2. Name the 594 B.C. Athenian ruler whose reforms were popular among the common people.

A. Peisistratus C. Plutarch

B. Cleisthenes D. Solon

3. How did Cleisthenes build a democracy in Athens?

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4. Why was Solon popular among some Athenian farmers and unpopular among others?

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SECTION THREE

The Persian Empire

The people of **Persia** (PUHR• zhuh) lived in what is today southwestern Iran. Early

Persians were warriors and nomads who herded cattle. For a time, they were dominated

by others. Then one remarkable leader, **Cyrus the Great** (SY • ruhs), managed to unite the Persians into a powerful kingdom. Under Cyrus, who ruled from 559 B.C. to 530 B.C., Persia began building an empire larger than any yet seen in the world.

GIST NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Rise of the Persian Empire

In 539 B.C. Cyrus’s armies swept into Mesopotamia and captured Babylon. Then they took over northern Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, Syria, Canaan, and the Phoenician cities. Cyrus

treated all his new subjects well. As you read in Chapter 3, he allowed the captive Jews in Babylon to return home. Cyrus’s merciful rule helped hold his growing empire together.

The leaders who followed Cyrus continued to add to Persian territory. They conquered Egypt, western India, and Thrace, a region northeast of Greece. From one end to the other, the Persian Empire was about the size of the continental United States today.

To connect their vast holdings, the Persians built miles of roads. The Royal Road stretched from Asia Minor to Susa, the Persian capital. Along the way, the Persians set up roadside stations to supply food, shelter, and fresh horses to the king’s messengers.

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What Was Persian Government Like?

As the Persian Empire grew bigger, it became very difficult to manage. When **Darius**

(duh •RY• uhs) came to the throne in 521 B.C., he reorganized the government to make it work better.

Darius divided the empire into 20 states called **satrapies** (SAY• truh• peez). Each was ruled by an official with the title of **satrap** (SAY• TRAP), meaning “protector of the kingdom.”

The satrap acted as tax collector, judge, chief of police, and head recruiter for the Persian army. However, all the satraps answered to the Persian king.

The king’s power depended upon his troops. By the time of Darius, Persia had a large army of professional soldiers. Unlike the Greek city-states, where the citizens took up arms in times of war, in Persia the government paid people to be full-time soldiers. Among them were 10,000 specially trained soldiers who guarded the king. They were called the Immortals because

when a member died, he was immediately replaced.

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The Persian Religion

The Persian religion was called **Zoroastrianism** (ZOHR •uh•WAS • tree • uh • NIH • zuhm). Its founder, Zoroaster, was born in 660 B.C. He began preaching after seeing visions as a young man.

Like the Jews, Zoroaster believed in one god. He viewed this supreme being as the creator of all things and a force of goodness. However, Zoroaster recognized evil in the world, too. He taught that humans had the freedom to choose between right and wrong, and that goodness would triumph in the end. The Persians practiced Zoroastrianism for centuries, and it still has a small number of followers today.

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1. The Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great covered northern Mesopotamia, Syria, Canaan, the Phoenician cities, and

A. the Caspian Sea. C. the Red Sea.

B. Greece. D. Asia Minor.

2. King Darius’ power depended on his

A. nobles. C. army.

B. tax collectors. D. chief of police.

3. Why did Darius create satrapies?

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4. Why was Cyrus considered a fair ruler?

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The Persian Wars

As the Greeks set up colonies in the Mediterranean area, they often clashed with the Persians. By the mid-500s B.C., Persia already controlled the Greek cities in Asia Minor. In 499 B.C. the Athenian army helped the Greeks in Asia Minor rebel against their Persian rulers. The rebellion failed, but King Darius decided the mainland Greeks had to be stopped from interfering

in the Persian Empire.

The Battle of Marathon

In 490 B.C. a Persian fleet landed 20,000 soldiers on the plain of **Marathon** (MAR• uh • THAHN), only a short distance from Athens. For several days, the Persians waited there for the

Athenians to advance. The Athenians, however, did not take the bait. They had only 10,000 soldiers compared to the Persians’ 20,000. They knew that attacking was too dangerous. Instead they held back in the hills overlooking the plain.

Tired of waiting, the Persian commander decided to sail south and attack Athens directly. He ordered his troops back onto the ships, and it was then that he made a big mistake. The first to board, he decided, would be the horsemen in the cavalry, the strongest part of the Persian army.

As soon as the cavalry was out of fighting range, the Greeks charged down from

the hills and onto the plain of Marathon. They caught the Persian foot soldiers standing in the water, waiting their turn to board the ships. Unable to defend themselves, the Persians were easily defeated.

According to legend, the Athenians sent a messenger named Pheidippides (fy •DIHP• uh • DEEZ) home with the news. The runner raced nearly 25 miles (40.2 km) from Marathon to Athens. He collapsed from exhaustion and, with his last breath, announced, “Victory.” Then he died. Modern marathon races are named for this famous run and are just over 26 miles long.

Another Persian Strike

After Darius died in 486 B.C., his son **Xerxes** (ZUHRK • SEEZ) became the Persian king. Xerxes vowed revenge against the Athenians. In 480 B.C. he launched a new invasion of Greece, this time with about 180,000 troops and thousands of warships and supply vessels.

To defend themselves, the Greeks joined forces. Sparta sent the most soldiers, and their king, Leonidas (lee • AH • nuh • duhs), served as commander. Athens provided the navy. An Athenian general, **Themistocles** (thuh•MIHS• tuh • KLEEZ), came up with a plan to fight the Persians.

The Greeks knew that as the huge Persian army marched south, it depended on shipments of food brought in by boat. Themistocles argued that the Greeks’ best strategy would be to attack the Persians’ ships and cut off food supplies to the army. To ready their fleet for battle, the Greeks needed to stall the Persian army before it reached Athens. The Greeks decided the best place to block the Persians was at **Thermopylae** (thuhr •MAH• puh • lee). Thermopylae

was a narrow pass through the mountains that was easy to defend. About 7,000 Greek soldiers held off the Persians there for two days. The Spartans in the Greek army were especially brave. As one story has it, the Greeks heard that Persian arrows would darken the sky. A Spartan warrior responded, “That is good news. We will fight in the shade!”

Unfortunately for the Greeks, a traitor directed the Persians to a mountain path that led them around the Greeks. As the Persians mounted a rear attack, King Leonidas sent most of his troops to safety. He and several hundred others, however, stayed behind and fought to the death. The Greeks lost the battle at Thermopylae, but their valiant stand gave Athens enough time to assemble 200 ships.

The Greek fleet attacked the Persian fleet in the strait of **Salamis** (SA • luh •muhs), not far from Athens. Astrait is a narrow strip of water between two pieces of land. The Greeks expected to have the upper hand in the battle because their ships could maneuver well in tight spaces. Greek ships were smaller, faster, and easier to steer than the big Persian ships, which became easy targets.

The Greek plan worked. After a ferocious battle, the Greeks destroyed almost the entire

Persian fleet. Still, the Persian army marched on. When their troops reached Athens, the Greeks had already fled.

The Persians burned the city. This only stiffened the resolve of the Greek city-states. In early 479 B.C., they came together to form the largest Greek army ever assembled. With solid body armor, longer spears, and better training, the Greek army crushed the Persian army at **Plataea** (pluh • TEE • uh), northwest of Athens.

The battle was a turning point for the Greeks, convincing the Persians to retreat to Asia Minor. By working together, the Greek city-states had saved their homeland from invasion.

What Caused the Persian Empire to Fall?

When the Greeks defeated the Persian army, they helped to weaken it. The empire was already facing internal problems. As these problems worsened, the empire would gradually lose its strength.

Persia remained intact for almost 150 more years. However, after Darius and Xerxes, other Persian rulers raised taxes to gain more wealth. They spent the gold and silver that flowed into the treasuries on luxuries for the royal court.

The high taxes angered their subjects and caused many rebellions. At the same time, the Persian royal family fought over who was to be king. Many of the later Persian kings were killed by other family members who wanted the throne.

Persian kings had many wives and children. The sons had little, if any, power so they were constantly plotting to take over the throne. As a result of such plots, six of the nine rulers after Darius were murdered.

All of these problems made Persia vulnerable to attack. By the time a young Greek conqueror named Alexander invaded the empire in 334 B.C., the Persians were no match for his troops.

By 330 B.C., the last Persian king was dead and Alexander ruled over all his lands. You

will learn more about Alexander the Great and his many achievements in Chapter 5.

1. Which two rival armies worked together to defeat the Persians in 499 B.C.?

A. Jews and Zoroasters

B. Phoenicians and Mesopotamians.

C. Greeks and Athenians

D. Syrians and Canaanites

2. Who wrote *History of the Persian Wars*?

A. Xerxes C. Themistocles

B. Herodotus D. Cyrus the Great

3. What angered the subjects of the Persian Empire and caused them to rebel?

A. high taxes

B. the king’s sons plotting to take over the throne

C. a drought

D. a war

4. What led to the Persian Wars?

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SECTION FOUR

The Athenian Empire

As you read in Section 3, the Battle of Plataea in 479 B.C. put an end to the Persians’ invasion of Greece. Although the Persians retreated, they still remained a threat. In 478 B.C. Athens joined with other city-states— but not Sparta—to form the Delian League. The Delian League promised to defend its members against the Persians. It also worked to drive Persia out of Greek territories in Asia Minor. Eventually, the league freed almost all of the Greek cities under Persia’s control.

At its start, the Delian League had headquarters on the island of **Delos** (DEE • LAHS).

However, its chief officials—the treasurers in charge of its money and the commanders in charge of its fleet—were from Athens, as were most of the troops. Little by little, Athens gained control over the other citystates in the alliance. Soon the league was no longer a partnership to fight Persia but an Athenian empire.

In 454 B.C. the Athenians moved the Delian League’s treasury from Delos to Athens. The Athenians also began sending troops to other Greek city-states, to help the common people rebel against the nobles in power.

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Democracy in Athens

Athenians had a strong faith in their democratic system. We call their system **direct democracy** (dih •MAH• kruh• see). In a direct democracy, people gather at mass meetings to decide on government matters. Every citizen can vote firsthand on laws and policies.

Can you imagine such a system in the United States? A mass meeting of our millions of citizens would be impossible! Instead, in the United States we have a **representative democracy** (REH • prih •ZEHN• tuh • tihv). Under this type of democracy, citizens choose a smaller group to make laws and governmental decisions on their behalf. This is a much more practical system when the population is large.

What made direct democracy workable in ancient Athens was the relatively small number of citizens. In the mid-400s B.C., about 43,000 male citizens over 18 years old made up the assembly. Usually fewer than 6,000 attended the meetings, which were held every 10 days. The assembly passed all laws, elected officials, and made decisions on war and foreign affairs. Ten officials known as generals carried out the assembly’s laws and policies.

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The Achievements of Pericles

Athenians reelected their favorite generals again and again. After the Persian Wars, the leading figure in Athenian politics was a general named **Pericles** (PEHR • uh • KLEEZ). This great statesman guided Athens for more than 30 years, from 461 B.C., when he was first elected, until 429 B.C., shortly before his death.

Pericles helped Athens dominate the Delian League. He treated the other city states like subjects, demanding strict loyalty and steady payments from them. He even insisted that they use Athenian coins and measures.

At the same time, Pericles made Athens more democratic at home. He believed that people’s talents were more important than their social standing. For this reason, Pericles included more Athenians than ever before in government. He allowed lower-class male citizens to run for public office, and he also paid officeholders. As a result, even poor citizens could, for the first

time, be part of the inner circle running the government.

GIST NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Culture also blossomed under the rule of Pericles. The Age of Pericles was a period of tremendous creativity and learning that peaked in the mid-400s B.C. The Persians had destroyed much of the city during the Persian Wars. So Pericles started a major rebuilding program. He

had new temples and statues built across the city.

Pericles supported artists, architects, writers, and **philosophers** (fuh • LAH • suh • fuhrs). Philosophers are thinkers who ponder questions about life. In Chapter 5, you will read more about the Greeks’ achievements and understand why Pericles called Athens “the school of Greece.”

GIST NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Beginning in 478 B.C., the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ League served as the treasury and commander of the fleet.

A. Persian C. Athenian

B. Delian D. Artisan

2. The Age of Pericles was known as a period of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. creativity, learning C. conquest, rebuilding

B. farming, trade D. politics, religion

3. What is the difference between a direct democracy and a representative democracy?

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4. Describe he role of the Delian League in the creation of the Athenian Empire.

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Daily Life in Athens

In the 400s B.C., more people lived in Athens than in any other Greek city-state. Athens had about 285,000 residents in all. Some 150,000 were citizens, although only 43,000 of these were men with political rights. Foreigners in Athens numbered about 35,000. The population also included about 100,000 enslaved people.

Slavery was common in the ancient world. There was at least one enslaved person in most Athenian homes, and wealthy Athenian households often had many. Some worked as household servants — cooks, maids, or tutors. Others toiled in the fields, in industry, and in artisans’ shops. Without their labor, Athens could not have supported its bustling economy.

What Drove the Athenian Economy?

Many Athenians depended on farming for a living. Herders raised sheep and goats for wool, milk, and cheese. Some farmers grew grains, vegetables, and fruit for local use. Others grew grapes and olives to make wine and olive oil to sell abroad.

Athens did not have enough farmland to grow crops for all its people. As a result, the city had to import grain from other places. During the 400s B.C., Athens became the trading center of the Greek world. Merchants and artisans grew wealthy by making and selling pottery, jewelry, leather goods, and other products.

Roles of Men and Women

Athenian men usually worked in the morning and then exercised or attended meetings of the assembly. In the evenings, upper-class men enjoyed all-male gatherings where they drank, dined, and discussed politics and philosophy.

For Athenian women, life revolved around home and family. Girls married early—at 14 or 15—and were expected to have children and take care of household duties. Poor women might also work with their husbands in the fields or sell goods in the agora. Respectable upper-class women, however, stayed at home. They supervised the household servants and worked wool

into cloth—spinning, dyeing, and weaving it. They rarely went out, except to funerals or festivals. Even then, they could leave the house only if a male relative went with them.

Although Athenian women could not attend school, many learned to read and to play music. Still, even educated women were not considered the equals of men. They had no political rights and could not own property. Fathers took charge of unmarried daughters. Husbands looked after their wives. Sons or other male relatives looked after widows.

A few women did move more freely in public life. **Aspasia** (as • PAY • zhuh) is perhaps the most famous example. Aspasia was not a native Athenian. This gave her special status. She was well educated and taught public speaking to many Athenians. Her writings have not survived, but Plato, the famous Greek philosopher, said her work helped shape his ideas. Pericles often consulted Aspasia, as did many other Athenian leaders. In this way, she became influential

in politics even though she was not allowed to vote or hold office.

1. The Athenian economy was supported by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. pottery, jewelry C. farming, trade

B. fruit, vegetables D. merchants, artisans

2. How did Athenian men and women spend their time?

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The Peloponnesian War

As the Athenian empire became rich and powerful, other city-states grew suspicious of

its aims. Led by Sparta, they joined forces against Athens. Sparta and Athens had built two very different kinds of societies, and neither state understood or trusted the other. The two groups clashed several times over what Sparta and its allies saw as Athenian aggression. Finally, war broke out in 431 B.C. It would drag on until 404 B.C. and shatter any possibility of future cooperation among the Greeks. Historians call this conflict the Peloponnesian War because Sparta was located in the Peloponnesus.

Pericles’ Funeral Oration

In the first winter of the war, the Athenians held a public funeral. Its purpose was to honor those who had died in battle. The relatives of the dead wept for their loved ones. The rest of the citizens joined in a procession.

As was the custom, a leading Athenian addressed the crowd. On this day, Pericles spoke. He talked about the greatness of Athens and reminded the people that they made their government strong.

In this famous speech, called the Funeral Oration, Pericles pointed out that Athenians

were part of a community. As citizens, they agreed to obey the rules in their constitution— their framework of government. They accepted certain duties, such as paying taxes and defending the city. They also gained certain rights, such as the ability to vote and run for office.

Pericles’ speech reminded Athenians of the power of democracy and gave them the courage to keep fighting. Its ideas are still important for people living in democratic nations today.

Why Was Athens Defeated?

At the beginning of the Peloponnesian War, both Sparta and Athens thought they knew how to win. The Spartans and their allies surrounded Athens. They hoped that the Athenians

would send out an army to fight. However, Pericles knew that Spartan forces could beat the Athenians in open battles. Believing his people would be safe behind the city walls, he urged farmers and others on the outskirts to move inside the city. There Athenians stayed put and had the navy deliver supplies from their colonies and allies. Because Sparta did not have a navy, it

could not attack the Athenian ships.

Athens escaped serious harm for some time. Then, in the second year of the war, a deadly disease spread through the overcrowded city. It killed more than a third of the people, including Pericles himself in 429 B.C. Despite these terrible losses, the Athenians fought on. The standoff continued for another 25 years.

The historian Thucydides recorded what he saw:

**“This, then, was the calamity**

**which fell upon Athens, and the**

**times were hard indeed, with men**

**dying inside the city and the land**

**outside being laid waste.”**

***—*Thucydides,**

***History of the Peloponnesian War***

Finally, desperate to win, the Spartans made a deal with the Persian Empire. In exchange for enough money to build a navy, they gave the Persians some Greek territory in Asia Minor.

In 405 B.C. Sparta’s new navy destroyed the Athenian fleet. The next year, after losing

more battles on land, Athens surrendered. The Spartans and their allies then tore down the city walls and broke up the Athenian empire. The war was over at last.

The Peloponnesian War weakened all of the major Greek city-states, both the winners

and the losers. Many people died in the fighting, and many farms were destroyed. Thousands of people were left without jobs. The war also made it impossible for the Greeks to unite and work

together again.

After defeating Athens, Sparta tried to rule all of Greece. Within 30 years, however, the city-states rebelled, and a new war began. While they were fighting amongst themselves, the Greeks failed to notice that to their north, the kingdom of Macedonia was growing in power. This would eventually cost them their freedom.

1. In 431 B.C., Sparta and other city-states joined forces against Athens to fight this war.

A. the Peloponnesian War C. the Persian War

B. the Spartan War D. the City-States War

2. What effects did the Peloponnesian War have on Greece?

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3. What caused the lack of trust between Sparta and Athens?

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