

A photograph of the Acropolis of Athens, featuring the Parthenon and other ancient Greek ruins on a rocky hillside, surrounded by dense green trees. The sky is clear and blue.

The Glory of Athens

Essential Question:

What contributed to the Golden Age of Athens?



(1)
Why did the city-states join together?

- For many years the Greek city-states had fought against each other over land and **TRADE**
- In the 400's B.C., the city-states **UNITED** to confront a common enemy, Persia
- Persia's empire was huge, it stretched from India to **EGYPT**, they had already conquered many of the Greek city-states along the coast



THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

490 B.C.

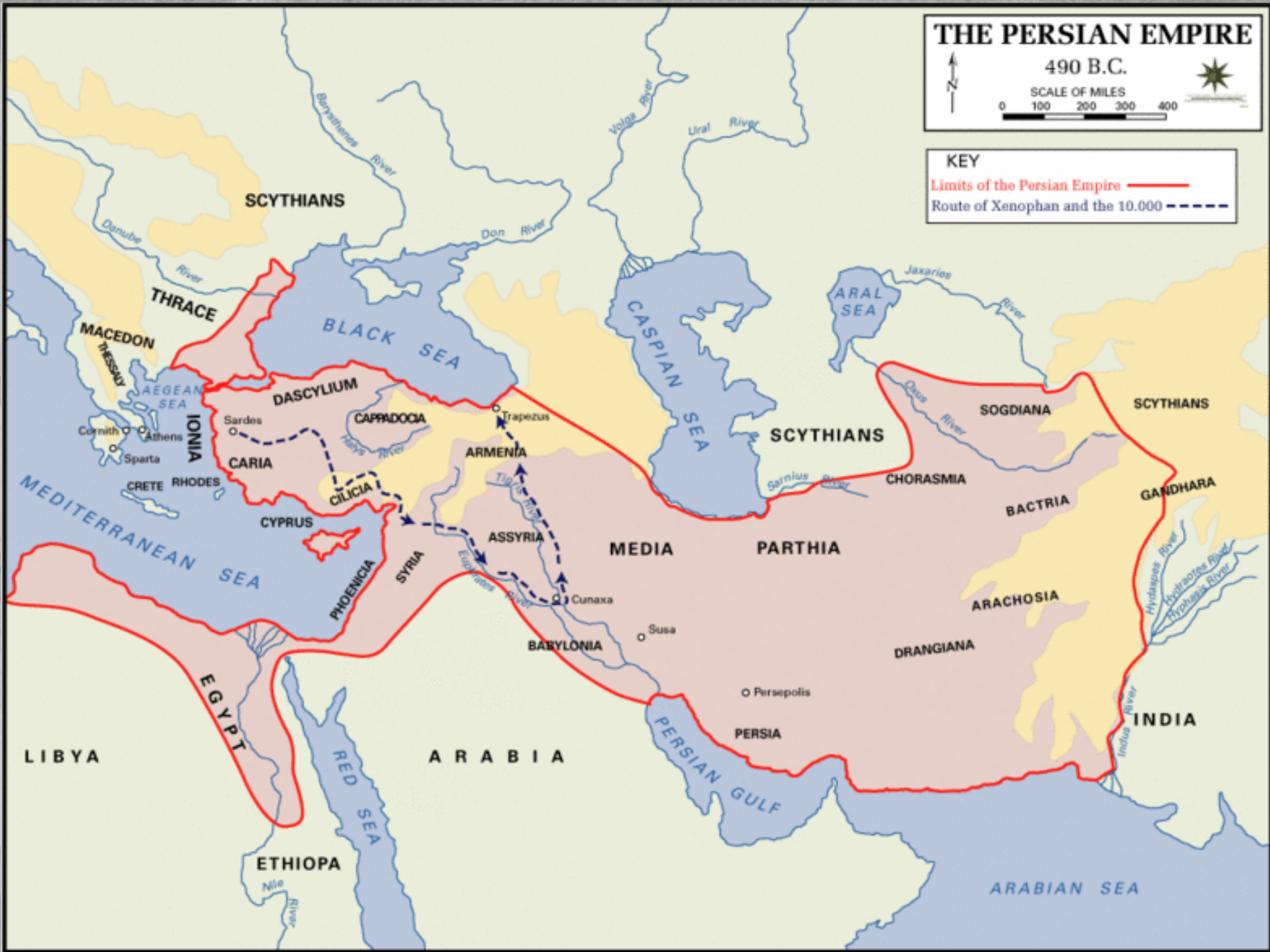
SCALE OF MILES



KEY

Limits of the Persian Empire ———

Route of Xenophon and the 10,000 - - - - -



(2)



- In 492 B.C., Darius sent a huge **ARMY** across the land and across the sea to fight Greece
- There was a huge **STORM** that wrecked the Persian fleet, but the war had begun...



(3)

- Two years later Darius attacked again, his army landed near the plain of **MARATHON**, about 26 miles north of Athens
- Athens sent troops to help, but it wasn't enough
- The Greeks were outnumbered at least two to one
- Athens called to **SPARTA** for help, but they would not come due to a religious festival.
- The Athenians used a new strategy to help them defeat the Persians



(3-4)

- After Persia was defeated, they set sail to attack **ATHENS**
- A **RUNNER** was sent to warn of their coming
- He ran 26 miles to announce the victory and warn Athens to prepare
- He arrived just in time, he announced “**NIKE**”, or **VICTORY!** Then he died
- This was enough to warn Athens, they were prepared for the Persians, who were defeated once again



The image shows the Acropolis in Athens, Greece, under a clear blue sky. The Parthenon is the most prominent structure on the right, with its six columns clearly visible. To its left are the ruins of the Propylaea and the Erechtheion. The entire complex is built on a rocky, elevated site. In the foreground, there is a dense thicket of green trees and bushes. The text 'Why did the city-states join together?' is overlaid in a red, serif font in the lower half of the image.

Why did the city-states join together?

(5) **How were the roles of Athens and Sparta different during the Persian wars?**

- In 480 B.C., the son of King Darius, King **XERXES** sent an army of more than 200,000 soldiers and a navy of over 600 ships to attack Greece again
- Xerxes army came across the land from the **NORTH**. He sent his army towards the pass of Thermopylae
- The Persian navy were sent through the straits of **ARTEMISIA**



- In Greece, the **SPARTANS** led the Peloponnesian League
- The Athenians had a navy of 200 ships, called **TRIREMES**
- Xerxes army was held off at a narrow pass in **THERMOPYLAE**, after losing many men, most of the army retreated



(7)

- Only about 1,500 men, **300** of which were Spartans, were left to defend the pass against upwards of 30,000 Persians
- The Greeks fought until every last one of them had been **KILLED**, including the Spartan king, Leonidas
- The Persians moved through the pass, marched towards Athens and **BURNED** the city down



(8)



- At the same time as the battle of Thermopylae, the Persian ships met the Athenian navy near the island of **SALAMIS**
- The Persian ships vastly **OUTNUMBERED** the Greeks, but they were too large to turn quickly
- The Greeks rammed the Persian ships with their own
- The Greeks destroyed about 200 ships, the Persians **RETREATED**

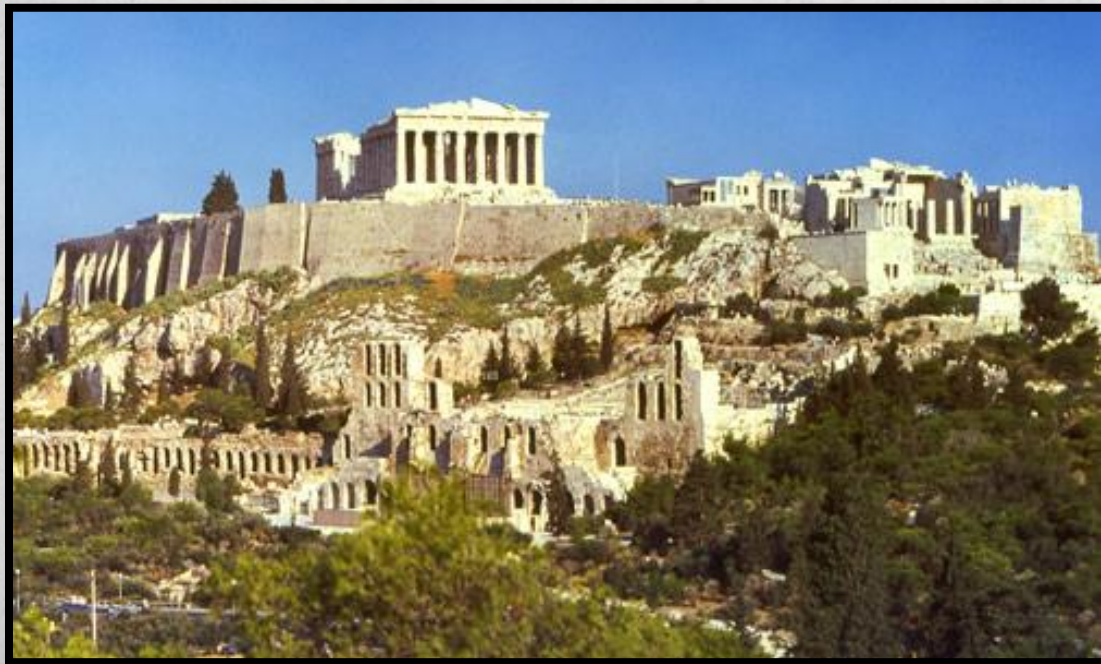
- (9)
- On land, the Persians were once again defeated by the Spartans at the battle of Plataea
 - The Persian army retreated and the threat to Greece was **OVER**
 - After the Persian Wars began, Athens and about 150 other city-states created a new alliance called the **DELIAN LEAGUE**, they swore to fight the Persians and free all the Greeks still being oppressed





(10)

- All the city-states **PAID** Athens for their **NAVAL** protection
- Athens soon became very **WEALTHY**
- Athens and Sparta had led the other city-states to victory against the Persians, but now conflicts between the two of them began to arise...





[Persian War 5 min](#)



How were the roles of Athens and Sparta similar and different during the Persian Wars?

(11)

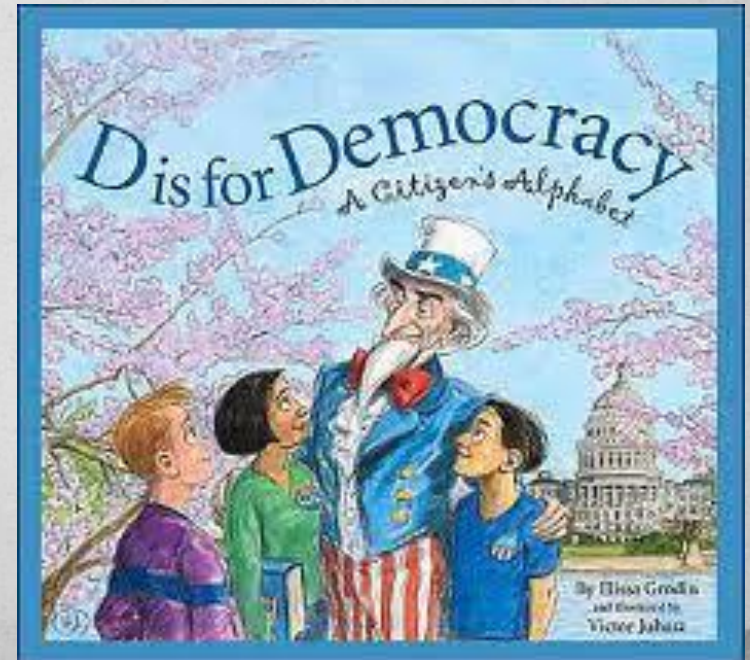
What are the two different types of democracy?

- In about 508 B.C, Athens had developed an early form of **DEMOCRACY**
- The first Athenian democracy was a **DIRECT** democracy, this meant that every free male citizen over 18 had an equal vote in the assembly
- Women and slaves could not vote
- A **COUNCIL** proposed the laws and the assembly could accept or **VETO** them



(12-13)

- The United States government is a **REPRESENTATIVE** democracy, in this form, citizens elect **OTHER** people to make decisions for them
- In 461 B.C, another leader, named **PERICLES**, made more government changes
- He believed that all people, rich or **POOR**, should be able to hold government positions
- His ideas helped pave the way for future democracies



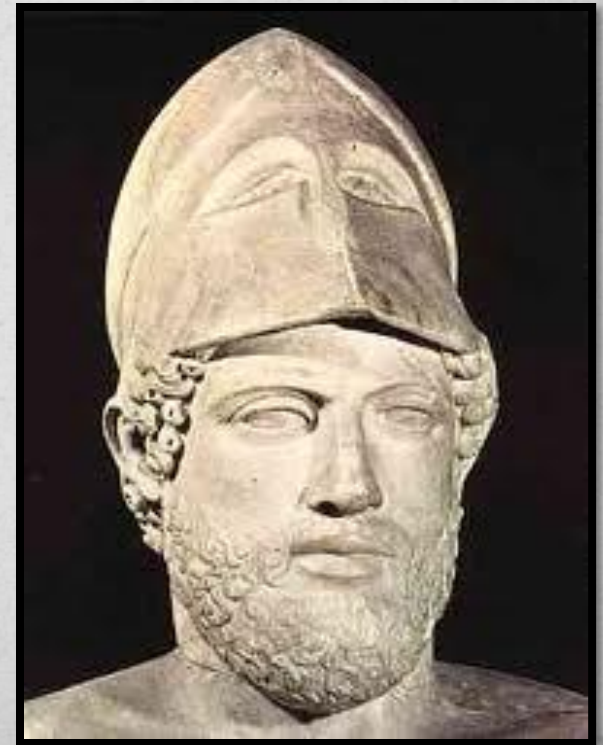


What are the key differences between Direct Democracy and Representative Democracy?

(14)

What was the Golden Age of Athens?

- After the Persian Wars, Athens **POWER** grew
- They felt pride for defeating the Persians
- The Delian League paid them for naval protection
- They had a great leader in
PERICLES
- This period of great achievements in Athens was known as the
GOLDEN AGE
- It lasted from about 479 B.C. to 431 B.C.



(15)



- Pericles wanted Athens to be the **EXAMPLE** for all of Greece
- He had the best **ARCHITECTS** build there
- He created a center for art and learning
- Architects designed and built schools, temples, and theaters using marble from nearby mountains
- One **THEATER** held more than 17,000 people
- Athenians were the best playwrights in all of Greece
- Though Athens led the way, all of Greece contributed to the growth and progression of new ideas



What was the Golden Age of Athens?

Essential Question:

What contributed to the Golden Age of Athens?





The END

- Power Point created by James Reese, 2012
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