

Lesson 3: The Golden Age of Athens

Directions: Read the summary to reveal how the Athenians excelled in the arts, philosophy, and government. As you read, highlight/underline important details in each section that relate to that section's title. Think about what you already know, what you want to know, and what you have learned after reading the summary.

Vocabulary

marathon a long race based on an ancient Greek legend

philosopher a person who studies truth and knowledge

reason logical thinking

plague a fast-spreading disease that is often deadly

mercenary a hired soldier

The Greeks Clash with the Persians (p. 261)

In 490 B.C., Persia attacked the Greek mainland with a huge army. Persia was the most powerful empire of its time. The Persian and Athenian armies battled on a plain northeast of Athens called Marathon. The Athenians won. According to legend, a warrior ran 26.2 miles to Athens with the news. Today the **marathon** is a long race based on the Greek legend. The Athenians and the Spartans were enemies. But they knew the Persians would attack again. They joined forces to fight the Persians around 480 B.C. In 479 B.C., the Athenian ships destroyed the Persian fleet in the Battle of Salamis. This mighty sea battle ended the war. Together they had defeated the most powerful empire of its time.

The Golden Age (p. 262)

After defeating the Persians, Athens entered a period known as the Golden Age. Athens built beautiful new temples, statues, and monuments. Greek **philosophers** such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle studied truth and knowledge. Greek philosophers respected **reason**, or logical thinking. They thought people could figure out why things happened in nature. They did not think things happened just because the gods caused them to. Greek physicians were the first to study the causes of sickness.

The Greeks Fight Against Each Other (p. 263)

Athens was the most powerful Greek city-state during the Golden Age. Around 478 B.C., Athenian leaders formed an alliance, or group that works together, called the Delian League. The Athenians forced some city-states to join the League. They used the League's money to put up buildings in Athens. This angered other city-states. Sparta led the angry city-states. A war between Sparta and Athens began in 431 B.C. It was called the Peloponnesian War. Sparta had great power on the land. Athens' navy had great power on the sea. This made it hard for either city-state to win the war. Then a **plague** broke out in Athens. A plague is a deadly, fast-spreading disease. The plague killed thousands of people including the leader of Athens. Athens surrendered to Sparta in 404 B.C.

Decline of the Greek City-States (p. 264)

In Greece, hard times followed the war. Many young Greek men became **mercenaries**, or hired soldiers, in the Persian army. Athens regained its strength in trade, but all of Greece was weakened. Sparta had lost many soldiers in the war and was unable to regain its strength. In 371 B.C., Sparta lost a battle against the Greek city Thebes. Macedonia was to the north of Greece. Macedonia grew in power and became a threat to Greece.



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Directions: ALL of the statements below are false. Rewrite each statement to make it true by replacing the circled word(s). You will use Chapter 9: Lesson 3 of your textbook.

p. 261 1. In A.D. 490 Persia attacked the Greek mainland.

In 490 B.C. Persia attacked the Greek mainland.

p. 261 2. The end of the Persian invasion was soon after a sea battle at Marathon.

p. 262 3. Sparta entered the Golden Age after the defeat of the Persians.

p. 262 4. During the Golden Age, Greek physicians were the first to blame the gods for illnesses.

p. 263 5. Athens formed an alliance called the Justice League.

p. 263 6. During its Golden Age, Sparta became the most powerful Greek city-state.

p. 263 7. The Athenians destroyed farms to starve Spartans into surrendering.

p. 263 8. A plague killed thousands of people in Troy.

p. 264 9. After the war, Sparta was able to regain its military strength.

p. 264 10. The Spartan army defeated Thebes in 371 B.C.