

The Battle of Marathon



Compare different city states and recall facts about the Battle of Marathon.

Success Criteria

- I can explain how Athens and Sparta are similar and different.
- I can explain why the Spartans didn't help the Athenians.
- I can order events of the Battle of Marathon.
- I can write the events of the Battle of Marathon from the point of view of someone involved in the battle.

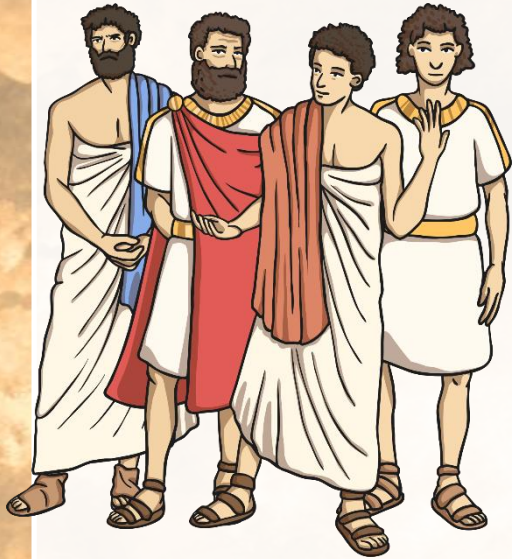


Athens and Sparta

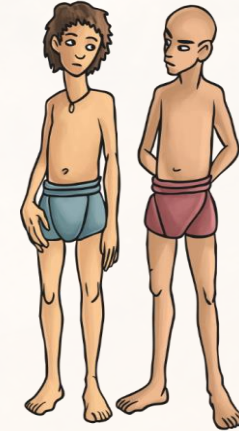
Athens and Sparta were both Greek city states. They were very **different.**



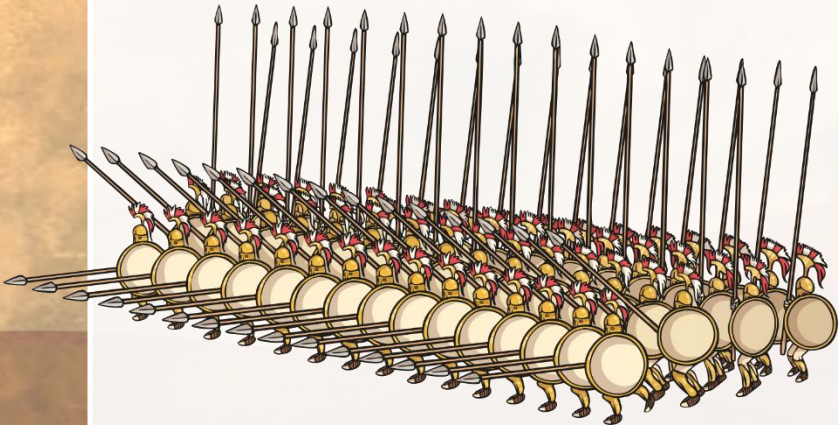
Athens



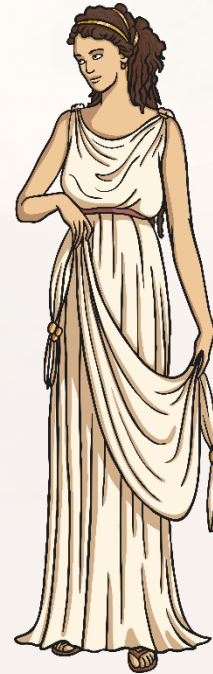
Athens was ruled by a democracy and believed the city should be run fairly.



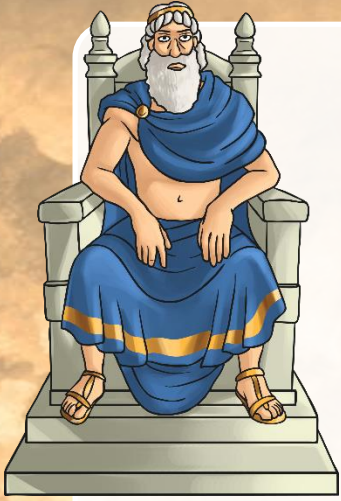
They believed in education but only for boys.



The Athenians wanted to expand their lands which led to many battles.



Women and girls didn't have the right to an education and couldn't participate in business. Wealthy girls could be educated at home.



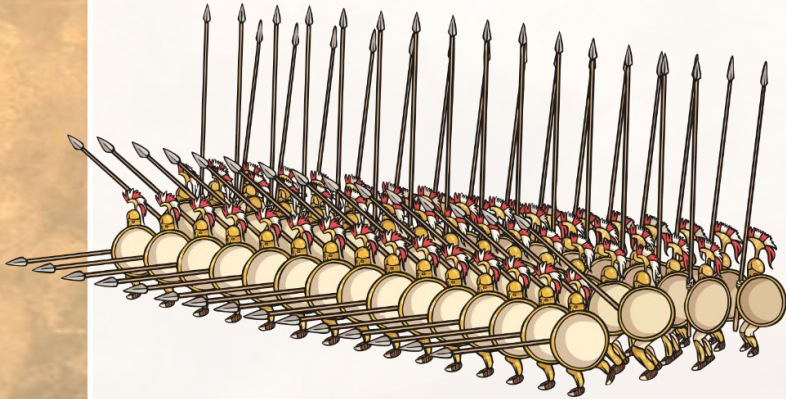
Sparta was ruled by one king who made all of the decisions.

Sparta

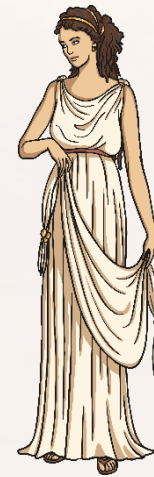
Spartans were raised to be in the army. Boys would learn to train from a young age. It was very strict.



Their army was famous in Ancient Greece because it was so powerful.



Sparta did not try to invade other cities or claim more land.



Women were not allowed to join the army but had to train and had to be fit and healthy.

TASK 1: Athens Vs Sparta

Can you remember the main differences between Athens and Sparta?
Create a table and sort the differences on the next slide.

Athens	Sparta

It is ruled by a King who makes all of the decisions.

Boys had to train to fight. They didn't have to go to school.

This state was very powerful but didn't get involved in many wars or battles.

This state wanted to increase its size and often ended up in wars.

Girls were not important. They didn't receive an education and didn't get to take part in any democracy.

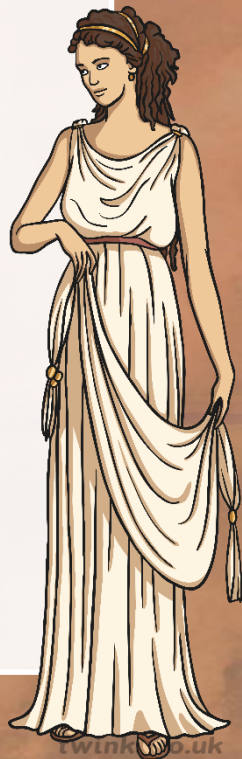
It has a system of democracy, where many different citizens get to take part.

Education was very important and so boys were very well educated.

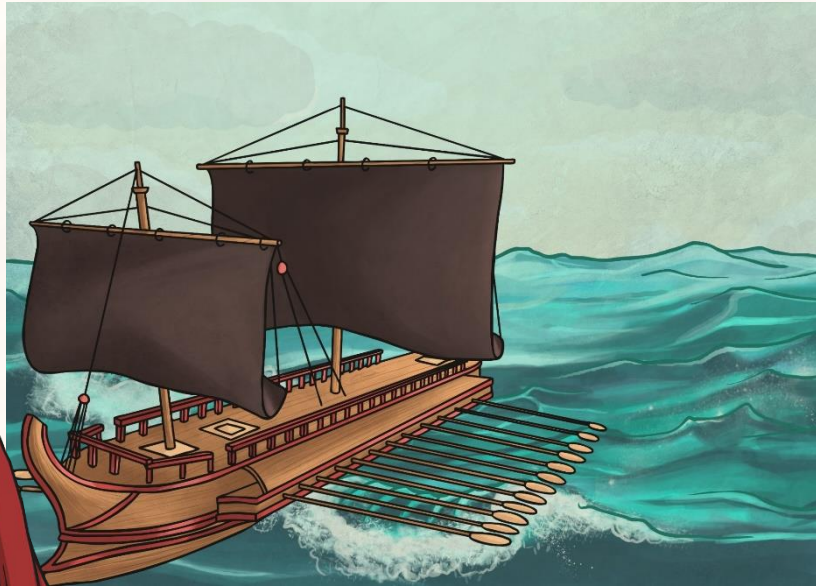
Girls were not allowed to fight but were encouraged to train and to keep fit.

The city states often fought but the only time they came together was when they faced an external threat; Persia.

The Greek and Persian Empires



The Battle of Marathon



In 490BC, the **Persian Empire** was very big. **King Darius** wanted to continue to expand the empire so he decided to invade Athens.

The commander, Datis, and his fleet of 25,000 sailed to Marathon which was a few miles from Athens.

The Athenian army was massively outnumbered!

Help!

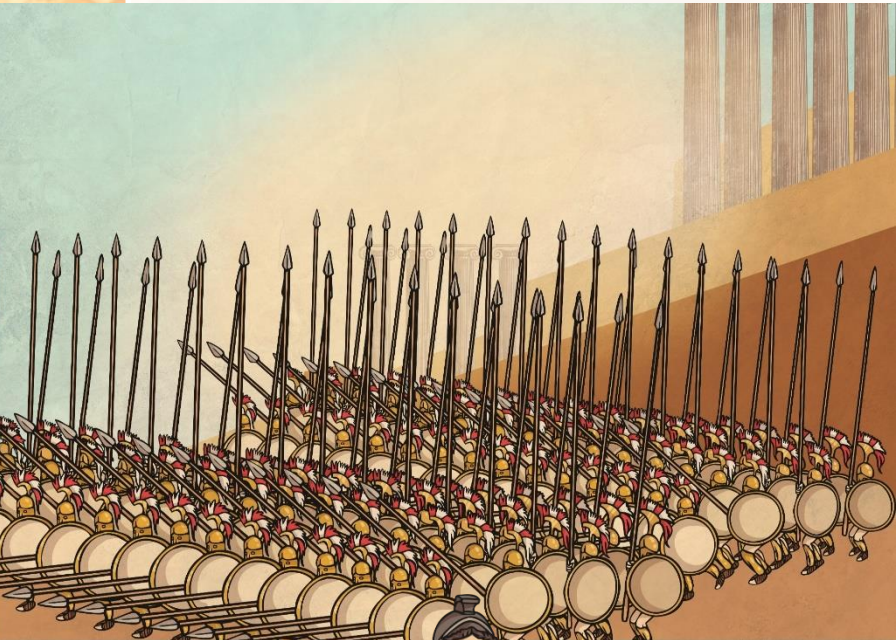
The Athenians needed to ask for help! So they decided to ask the Spartans. Although they often fought against each other, when faced with an outside enemy the Greek city states usually **joined forces**. The Spartan army was very famous and would have been very useful to the Athenians. They sent a runner, Pheidippides, to Sparta to ask. He ran for 2 days and nights from Athens to Sparta, running 240km in total.

The Spartans were celebrating a festival and so said they would help, only once the festival was over. Pheidippides then ran back to Athens with the news that they would need to wait!



In pairs, role play the conversation between the Athenians and the Spartans. Why didn't the Spartans help? How do the Athenians feel about the Spartans' reason for not helping?

Let Battle Commence!



The **Athenian army**, led by **General Miltiades**, tried to wait for the Spartan army but they knew they would have to fight on their own. He had to come up with a plan. Heavily outnumbered, Miltiades decided on a risky battle formation.

He knew Datis would put his strongest fighters in the middle so Miltiades put his strongest hoplites (soldiers) on the edge, or the flanks. He also knew the Persians had archers, so instructed his men to charge quickly towards the enemy.



Surprise!

The Persians were **shocked at this strategy** and Athenian hoplites quickly ran past the line of arrows flying towards them. They charged straight at the Persians! The stronger fighters on the flanks quickly attacked the much weaker Persian soldiers on their flanks. This left the Athenians free to close in and trap the rest of the Persian army.

The remaining Persians then ran away to their ships!





The Persian army lost over 6,000 soldiers compared to only 192 Athenians!

Pheidippides then ran 26 miles to Athens to tell of their victory, and also to warn them of a possible second Persian attack.

He shouted out:

'Joy to you, we've won!'

As he said these words, he died.

Poor Pheidippides. This is why we now have the marathon running race.

There is a video to illustrate the story:

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org.cn/short-stories/the-first-marathon>

You can find out more about the Greeks at war, their weapons and armour here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39/articles/zckr4wx>

TASK 2: Ordering Events

Can you order the set of events?

Cut and stick the events from the table on the next page, putting them in the right order.(Or write them out!)

Challenge: Would you rather have been an Athenian or Spartan? Why?

I would rather be an Athenian because...

OR

I would rather be a Spartan because ...

The Athenians were worried but ran right into the Persian army lines as they were trying a new strategy.

Pheidippides' last job was to take the victory message back to Athens. He told the city that they had won the battle.

The Persians knew they were losing so withdrew, but determined not to leave completely defeated, they went to Athens to attack the unprotected city. The Athenians managed to get back in time to defend their city.

The Persians were not prepared for this new strategy. They nearly pushed through the Athenian lines but did not succeed. They lost many soldiers.

6400 Persian soldiers died, but only 192 Athenians died in the famous battle.

Pheidippides then sadly died.

The Athenians began to prepare after seeing King Darius' ships approaching.

Pheidippides ran to Sparta and asked for help as they often supported Athens, but Sparta said they could not help for two more days as they were celebrating a religious festival.

King Darius of Persia wanted to invade Athens to increase his empire.

The Persian soldiers arrived at Marathon ready to attack. The much smaller Athenian army waited anxiously for help from their allies, the Spartans. When no help arrived, they had to think of a new plan.

ANSWERS . . .

Answers: Did you put them in the correct order? Read from left to right



King Darius of Persia wanted to invade Athens to increase his empire.	The Persian soldiers arrived at Marathon.	Pheidippides ran to Sparta to ask for assistance as the two city states often joined together to fight mutual enemies. It took him 48 hours to run to Sparta.
Pheidippides ran to Sparta and asked for help as they often supported Athens, but Sparta said they could not help for 2 more days as they were celebrating a festival. He ran 160 miles back to Athens to report the news.	Marathon ready to attack. The much smaller Athenian army waited anxiously for help from their allies, the Spartans. When no help arrived they had to think of a new plan.	The Athenians began to prepare after seeing King Darius' ships approaching.
The Athenians were worried but ran right into the Persian army lines as they were trying a new strategy.	The Persians were not prepared for this new strategy. They nearly pushed through the Athenian lines but did not succeed. They lost many soldiers.	The Persians knew they were losing so withdrew. Determined not to leave completely defeated, they went to Athens to attack the unprotected city. The Athenians managed to get back in time to defend their city.
6,400 Persian soldiers died, but only 192 Athenians die in the famous battle.	Pheidippides last job was to take the victory message back to Athens. He told the city they had won the battle.	Pheidippides then sadly died.