**Chapter 10 Section 1: Greece and Persia**

**Persian Empire**

* During 500s BCE Persians built a big empire throughout the Middle East
* Cyrus II founded the empire through conquest
* He let those he conquered keep their customs
* Persians ruled out of Mesopotamia
* Extended control to city-states along eastern edge of the Aegean Sea

**Persian Army**

* Strong army (Well organized and loyal)
* Immortals- Heart of Persian army. 10,000 soldiers chosen for bravery/skill
* Strong cavalry (soldiers who ride horses)
* Cavalry would attack 1st with arrows to weaken enemy then the Immortals would attack

**Persian Politics**

* Darius killed rivals and gained throne of Persian empire
* Divided empire into 20 provinces
* Satraps- Governors chosen by Darius to rule each province
* Satraps served as judges, collected taxes for Darius and put down rebellions

**Persian Society**

* Royal Road- 1700 mile long road in Persian Empire for quick travel
* Built new capital, Persepolis, to reflect empire’s glory
* Zoroastrianism- Persian religion where there were two forces, one was good, the other was evil

**499 BCE**

* People in Greek city-states in Asia Minor rebelled against the Persians
* They burned the Persian Western Capital, Sardis
* Athens sent soldiers to help the Greek city-states
* After 5 years the Persians won
* Persian King, Darius, wanted to punish Athens

**490 BCE Persians sailed to Athens and landed at the Bay of Marathon**

* Persians came with 600 ships
* Phidippides- fastest runner- ran to Sparta for help (140 miles)
* Sparta would send troops in 9 days (middle of religious festival)
* Athens couldn’t wait so they clashed with Persians at Marathon
* Athens easily won battle due to better weapons and clever leaders
* Phidippides ran from Marathon to Athens to spread good news- 25 miles- legend says he died after spreading the news in Athens
* Persians fled but vowed to return and defeat the Athenians

**How Athenians won at Marathon**

* Hoplites were in the middle
* The wings were packed with their best soldiers
* Athenians predicted Persians would attack the middle, which they did
* The wings surrounded the Persians, who the surrendered

**480 BCE**

* Persians returned under the son of Darius, Xerxes
* Persians came with 200,000 soldiers and the navy
* Greek city-states banned together under Spartan military

**Thermopylae “Mountain pass”**

* Place of 1st battle after Xerxes arrived
* Thousands of men defended mt pass, but a Greek traitor brought Persians around the rear
* 300 Spartans stayed to defend the pass- they lost but allowed the others to retreat
* After its victory, the Persians went to Athens and burned most of it
* The Athenians fled with their navy to the island of Salamis (wooden walls)

**Battle of Salamis**

* Athens led Persian navy through narrow straits at Salamis
* Persian large ships struggled to steer, and the smaller Athenian ships easily took them out
* Over half of Persian ships were destroyed

**Battle of Plataea occurred the following summer, 479 BCE, and the Greeks easily defeated the Persians**

* Persians were defeated, but empire still stayed strong for around 100 years