

War and Conflict in Ancient Greece

Ancient Greece was not one country but a collection of city-states, each with its own rules and army. Athens and Sparta were the most powerful. Although they sometimes worked together, they also fought each other in a long struggle known as the Peloponnesian War.

Sparta was famous for its warriors. Boys began military training at age seven, learning to fight, survive outdoors and obey orders. Athenian soldiers, called hoplites, wore bronze armour, carried large shields and fought in a tight group called a phalanx.

Greece was also threatened by the mighty Persian Empire. In 490 BC, the Greeks defeated the Persians at the Battle of Marathon. Legend says a soldier ran all the way to Athens — about 26 miles — to deliver the news of victory before collapsing from exhaustion.

War was a big part of life in Ancient Greece, shaping its cities, its heroes and its history.

Questions

1. What is a city-state?
2. Which two city-states were the most powerful in Ancient Greece?
3. What was the name of the long war fought between Athens and Sparta?
4. At what age did Spartan boys begin military training?
5. What were Athenian soldiers called?
6. What equipment did hoplites carry into battle?
7. What was a phalanx?
8. Which empire threatened Ancient Greece?
9. What happened at the Battle of Marathon in 490 BC?
10. Why do you think the Greeks bothered to send a runner all the way to Athens with the news, rather than waiting for the army to return?



Text B Quiz



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