

ANCIENT GREECE STUDY GUIDE



"The bravest men of all Hellas."



HERITAGE CLASSICAL CURRICULUM



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Overview.....	3
Study Guide Contents	4
How to use this Study Guide	6
Recommended Reading	9
The Ancient Greece Library	10
Young Readers' Core Selections.....	12
Intermediate Core Selections	13
Advanced Core Selections	14
Supplemental Reading Selections.....	15
Historical Eras of Ancient Greece.....	17
The Greek Foundation of Western Civilization	17
Historical Divisions	18
The Heroic Age—Prior to 800 B. C.....	21
Eastern Empires—650 to 500 B.C.	25
Rise of the City-States—800 to 500 B.C.	29
The Persian War—499 to 478 B.C.....	33
The Athenian Empire—477 to 404 B.C.	37
The Decline of Greece—404 to 338 B.C.	41
The Hellenistic Age—336 to 146 B.C.	45
The Greco-Roman Era—146 B.C. to 415 A.D.....	51
Historical and Outline Maps	55
Mainland Greece	55
Ancient Greece and Asia Minor	61
Eastern Empires.....	69
Other Regions	79
Accountability Forms.....	87

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OVERVIEW

The Ancient Greece Classical Curriculum is primarily a reading program. Its centerpiece is a library of over forty engaging histories written for young people. While knowledgeable instructors and organized lessons can be of great value, history lends itself better than most subjects to self-instruction from high-quality texts. A great deal can be learned about Ancient Greece just by reading traditional histories written by talented authors.

In addition to books, the curriculum includes learning aids that are intended to complement a student's reading experience. The main purpose of the Ancient Greece Study Guide is to provide access to appropriate review materials—such as maps, timelines, and short biographies—in order to help students understand and remember the events and characters they have read about.

Most of the information in the Ancient Greece Study Guide is also contained in HTML format in the Study Aids sections of the associated Compact Library. The reproducible version is intended to be printed and bound in a three-ring notebook so that students can review maps and timelines while they read, without being tied to a computer. The Study Guide resources provide a thorough overview of Greek history but are not all-inclusive. We encourage students to add additional material that they find useful—from either the Compact Library or other sources—to their notebook for easy reference.

In addition to review materials, the Study Guide includes information that can be used for helping students decide what books to read and for keeping track of those books that they have already completed. The Recommended Reading section of the Study Guide includes information about all of the books in the Ancient Greece Library and the Accountability section includes reproducible forms which help to track students' progress.

The Heritage Classical Curriculum was designed to be flexible. It may be used by students who prefer a self-paced, reading-only approach to history or by instructors who teach history in a co-operative or classroom setting. The Study Guide, therefore, does not include day-to-day lesson plans. A thoughtful instructor could certainly impose more structure if desired, but families who prefer an individual approach need not follow a particular regimen.

An overview of the contents of the main body and appendixes of the Ancient Greece Study Guide is provided on the following pages, and a discussion of the ways in which the study guide can be used follows.

STUDY GUIDE CONTENTS

The main body of the Ancient Greece Study Guide includes four sections, each with its own particular purpose.

Recommended Reading—This section of the Study Guide lists the author, title, reading level, and length of every book in the Heritage Ancient Greece Library. The core reading selections for each reading level are specified along with book summaries describing their importance. Supplemental reading suggestions are also made, but they are described in less detail. More information about *all* of the books in the Ancient Greece Library is included on the Book Summaries page of the Compact Library.

Historical Divisions—This section of the Study Guide provides much of the reference material we have amassed about Ancient Greece, organized by historical era. It begins with an overview of Ancient Greece which briefly discusses how the Greeks influenced Western Civilization, and breaks the overall history of Greece into several logical divisions. Not all of the divisions are of equal length and importance, but they provide a useful manner of organizing the available information.

Each historical era begins with a short summary of the important historical events of the period. These summaries are not intended as a substitute for reading more thorough histories, but rather as a quick review of the major points. Students who have read several comprehensive histories should be familiar with most of the incidents listed. For students who have not yet mastered the material, suggested reading assignments that pertain directly to each era are given.

Most historical divisions include a timeline, a list of important characters, and sometimes a list of important wars or conflicts. Occasionally these lists are omitted, when they provide no useful information. For example the Heroic Age of Greece, which deals with legendary heroes, includes no timeline. Likewise, the Greco-Roman era, which deals primarily with the contributions of Greek scholars under Roman rule, also lacks a historical framework.

Historical and Outline Maps—This section of the Study Guide includes historical maps as well as reproducible outline maps and relevant geography terms. The historical maps can be used for reference and the outline maps can be used either to learn geography terms or to create reference maps.

Accountability Forms—Students who are using the Heritage Classical Curriculum are expected to keep track of the amount of history reading they do each week, and the books they have read over the course of a term. These reproducible forms aid with student accountability and can be included in a history binder for these purposes.

Several appendixes can be added to the Study Guide if their contents are of interest to particular students.

Curriculum User Guide—This Guide is intended for first time users of the Heritage Curriculum. It provides insight into the learning philosophy of the Heritage Curriculum as well as practical guidelines for its use. The Heritage program advocates an independent study method of learning history, but recognizes that some sort of accountability is required. Methods of assuring students are learning the basics, while giving them flexibility to pursue their own interests are the key strategies discussed.

Electronic Text User Guide—The Heritage Ancient Greece Library includes e-book and printable versions of every book. The Heritage e-book versions can be uploaded directly to most e-readers without any additional fees or purchase, and the method for doing so is documented in the Electronic Text User Guide. Users of the Heritage Curriculum who haven't yet purchased an e-reader can learn more about their options, and advice is also provided for those who desire to print and bind their own books.

Like the Curriculum User Guide, the Electronic Text User Guide is useful primarily to new users of the Heritage Classical Curriculum, but anyone who is not already familiar with the whole range of modern technologies available for reading and printing electronic texts may benefit from reading this guide.

Ancient Greece Battle Dictionary—Some students (mainly boys) are extremely interested in Ancient warfare, while others (mainly girls), have very little interest in the subject. Because the information in our battle dictionary is of special interest only to some students, we recommend publishing it and including it your student's history binder only if he shows a particular interest in military matters.

Personalized Additions—In addition to these special interest supplements, students, parents or instructors are encouraged to add any information to a student's study guide that he or she might find interesting. This can include, among other things, additional maps, favorite images, information about historical landmarks, vocabulary words, a glossary, reports, articles, review exercises, drawings, favorite short stories, poems, or any other material that pertains to Ancient Greece.

Any student that takes an interest in Ancient Greece and keeps his eyes open for interesting information will undoubtedly come across material worth preserving. Your student's history notebook can start off the year as a Study Guide, and end the year as an anthology.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

As emphasized earlier, the Heritage Classical Curriculum is primarily a reading-based program. Some students, especially younger ones, do enjoy learning activities as well as reading, but the primary purpose of having a printed Study Guide is not to accommodate activities but to complement the reading itself.

Visual Learning—Many of the resources provided in the Ancient Greece Study Guide are intended to help students visualize their subjects. Most students form detailed pictures of striking incidents in their mind while they read, and visual aids such as timelines, maps, and favorite illustrations help stimulate their imagination. A student will do a better job of visualizing the Persian War if he has studied the location of the major battle sites on a map and seen pictures of triremes and hoplites.

It is frequently worthwhile to have students review historical maps either before or after they tackle a reading assignment. If younger students are reading about Sparta, they should find Sparta on one of the historical maps. If older students are reading about Alexander cutting the Gordian Knot, they should locate Phrygia. The Study Guide includes at least ten historical maps, but many more are available in the Ancient Greece Compact Library, and can be printed and added to the Study Guide if desired.

The Ancient Greece Compact Library also includes hundreds of historical images that could be of interest to individual students. There are far too many to include in the printable Study Guide, but individual students can review the Images directory and print a few favorites. Students enjoy personalizing their notebooks by adding favorite illustrations, and they can even use their favorite images or map to design a custom notebook cover.

Historical Framework—A secondary purpose of the Study Guide is to provide a framework for understanding the comprehensive histories that all students are assigned to read. Most histories written for students start at the beginning of a civilization and move on towards the end, covering dozens of characters and events. The Ancient Greece Study Guide breaks each civilization up into a number of historical divisions and then identifies dates, characters, and events as belonging to one particular era. These divisions help students organize characters and incidents into meaningful categories.

Historical dates are most meaningful when remembered in context of a particular era. For this reason all of the timelines in the Ancient Greek Study Guide are based on eras. It is too much to expect that students will remember the exact dates of dozens of individual incidents, but remembering the overall dates associated with major eras is not particularly difficult. Specifically, if students remember the following sequence: Rise of City-states (800-500 BC), Persian War (500-480 BC), Athenian Empire (480-400 BC), Decline of Greece (400-340 BC), Hellenistic Age (340-150 BC); they will have an essential outline of the major divisions of Ancient Greece.

Many Greek histories are organized along these lines, but they are not defined explicitly, and there is some variation. Because the Ancient Greece Classical Curriculum uses many books, each with slightly different emphases, it is helpful for students to have a master framework within which all books can be considered. There is even a *Recommended Reading* section associated with every historical division that explicitly identifies the range of chapters in each history book that pertain to each era. Students naturally remember things better when they can easily categorize them, so emphasizing the historical divisions throughout their studies will help them associate characters and events with specific eras, and will naturally enhance retention.

It is important to point out, however, that the historical eras for each civilization were designated for overall thoroughness, rather than to direct the studies of individual students. Greek histories written for younger students typically focus very heavily on mythology and hero stories (the Heroic Age) and end soon after the age of Alexander the Great (the Hellenistic age). Some briefly cover Persian history (Eastern Empires), but many histories for younger students have almost no information on the subject. The historical divisions are useful, and older students should be at least somewhat familiar with all of them, but it is perfectly acceptable for young students to focus more narrowly on the most romantic periods of Greek history, and skip some of the divisions altogether.

Review—Each historical division includes a short summary of the main events that occur during the era. These summaries are meant for review, rather than initial study. Students retain information best when they learn about incidents in the context of the great stories of history rather than memorizing facts from condensed texts. Nevertheless, once they have read longer versions of the stories, short reviews can be useful.

The character lists and timelines associated with each era are also useful for review. Instructors who would like to create games or activities to review such information with students can base some of their questions on these resources. Those who are working with younger students, however, should bear in mind that era summaries, character lists, and timelines include much more information than younger students are likely to retain, so they should be simplified accordingly.

Reading Selections—The first section of the Study Guide provides a complete list of all of the books in the Ancient Greece Library, with information including author, title, size and reading level. A short synopsis of about a third of the books is given in the Study Guide, and more information about all of the books in the Ancient Greece collection is available on the Compact Library. Since the book summaries and the complete text of the entire Ancient Greece Library is available to browse in the Compact Library environment, students may want to make reading selections while perusing the Compact Library, rather than from the limited information in the Study Guide.

Nevertheless, the Recommended Reading section of the Study Guide helps keep the whole selection of books foremost in the minds of students so they become familiar with titles and authors. This is of considerable benefit, since it piques students' curiosity. Students are far more likely to read books that they have heard of, by authors they are familiar with, than they are to take an interest in a completely unknown entity.

Accountability—One of the most important purpose of keeping a history notebooks is for student accountability. The last section of the Study Guide includes reproducible forms that help students track the hours they spend reading history. Even students who are good readers and who show a real interest in history need to be held accountable, and recording their weekly reading selections is an excellent way to make sure they are keeping up with their reading goals.

Personalize History—The last tip for using the Heritage Study Guide is simply to encourage your student to add any information about Ancient Greece to his history notebook that he finds to be of interest. This may include assignments, such as written reports or projects, or it might be information that he found on the internet or in some picture book that was of particular interest. It might be pictures, diagrams or drawings that he cut from a magazine or made himself, or it could be short stories, poems, or articles.

Some students who have artistic flair might make a scrapbook out of their history notebook, while others might simply stuff valuable Greek artifacts into the back pocket of their folder. Some might collect a great many items, and some very few. Some instructors will want to organize structured projects and activities and some will refuse to do anything of the kind. In short, if your student has a particular interest or a flair for a certain type of activity, encourage it. If they don't, nothing is essential but keeping students' interest alive.

The key to enjoying history is simple enough. Encourage students to read books they are interested in and pursue projects that engage them. Nothing essential in history can be learned by force or by drudgery. Don't let busy work or regurgitation spoil a field so rich in human drama. The goal of a real history education is not to instill facts, but to inspire interest. Have fun!

RECOMMENDED READING

The books that form the basis of the Ancient Greece Classical Curriculum are extraordinarily good. All were written by first-rate classical scholars who loved their subjects and understood how to introduce students to the delights of classical history. Alfred J. Church, Jacob Abbott, Mary Macgregor, and W. H. Weston are just a few of the exceptional authors who contributed to the Ancient Greece collection, and one would be hard pressed to find classical scholars of equal talent in today's education system.

One of the delightful things about Greek History is that it appeals strongly to students of a variety of ages. The stories of the Greek Gods and Heroes are some of the most wonderful folk-tales ever told, and no civilization has ever been able to match the Greek flair for creative monsters. These stories appeal terrifically to grammar school age students, just as the romantic tales of the Persian War and Golden Age of Greece appeal to middle school students. Older students, who are already familiar with the basic stories of Greek history, are often mesmerized by the sophistication and wit of the Classical Greek writers once they are mature enough to appreciate their contributions.

Greek history is an excellent place to start teaching younger students about their Western heritage, but it never ceases to fascinate and is just as entertaining for grandparents as it is for grade-schoolers. Older students and even adults should continue to return to the Greeks for inspiration and enjoyment. Every book in the Ancient Greece Classical Library is worth reading, so if your student is not yet ready for the more advanced classics, let them enjoy the introductory books now and return to the more sophisticated classics later when they are better prepared.

Better yet, read some of these books yourself. They are just as enjoyable for mature adults as for younger students. The Greek Classics have entertained and inspired western scholars from 400 years before Christ to the present age, and are of special interest to students who would like to rediscover the roots of Western Civilization. They have been "out of vogue" for several generations, so parents and grandparents as well as youth can benefit from their lessons.

The following reading lists include the names, authors, length and reading level of each book in the Heritage Ancient Greece Library. Short summaries of the core reading selections are included in the following lists, but synopses of all other books can be found on the [Book Summaries](#) page of the Ancient Greece Compact Library.

THE ANCIENT GREECE LIBRARY

All of the titles included in the Ancient Greece Library are listed below. The number to the right indicates how many (single sided) sheets of paper the complete book takes to print on letter size (8 ½ x 11) paper. This corresponds to about half the number of pages in the original books.

Comprehensive History	level	pages
Famous Men of Greece <i>by John Haaren</i>	Beg.	94
The Story of the Greeks <i>by Helene Guerber</i>	Beg.	115
On the Shores of the Great Sea <i>by M. B. Synge</i>	Beg.	74
Stories from Greek History <i>by Ethelwyn Lemon</i>	Beg.	36
Greek Gods, Heroes, and Men <i>by Samuel Harding</i>	Int.	59
The Story of Greece <i>by Mary Macgregor</i>	Int.	167
Story of the Greek People <i>by Eva March Tappan</i>	Int.	114
Stories of the Ancient Greeks <i>by Charles D. Shaw</i>	Int.	103
Historical Tales: Greek <i>by Charles Morris</i>	Adv.	141
Greek Life and Story <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Adv.	102
Stories from the East (Herodotus) <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Adv.	79

Military History	level	pages
Story of the Persian War (Herodotus) <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Adv.	82
Nicias and the Sicilian Expedition <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Adv.	43
Helmet and Spear <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Adv.	112
The Retreat of the Ten Thousand <i>by Frances Younghusband</i>	Adv.	80

Biographies	level	pages
Old World Hero Stories <i>by Eva March Tappan</i>	Beg.	58
Children's Plutarch: Tales of the Greeks <i>by F. J. Gould</i>	Beg.	64
Plutarch's Lives <i>by W. H. Weston</i>	Int.	155
Our Young Folk's Plutarch <i>by Rosalie Kaufman</i>	Adv.	259
Cyrus the Great <i>by Jacob Abbott</i>	Adv.	77
Darius <i>by Jacob Abbott</i>	Adv.	78
Xerxes <i>by Jacob Abbott</i>	Adv.	82
Alexander the Great <i>by Jacob Abbott</i>	Adv.	75
Pyrrhus <i>by Jacob Abbott</i>	Adv.	83

Mythology and Hero Stories	level	pages
Golden Age of Greek Heroes <i>by James Baldwin</i>	Beg.	104
Old Greek Stories <i>by James Baldwin</i>	Beg.	72
Old Greek Folk Stories Told Anew <i>by J. P. Peabody</i>	Beg.	48
The Golden Fleece <i>by Padraic Colum</i>	Int.	119
Wonder Book for Boys and Girls <i>by Nathaniel Hawthorne</i>	Int.	96
Tanglewood Tales <i>by Nathaniel Hawthorne</i>	Int.	73
The Golden Porch <i>by W. M. L. Hutchinson</i>	Int.	87
The Greek Heroes <i>by Charles Kingsley</i>	Int.	100

Adapted Literature	level	pages
Stories from the Iliad <i>by Jeanie Lang</i>	Beg.	36
Stories from the Odyssey <i>by Jeanie Lang</i>	Beg.	37
Aesop's Fables <i>by Milo Winter</i>	Beg.	82
The Iliad <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Int.	63
The Odyssey <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Int.	63
Stories from the Greek Tragedians <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Adv.	78
Stories from the Greek Comedians <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Adv.	137

Historical Fiction	level	pages
The Spartan Twins <i>by Lucy Fitch Perkins</i>	Beg.	43
Three Greek Children <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Beg.	57
Our Little Athenian Cousin <i>by Julia Darrow Cowles</i>	Beg.	36
Our Little Spartan Cousin <i>by Julia Darrow Cowles</i>	Beg.	44
The Fall of Athens <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Adv.	128
Young Macedonian in the Army of Alexander <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Adv.	108
The Hammer <i>by Alfred J. Church</i>	Adv.	135

YOUNG READERS' CORE SELECTIONS

These selections are engaging and easy-to-read for elementary school students. They stick to basic stories of Greek history and provide an excellent foundation for future studies. Stories of the major Greek gods and Heroes are included in the first few chapters of both Haaren and Guerber, but most younger students really enjoy mythology so any of the books in our mythology section would be an excellent choice for supplemental reading.

Famous Men of Greece by John Haaren and A. P. Poland

Biographical sketches of thirty-five of the most prominent characters in Greek history, from legendary times to the fall of Greece. It begins with the great heroes of Greek Mythology and continues with prominent Greek leaders from the earliest days of Spartan and Athens to the decline of Greece during the Hellenistic era. This book is from the *Famous Men* Series by John Haaren and A. P. Poland, and is very popular with homeschoolers.

Story of the Greeks by Helene Guerber:

This book covers the history of Greece from the age of mythology to the conquest of Greece by the Romans. Short, accessible chapters tell important stories from Greek history in simple prose, written at 6th grade level, but understandable to even younger readers. An excellent first introduction to Greek history for grammar school students.

Stories from the Iliad Told to the Children by Jeanie Lang:

This short version of Homer's Iliad is part of the *Told to the Children* series. It is very short, beautifully illustrated, and recounted in a suitable manner for younger children. The action ends with the death of Hector, and does not include the fall of Troy.

Stories from the Odyssey Told to the Children by Jeanie Lang:

This short version of Homer's Odyssey, from the *Told to the Children* series, is greatly simplified for children but retains much of its charm. The adventures of Odysseus in the land of the Lotus Eater, Cyclopes, and Circe are recounted, as is his return home to Ithaca, where his faithful wife Penelope awaits him.

Aesop's Fables by Milo Winter:

This beautifully illustrated version of Aesop's fables is one of the best renditions of Aesop's Fables ever published. It is just as delightful for adults and older children as it is for beginning readers, and like much of the other literature that descends to us from Ancient Greece, reminds us of the sophisticated wisdom of the classical sages.

INTERMEDIATE CORE SELECTIONS

These selections cover much of the same material as those recommended for beginners, but are more appropriate for middle school age students. They provide a somewhat more sophisticated introduction to Greek history, but are still story-based and accessible to students from a wide range of abilities. Once an intermediate student has learned the basics, he can either entertain himself with Greek mythology and literature or dabble in somewhat more serious histories by selecting any number of our Advanced volumes. Plutarch's Lives by Weston is a particularly good rendition for middle school students.

Famous Men of Greece by John Haaren:

Biographical sketches of thirty-five of the most prominent characters in the history of ancient Greece, from legendary times to the fall of Corinth in 146 B.C. These biographical sketches are accessible to younger students, but still fascinate older and more sophisticated students. An excellent selection introduction to the great men of Greece that everyone should read.

The Story of Greece by Mary Macgregor:

This history of Greece is accessible and well organized, but it is considerably more detailed than Guerber's. It covers Greek history from the age of Mythology to the rise of Alexander, but is over twice as long as most other introductory texts. Because of its length, we do not recommend it for 6th grade or younger, but it is an excellent reference, thoroughly engaging, and a good candidate for a permanent place in your home library.

Iliad for Boys and Girls, Odyssey for Boys and Girls by Alfred J. Church:

These versions of the Iliad and Odyssey are considerably longer than the Told to the Children versions, but still very appropriate for middle school students. They represent a more complicated retelling of Homer's famous epics, and include many more interesting highlights and secondary characters, but are still directed at intermediate students rather than young adults. Alfred Church was a British high school instructor whose whole career was dedicated to popularizing the classics for young people and these books are two of his most-read classics.

Plutarch's Lives by W. H. Weston:

Instead of including all fifty biographies, Weston focuses only on twelve of Plutarch's most famous subjects. His work is therefore able to retain a great deal more of the character of Plutarch's original narrative than more condensed versions. Since Plutarch is a moral philosopher as well as a biographer, retaining the tone and dialogue of the original is key to understanding his contribution to Western thought.

ADVANCED CORE SELECTIONS

These selections are meant to appeal to students who are already familiar with the basic stories of Greek History and would like a more in depth study. This course of study should prepare mature students to appreciate the classics if and when they do read them in college, and will give them a very respectable familiarity with the great works, even if they never take a college level class in Greek literature.

Historical Tales: Greek by **Charles Morris:**

Morris is a terrific author and these vignettes from Greek history provide an excellent review for anyone who needs an enjoyable refresher. Morris includes both famous and lesser known stories in his collection so even those familiar with introductory accounts will find plenty of new and entertaining material.

Stories from the Greek Tragedians, Greek Comedians by **Alfred J. Church:**

These two books, taken together, provide an entertaining, and highly edifying introduction to Greek drama. Each includes abbreviated versions of about a dozen famous Greek dramas, all of which include enough translated dialogue to retain the flavor—be it humor or pathos—of the original.

Stories from the Persian War, Stories from the East by **Alfred J. Church:**

Both of these books are based on the *Histories* of Herodotus, and preserve much of his style and wit. They are, however, very well edited and concise, so they provide much of the benefit of reading Herodotus in the original, with only a fraction of the effort. *Stories from the Persian War* includes terrific insight into both Greek and Persian machinations and is thoroughly engaging, while *Stories from the East* recounts the history of the rise of the Persian empire, and the fall of other eastern kingdoms, such as Lydia, Babylon, and Egypt.

Helmet and Spear by **Alfred J. Church:**

This engaging history, rich in detail, provides a review of the major military conflicts of ancient times. Six clashes between the Ancient civilizations and their warlike neighbors are covered, including the Greco-Persian War, the fight between Greece and Carthage for Sicily, the Macedonian invasion of Persia, and several others.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING SELECTIONS

We recommend that students who are studying Greek History for the first time read four or more selections from our supplemental reading list, in addition to their core material. All selections should be age and interest appropriate, but student can select their supplemental reading from any difficulty level. In addition to those listed below, core reading selections from above or below one's reading level are highly recommended. Intermediate students, in particular, may enjoy some of the simplified classics recommended in the core reading selections for advanced readers.

Beginner Titles	Genre	Historical Era
Stories from Greek History by Lemon	episodic	all
The Spartan Twins by Perkins	fiction	Athenian Empire
Our Spartan Cousin by Cowles	fiction	Persian War
Our Athenian Cousin by Cowles	fiction	Athenian Empire
Three Greek Children by Church	fiction	Athenian Empire
Children's Plutarch: Greek by Gould	short bios	all
Old Greek Stories by Baldwin	mythology	Heroic Age
Golden Age of Greek Heroes by Baldwin	mythology	Heroic Age

Intermediate Titles	Genre	Historical Era
Story of the Greek People by Tappan	comprehensive	all
Old World Hero Stories by Tappan	short bios	all
Wonder Book by Hawthorne	mythology	Heroic Age
Tanglewood Tales by Hawthorne	mythology	Heroic Age
The Golden Fleece by Colum	mythology	Heroic Age
Retreat of the 10,000 by Younghusband	military	Decline of Greece
Plutarch's Lives by Weston	short bios	all
Greek Gods, Heroes, and Men by Harding	comprehensive	all

Advanced Titles	Genre	Historical Era
Cyrus the Great by Abbott	biography	Eastern Empires
Darius the Great by Abbott	biography	Eastern Empires
Xerxes by Abbott	biography	Persian War
Alexander the Great by Abbott	biography	Hellenistic Age
Pyrrhus by Abbott	biography	Hellenistic Age
Greek Life and Story by Church	episodic	Persian War, Athenian Empire
The Sicilian Expedition by Church	fiction	Athenian Empire
The Young Macedonian by Church	fiction	Hellenistic Age
Callias—The Fall of Athens by Church	fiction	Decline of Greece

HISTORICAL ERAS OF ANCIENT GREECE

THE GREEK FOUNDATION OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

The following excerpt is taken from an account of a funeral oration given by Pericles, the political leader of Athens shortly after the beginning of the Peloponnesian War (430 B.C.). It illustrates, as well as anything can, the reasons why Ancient Greece is regarded as the foundation of western civilization.

Let me say that our system of government does not copy the institutions of our neighbors. It is more the case of our being a model to others, than of our imitating anyone else. Our constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority but of the whole people. When it is a question of settling private disputes, everyone is equal before the law; when it is a question of putting one person before another in positions of public responsibility, what counts is not membership of a particular class, but the actual ability which the man possesses. No one, so long as he has it in him to be of service to the state, is kept in political obscurity because of poverty. And, just as our political life is free and open, so is our day-to-day life in our relations with each other. We do not get into a state with our next-door neighbor if he enjoys himself in his own way, nor do we give him the kind of black looks which, though they do no real harm, still do hurt people's feelings. We are free and tolerant in our private lives; but in public affairs we keep to the law. This is because it commands our deep respect.

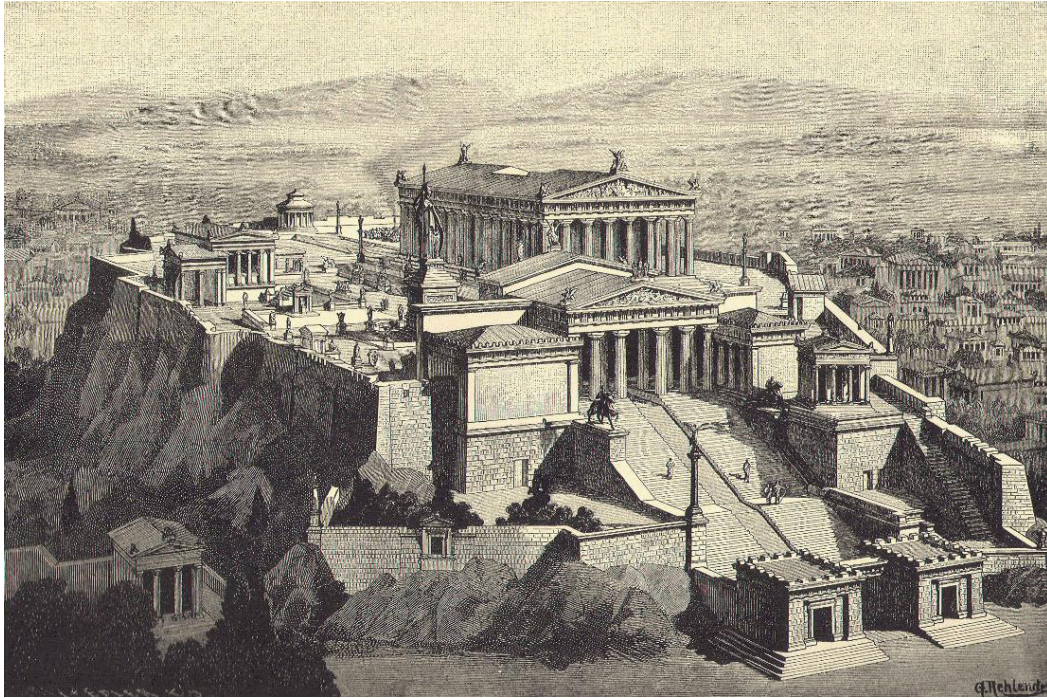
From *The Peloponnesian War* by Thucydides.

Most people, when reading this, cannot help but reflect on the similarity in sentiment between those of Pericles, a prominent statesman of Athens, and those of western democracies—America in particular. But this is not a coincidence. The founders of the United States, as well as almost all educated persons of their age, spent much time studying the Ancients and strove to emulate their best institutions. The Greeks have been a foundation of Western thought for over 2500 years and have influenced the leading thinkers and writers of the west from the Apostle Paul to Winston Churchill.

The Romans conquered the Greeks in the 2nd century B.C., but recognized the value of Greek philosophy, science, and literature, and preserved much of Greek learning. The New Testament was written in Greek because Greek was still the language of learning throughout the eastern Mediterranean even during the Roman Empire. The Renaissance in Europe, which led to a rebirth in art, science, and culture in Europe came about largely due to the resurgence of classical learning in the 14th century. In short, the Greeks are rightly credited with laying the foundation of Western Culture in realms as diverse as art, science, philosophy and government. Any student who wants to understand the progress and perils of Western Civilization should start with an introduction to Greek History.

HISTORICAL DIVISIONS

Ancient Greece was not a unified nation, but a collection of city-states and colonies located on the Greek peninsula and throughout the Aegean Sea, Asia Minor, and Italy. They shared a common language, religion, and culture, and were a sea-faring as well as an agriculturally based society. By about the seventh century B.C. a written Greek language had developed to such an extent that the stories of many cities-states were written down, and a reasonably reliable history of Greece is given from that time.



The Acropolis at Athens

But a complete knowledge of the Ancients must go beyond the recorded history of the early city-states. In addition to the recorded history of the Greeks, there are two related topics strongly related to Greek history. The first is the rich field of Greek mythology and legends. The idea of history, as distinct from legend, arose during the Golden Age of Greece. Herodotus and Thucydides are two of the first classical historians, but before they wrote their great works, in the fifth century B.C., history, legend, and folklore were an undifferentiated mix. Yet it was this mix of myth and legend that formed the basis of Greek character. The Heritage Classical Curriculum's first unit on Greek History, therefore, incorporates mythology and legend, and extends from the most remote past to the legends of the Trojan War, which are thought to be based loosely on historical events.

The second topic necessary to understand the unique culture of Ancient Greece is an introduction to the histories of the autocratic empires which surrounded Greece. Media, Lydia, Persia, Babylon, and Egypt were just a few of the regimes which rose and fell in the Middle

East before the rise of the Greeks. The best histories of these empires were written by Greek scholars such as Herodotus and Xenophon, but the differences in culture between the despotic eastern nations and the democratic Greek city-states is apparent in many striking anecdotes. Most Greek city-states were consciously independent and ardently opposed to tyranny. Since slavery was widely accepted, only property-owning citizens were truly free, but the Greeks were proud that so many of their institutions were self-governing since under the eastern autocracies there were no free citizens. Even the wealthiest and most exalted of the eastern satraps were but tax-collectors who held their positions purely at the whim of their overlord.

The recorded history of Greece begins in about 800 B.C. with the individual stories of some of the most important Greek city-states, including Sparta, Athens, Corinth, and Samos in the centuries before the Greco-Persian War. The Persian War (500-479 B.C.) was a watershed event in Greek History, during which a remote and disorganized collection of city-states arose to defeat the invasion of a far larger and wealthier empire, which had henceforth vanquished all who dared resist it. The battles of the Persian War and the stories and personalities associated with them are among the most famous and inspirational in the history of warfare.

The prestige and prosperity which fell to the Greek states after their victory over the Persians was ultimately concentrated in the hands of the Athenian empire, which came to dominate most of the Greek sea-faring states scattered throughout the Aegean Sea. Many of the most famous personalities, writings, and relics of classical Greece are dated to this golden age of Greece. The non-aligned Greek states, fearful of Athenian hegemony now rose against her, and after the terribly destructive Peloponnesian War, the dominance of Athens was broken for good.

After the Golden Age of Athens other powers arose: Sparta, then Thebes, and finally Macedonia. Although Macedonia had been a small, semi-barbaric country, its rise under Philip II and his son Alexander led to the spread of Greek culture throughout the eastern Mediterranean. The Greco-Macedonian, or Hellenistic Era lasted from Alexander's conquest of Persia until the second century, when Roman influence began to spread throughout the Mediterranean. The Greek culture was so well established by that time that Greek remained the language of commerce and education throughout the eastern Mediterranean, even during the seven centuries that Greece was a province of the Roman Empire. Even after the Roman Empire fell, the Greek speaking Byzantine Empire, centered in Constantinople, continued to be the storehouse of classical Greek learning and helped spread Christianity throughout Eastern Europe.

In the Resource Guide which follows, the history of Ancient Greece is divided into the following sub-divisions. Timelines, character lists, and era summaries are each associated with a specific era in Greek History. These resources can be for introduction and review, but the books and chapters listed in the Recommended Reading sections should be used for study, rather than depending on concise summaries. Timelines and character lists can also be used to create review questions and learning games, as appropriate.

HISTORICAL ERAS OF ANCIENT GREECE

Era	Dates BC	Description
Heroic Ages	to 800	Age of myths and legends
Eastern Kingdoms	650-500	Babylon, Egypt, Media and Persian Empires
Greek City-states	800-500	Foundation of Sparta, Athens, and other Greek city-states
Persian War	500-475	Ionian Revolt in Asia Minor to close of the Persian War
Athenian Empire	475-403	Formation of Delian League to the fall of Athens
Decline of Greece	403-338	Retreat of the 10,000, to the Battle of Chaeronea
Hellenistic Age	338-146	Macedonian conquest of Greece to Roman conquest of Macedonia
Greco-Roman Era	146-415 AD	Greece as a Roman province to fall of the Roman empire

THE HEROIC AGE—PRIOR TO 800 B. C.

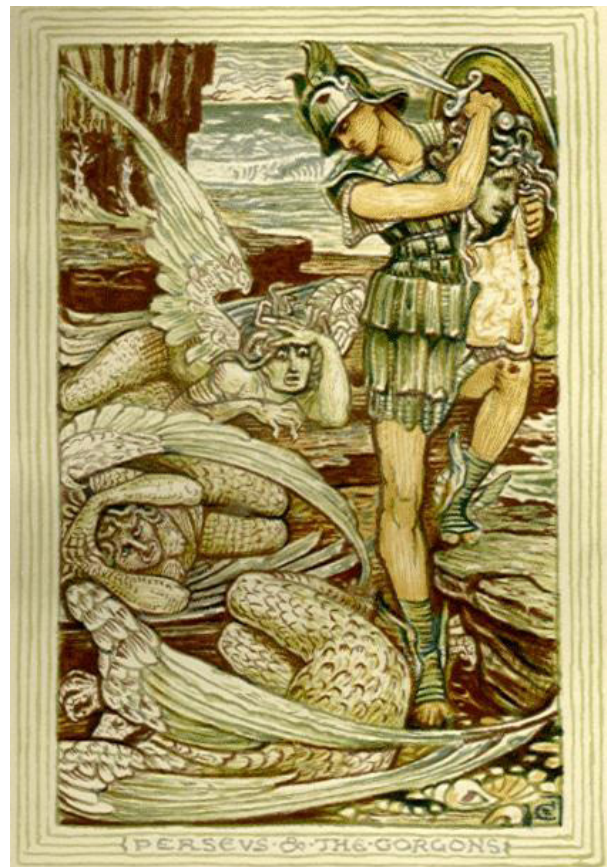
VOYAGE OF JASON AND ARGONAUTS TO AFTERMATH OF TROJAN WAR

The folklore and legends of the heroic age of Greece are exceedingly rich and give the most remote period of Greek History an almost mystical quality. Various authors describe it as a fairyland where all of nature, including brooks, trees, animals, and even cities were imbued with spirits. The Greeks believed that their gods shared human foibles, so stories about them were almost invariably dramas involving jealousy, posturing, revenge, drunkenness, debauchery, and misunderstandings—often humorous, and occasionally imbued with a moral applicable to human relations. Their myths and legends had many variations, some suitable for children, others more appropriate for adults.

The heroes, myths, and legends of Ancient Greece are too numerous to list, but a few general categories of the types of heroes and stories can be given. The first category of Greek myths involved the gods, or immortals, who had human forms and decidedly human personalities, but possessed enormous powers over the earth. The twelve most important gods lived on Mount Olympus, and included Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Athena, and many of the other famous Greek gods. Aside from these twelve, there were hundreds of lesser gods, nymphs, and demigods who presided over lesser entities, such as rivers, trees, poetry, music or medicine.

The second category of Greek myths involved human or semi-human heroes and a spectacular array of monsters and villains. These legends often featured heroes specific to particular towns or regions and may have been based on real historical characters, since most of the aristocratic classes in the major Greek cities claimed descent from them. The most important Greek demi-gods were Hercules, Theseus, Perseus, and Jason, but there were many others.

The final category of Greek legends involved the famous characters of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the two epic poems most closely associated with Ancient Greece. These poems recounted the story of the Trojan War, during which hundreds of warriors from mainland Greece sailed to besiege the city of Troy, located in Asia Minor near the Dardanelles. The *Iliad* tells the story of Achilles, Hector, Odysseus, Agamemnon, Helen, and other famous characters who participated



Perseus and the Gorgons

in the ten year siege. Far from being only a battle story, however, the poem examines a great variety of philosophical issues including the meaning of fame, fate, and honor, the destructive forces of jealousy, the virtues of friendship, loyalty and patriotism, and the apparent arbitrary whims of the gods. It is generally recognized as one of the greatest masterpieces of literature and was for all purposes the “Bible” of the Ancient Greeks.

Almost all historians agree that the relationship between the rich and complicated world of Greek folklore and the extraordinary sophistication and intelligence of the ancient Greeks was of utmost importance. The Greek city-states each governed themselves almost independently, so it was religion and folklore that tied the Greeks together as a civilization, and they were immensely proud of their literary heritage. Amazingly, Greek stories and poems were passed on even before the Greek alphabet was developed and writing became common. Minstrels memorized the stories, which were often in the form of poems, and traveled throughout the Greek world singing them to audiences. The most famous of these minstrels was the blind poet Homer, who is credited with composing the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the two most famous epic poems in the Greek world.

It is incredible that these poems, which comprise over twenty-six thousand lines of beautiful verse, were "composed" before the Greek alphabet and writing were well established. The propensity of the Ancient Greeks to memorize enormous tracts of beautiful and spiritually uplifting verse was well established at the very outset of recorded Greek history, and had a terrifically civilizing effect.

CHARACTERS—HEROIC AGE

The field of Greek folklore is so extensive that the number of well-known mythological Gods and heroes likely exceeds that of famous historical Greek characters. The following list, is therefore a minimum survey of Greek mythical personalities who figure predominantly, not just in Greek literature, but throughout the canon of Western literature. They include characters from the four major fields of Greek mythology; Gods, demigods, Trojan War Heroes, and Greek drama.

Character	Short Biography
GODS OF MOUNT OLYMPUS	
Zeus	King of the Gods. God of the Heavens and Thunder.
Hera	Goddess of Marriage and Queen of Gods
Poseidon	God of the Seas and Oceans.
Hades	God of the Underworld and Precious Metals
Hestia	Goddess of the Hearth and Home
Ares	God of War
Athena	Goddess of Education and Wisdom
Apollo	God of Light, Truth, Music and Healing
Artemis	Goddess of the Hunt, Wild Animals, and Maidens
Aphrodite	Goddess of Love, Beauty, and Desire
Hermes	Messenger of Gods. God of Commerce and Speed
Hephaestus	God of the Forge and Fire
DEMIGODS AND HEROES	
Hercules	Greatest of Greek demigod heroes. Succeeded in twelve labors.
Perseus	Hero who killed Medusa, a monster so ugly it turned people to stone.
Theseus	Legendary hero who killed the Minotaur. Ancient King of Athens.
Jason	Led the Argonauts on a quest to recover the Golden Fleece.
TROJAN WAR HEROES	
Achilles	Greatest warrior of the Greeks. Invincible except for a place on his heel.
Hector	Hero of Troy. Son of King Priam. Commander of Trojan forces.
Helen	Wife of Menelaus, kidnapped by Paris of Troy. Caused the Trojan War.
Agamemnon	Leader of Greeks in the Trojan War. Killed by wife on his return home.
Odysseus	Hero of the Trojan war and the <u>Odyssey</u> , famous for wiles and craft.
Penelope	Faithful wife of Odysseus. Awaited his return for twenty years.

GREEK DRAMA

- Oedipus** Solved mystery of the Sphinx; became King of Thebes. Tragically cursed.
Antigone Daughter of Oedipus, king of Thebes. Cares for him when he is exiled.

RECOMMENDED READING—HEROIC AGE

Book Title	chaps	Selected Chapters
Famous Men of Greece by Haaren	10	Gods of Greece to Adventures of Ulysses
Story of Greece by Macgregor	20	Wonderland to Bow of Odysseus
Story of the Greek People by Tappan	2	Days of Myths to Days of Myths (cont.)
Story of the Greeks by Guerber	18	Early Inhabitants to Burning of Troy
Historical Tales - Greek by Morris	4	Troy Taken to Seven Against Thebes
Young Folks' Plutarch by Kaufman	1	Theseus
Greek Gods and Heroes by Harding	27	Greeks to Wanderings of Odysseus
Iliad for Boys and Girls by Church		<i>all</i>
Odyssey for Boys and Girls by Church		<i>all</i>
Old Greek Stories by Baldwin		<i>all</i>
Golden Age of Greek Heroes by Baldwin		<i>all</i>
Greek Folk Stories by Peabody		<i>all</i>
Wonder Book by Hawthorne		<i>all</i>
Tanglewood Tales by Hawthorne		<i>all</i>
Greek Heroes by Kingsley		<i>all</i>
Golden Fleece by Colum		<i>all</i>
Children of the Dawn by Buckley		<i>all</i>
Golden Porch by Hutchinson		<i>all</i>

EASTERN EMPIRES—650 TO 500 B.C.

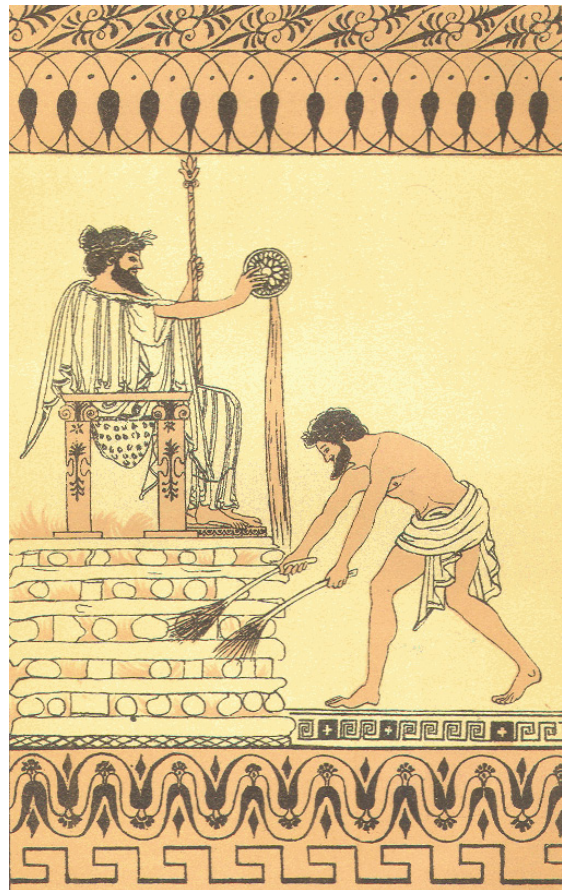
RISE OF LYDIAN AND BABYLONIAN EMPIRES — REIGN OF DARIUS I.

The rise of Ancient Greece must be seen against the backdrop of the rest of the Mediterranean world. By the third century B.C. the Greek language and culture came to dominate the educated classes of all civilizations in the eastern Mediterranean. Prior to the Golden Age of the fifth century B. C., however, Greece was just a poor collection of city-states centered around the Aegean Sea. They were surrounded by wealthier and more powerful neighbors, in particular Lydia, Media, Babylon, and later the Persian Empire. The histories of these regions are often associated with Ancient Greece, not only because they are contemporary civilizations with which one can draw comparisons, but also because the best histories we have of them are written by Greek historians such as Herodotus and Xenophon.

The region directly east of mainland Greece (present day Turkey) was “Asia Minor”, meaning “Near East”. A number of Greek colonies were scattered along its coastline, but by 600 B.C. the family of Croesus, king of Lydia, controlled the interior mainland. Asia Minor was the home of the legendary Midas, a king of Phrygia whose touch turned all to gold. The region was well-known for large silver and gold deposits and both kings were famous for their fabulous wealth.

Directly south of Asia Minor was the Middle Eastern region, composed of modern day Syria (Assyria), Iraq (Babylon), Lebanon (Phoenicia), and Israel (Judea). In ancient times, control of this region alternated between the Egyptian, Assyrian, and Babylonian Empires. By 600 B.C., the region was primarily in control of the Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar, and Babylon was the greatest city in the region. To the east of Babylon was the empire of the Medes, which controlled most of modern day Iran and the small kingdom of Persia, which was originally only a vassal kingdom of Medes.

In 550 B.C., Cyrus the Great, king of Persia and grandson of the Emperor of the Medes, started a great career of conquest and brought all of the above mentioned kingdoms under his control. The Persian kingdom arose under his leadership to become the most powerful empire the ancient world had ever seen. Cyrus died in 529 B.C. on a campaign in Scythia. After his



Croesus on the funeral pyre

death his son Cambyses ruled for a short time and extended his conquests into Egypt, but himself died soon after. As Cambyses died with no heir, there was considerable palace intrigue before Darius the Great assumed the throne. Darius suffered several rebellions during his reign, the most important being the Ionian revolt in Asia minor. It was due to Athens' involvement in the Ionian Revolt that Darius determined to conquer Greece and hence launched the Persian Wars.

The kingdoms of the east varied significantly in customs, religion and livelihood. They included sea-faring kingdoms, such as Phoenicia, agricultural kingdoms, such as Phrygia, and pastoral kingdoms, such as Medes, but all were tyrannical autocracies. All cities and states paid tributes to the emperor, or great king, and all city administrators served at the pleasure of an autocratic higher authority. The idea of self-governing city-states was unknown outside of the Greek colonies. Even more striking and unique to Greece was the idea of satire and open dissent toward authority figures. Many of the most famous dramas of Ancient Greece were irreverent either toward current political leaders, or towards Gods. In any case the freedom of speech, tendency toward democracy, and independence of action exhibited by the Greeks was unique among nations.

The Greek were proud of their literary heritage, self-consciously civilized, and considered their neighbors, however wealthy and powerful, to be slaves to their tyrannical leaders.

TIMELINE—EASTERN EMPIRES

Year BC	Event
585-549	Reign of Astyages as King of Medes.
560-546	Reign of Croesus as King of Lydia.
559-539	Reign of Cyrus the Great as King of Persia, grandson of Astyages.
559	Cyrus ascends to the throne of the small, vassal kingdom of Persia.
549	Cyrus rebels against Astyages, and unites kingdoms of Persia, Media.
546	Cyrus besieges the capital of Croesus and conquers Lydia.
539	Cyrus besieges Babylon and conquers the Babylonian Empire.
529	Cyrus dies in on a campaign in Scythia.
529-521	Reign of Cambyses II as King of Persia.
526	Cambyses II invades Egypt.
522-521	Smerdis the Magi usurps the throne of Persia.
521-486	Reign of Darius the Great as King of Persia.
521	Darius and his cohorts seize the throne from the Usurper Smerdis.
521	Babylon revolts against Darius.
512	Darius Campaigns in Scythia.
500	Ionian Revolt.

WARS—EASTERN EMPIRES

Year BC	War	Outcome
547-512	Persian Conquest	Wars of Cyrus the Great and Cambyses which created the Persian Empire

CHARACTERS—EASTERN EMPIRES

Character	Date BC	Short Biography
Nebuchadnezzar	645–561	Biblical king who conquered Assyria and made his capital at Babylon. Built the hanging gardens of Babylon.
Astyages	died 550	King of Medes, who was overthrown by his grandson Cyrus the Great.
Amasis II	died 525	Last great king of Egypt, died before his country was overrun by Cambyses and annexed into the Persian Empire.
Croesus	560–547	Wealthy monarch of Lydia who lost his kingdom to Cyrus.
Harpagus	fl. 550	Median minister of Astyages, who betrayed his king in favor of Cyrus.
Cyrus the Great	558–529	Prince of Persia who overran Medes, Lydia and Babylonia to create the Persian Empire.
Cambyes II	died 522	Eldest son of Cyrus. Invaded Egypt, killed his only brother, then died without an heir.
Smerdis the Magi	fl. 522	Impersonated Smerdis, and stole the throne of Persia.
Atossa	fl. 521	Daughter of Cyrus, wife of Darius, mother of Xerxes
Darius the Great	died 486	With six conspirators seized the throne of Persia, primarily through craft rather than force.
Tomyris	fl. 529	Queen of Scythians. Defeated and killed Cyrus the Great.
Democedes	fl. 500	Greek physician, valuable slave of Darius. Schemed to return to Greece.
Zopyrus	died 482	Loyal Persian general, helped Darius retake Babylon with an elaborate ruse.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Book Title	chaps	Selected Chapters
Story of Greece by Macgregor	5	<u>Bridge of Boats</u> to <u>Sandal Sewn by Histiaeus</u>
Historical Tales - Greek by Morris	4	<u>Fortune of Croesus</u> to <u>Darius and Scythians</u>
Stories From Herodotus by Church		<i>all</i>
Cyrus the Great by Abbott		<i>all</i>
Darius the Great by Abbott		<i>all</i>

RISE OF THE CITY-STATES—800 TO 500 B.C.

RISE OF SPARTA — DEMOCRATIC REFORMS OF CLEISTHENES IN ATHENS

In marked contrast to the Persian Empire, which had a centralized and despotic government, the Greek cities were largely independent and self-governing, likely due to the mountainous terrain of the Greek mainland. The government of the cities was usually oligarchic, controlled by several powerful families or in some cases local tyrants, but the city-states themselves were independent of each other, and there was no Greek overlord to which all cities paid tribute. Instead of government, a common language, religion, and culture held the Greek cities together.

The two most important cities in Ancient Greece were Sparta, a military powerhouse from the eighth century B.C. onwards, and Athens, which rose to prominence in the fifth century B.C. Not only were these cities very different from those cities under the sway of Eastern tyrants, but they were radically different from each other. Sparta possessed a *stoic*, severe, military temper, but Athens exhibited an *epicurean*, or artistic temperament. However, they were both vigorous examples of the Greek dedication to self-government and love of freedom.



Young Spartans learning a lesson from drunken helots

Sparta—The city of Sparta, located in the center of the western Peloponnesian Peninsula, rose to great distinction among Greece cities after it underwent a transformation in culture under the leadership of Lycurgus in about 800 B.C. After a devastating series of wars with neighboring Messina, he convinced the Spartan nobility to give up their riches and to allow for the equal division of wealth among all Spartan citizens. He further prohibited almost all display of wealth and occupations among Spartans that would tend towards accumulation of wealth. Sparta was henceforth to be a military aristocracy, and all its citizens were engaged full time in developing the military virtues of strength, courage, and self-sacrificing dedication to country. Pedestrian matters such as tending fields, craftwork, and transporting goods were left to slaves (called helots) and neighboring tribes under Sparta's sway (called peroci). Sparta did have two kings who usually acted as generals in battle, but the state itself was led by a council of elders. Sparta recognized her heroes, but did not generally grant them political power until relatively late in life. The conditions for the reign of a long-term tyrant, therefore, did not exist in Sparta.

Sparta did not cultivate the arts, so few relics remain. Nevertheless, its cultural influence on the rest of Greece was immense. The impulse to military excellence that infused all of Greece was centered there, and Sparta embodied many other great stoic virtues as well. One of the many striking things about the city of Sparta was its stability—its government was among the least changeable in human history. During an age of constant political upheavals and conquests, Sparta, an unwallled city, was an unperturbed fortress. From the time of the Messenian War, in about 750 B.C., to the Battle of Leuctra in 371 B.C., no enemy ever marched on Sparta's soil. Even Sparta's most powerful latter-day enemies, who held sway over all of Greece long after Sparta's glory days, were content to isolate rather than conquer the famous city.

Athens—Athens's early government was more typical of other Greek towns. Athens was the greatest city of the Ionian Greeks, who were scattered throughout the islands of the Aegean Sea and the West Coast of Asia Minor. In ancient times it had a king, but by about 600 A.D. was governed as an oligarchy. Draco and Solon were two of the early law-makers. They wrote laws that averted some of the injustice towards the lower classes, but the democratic reforms that made Athens famous in later years came about slowly over time. Pisistratus, who came to power in Athens in about 550 B.C. was a popular dictator, and was responsible for turning Athens into a cultural center, as well as for laying the foundations of democracy. Later reformers, such as Cleisthenes reorganized the government to more fairly represent all classes.

Other important Greek cities in the pre-Persian War era included Thebes, to the northwest of Athens; Argos and Olympia, on the Peloponnesian peninsula; and Corinth and Delphi near the gulf of Corinth. Delphi was the location of the most important oracle in Greece, and the destination of many pilgrimages. In addition to the mainland cities, some important Greek islands were Euboea, Samos, Lesbos, and Delos. There were also many Greek cities on the coast of Asia Minor, such as Miletus and Halicarnassus but most of these fell under the sway of the Persian Empire. The Greeks that settled in the islands and coasts near Asia Minor were called the Ionian Greeks, and produced most of the well known philosophers, scientists, and writers of early Greek. Some well-known Ionian Greeks who lived before the Persian war include Pythagoras of Samos and Thales of Miletus.

TIMELINE—RISE OF CITY-STATES

Time in Ancient Greece was dated from the time of the first Olympiad, which we date at 776 B.C. Since Olympiads were held every four years, and event that occurred in 676 B.C. would be dated at the time of the 25th Olympiad.

Year BC	Event
800	Lycurgus establishes the laws of Sparta.
776	First Olympiad.
668	Spartan conquest of Messenia (<i>Messenian War</i>)
621	Draco writes down the laws of Athens.
594	Solon revises the laws of Athens to relieve debtors.
560	Pisistratus reigns as tyrant; establishes Athens as a cultural center.
540	Pythagoras, renowned mathematician and philosopher, teaches in Samos.
532	Polycrates reigns as tyrant of Samos.
516	Darius the Great invades Scythia, but is driven back to Thrace.
510	Hippias, tyrant of Athens, is banished from the city
509	Cleisthenes makes democratic reforms to laws of Athens.

RECOMMENDED READINGS—RISE OF CITY-STATES

Book Title	chaps	Selected Chapters
Famous Men of Greece by Haaren	3	<u>Lycurgus</u> to <u>Pisistratus</u>
Story of Greece by Macgregor	14	<u>Land of Hellas</u> to <u>Law of Ostracism</u>
Story of Greek People by Tappan	6	<u>How Greeks Lived</u> to <u>Colonies: The Tyrants</u>
Story of the Greeks by Guerber	21	<u>Death of Codrus</u> to <u>Hippias Driven Out</u>
Greek Life and Story by Church	3	<u>Statesman and Poet</u> to <u>Exiles of Phocaea</u>
Historical Tales - Greek by Morris	6	<u>Lycurgus and Laws</u> to <u>Tyrants of Corinth</u>
Children's Plutarch: Greeks by Gould	2	<u>Hardy Men of Sparta</u> to <u>Wise Man of Athens</u>
Old World Hero Stories by Tappan	3	<u>Homer, Story Teller</u> to <u>Solon, Who Made Laws</u>
Young Folks Plutarch by Kaufman	2	<u>Lycurgus</u> to <u>Solon</u>
Greek Gods and Heroes by Harding	2	<u>What Lycurgus Did</u> to <u>What Solon Did</u>

CHARACTERS—RISE OF THE CITY-STATES

Character	Date BC	Short Biography
Aristomenes	died 631	Defended Messenians from Spartan conquest, for 17 years.
Lycurgus	fl. 800	Mastermind of Spartan laws and lifestyle.
Cleomenes I	died 489	King of Sparta before Persian Wars, removed tyrants from Athens, defeated Argos.
Tyrtaeus	fl. 650	Historian of Sparta. Wrote battle ballads during Messenian War.
Codrus	fl. 1000	Last King of Athens. Died nobly, and Athenians resolved to never have another king.
Draco	fl. 621	First wrote the laws of Athens, but made them very harsh.
Solon	638–559	Rewrote the laws of Athens to better protect poor citizens.
Pisistratus	605–527	Tyrant of Athens. Respected Solon's laws. Established festivals, and promoted culture.
Cleisthenes	fl. 510	Athenian statesman who overthrew Hippias, and helped institute democratic reforms.
Megacles	fl. 632	Early member of the Alcmaeonidae family. Opposed Cylon.
Megacles	fl. 555	Opposed, and then allied himself with Pisistratus. Married Agriste of the Alcmaeonidae clan.
Hippias	fl. 490	Exiled son of Pisistratus; helped lead Persian forces against Athens at Marathon.
Cypselus	died 627	Legendary Tyrant of Corinth. Under the rule of his family the city became powerful.
Aesop	fl. 550	Famous Greek Fabulist, allegedly lived at the court of Croesus in Lydia.
Homer	fl. 1000	Blind poet who "wrote" the Iliad and Odyssey.
Thales	635–543	Greek philosopher and scientist, one of seven sages of Greece.
Polycrates	died 522	Prosperous king of Samos who was overthrown by Oretes, his enemy from Asia Minor.

THE PERSIAN WAR—499 TO 478 B.C.

IONIAN REVOLT — AFTERMATH OF PERSIAN WAR

Like the Trojan War, the Persian War was a defining moment in Greek history. The Athenians, who would dominate Greece culturally and politically through the fifth century B.C., regarded the wars against Persia as their finest moment.

The war between Persia and Greece began when Athens agreed to come to the aid of the Greek-speaking city-states on the coast of Asia Minor (modern Turkey) who were in rebellion against the Persian empire. Their participation turned Persian attention to Athens, so in 490 B.C., coaxed along by some disgruntled Greek exiles, Darius the Great launched an attack against the Greek mainland. The Athenian forces were under the command of Miltiades, a general who had previously been governor of an Ionian city, and was involved in the revolt against Persia. At the *Battle of Marathon* he urged the Athenians to attack immediately without waiting for reinforcements, even though their army was only a fraction the size of the Persians. The battle of Marathon is perhaps the single most important battle in Greek history. Had the Athenians lost, Greece would have eventually come under the control of Persia and all subsequent culture and accomplishments of the Greeks may have been lost to posterity.



**Ship dashed against ship 'til the Persian
dead strewed the deep.**

The Persians did not attack Greece again for ten years, but in 481 B.C., after Darius's son Xerxes became king, the Persians launched another expedition against Athens. Determined to squash the Greeks through overwhelming force, Xerxes gathered several hundred thousand infantry and six hundred ships. He demanded that the Greek city-states submit to him without resistance, and many did, including Thebes. The Athenians and Spartans, however, insulted the Persian ambassadors and vowed resistance to the end. Fortunately for all of Greece, the Athenian politician Themistocles had foreseen trouble many years ahead of time and had convinced the Athenians to begin building a navy, so that by the time of the great Persian invasion, Athens had a navy of over two hundred ships.

While Xerxes gathered his army at the Hellespont, the thirty-one Greek city-states that had decided to resist the Persians (many of the smaller cities had already conceded defeat and refused to send armies) were fielding a united Greek army under the leadership of Sparta. Although Athens provided the largest fleet, a Spartan admiral led the navy, out of deference to Sparta's military expertise. Themistocles, however, was still very influential in all naval operations.

The first great battle of the united Greeks against Xerxes's army was at *Thermopylae*, a narrow pass in the north of Thessaly. It was there that the Spartan king Leonidas and three hundred Spartans held out for three days against the entire Persian army. After a lopsided battle in which thousands of Persians died, the resolute Spartans were eventually surrounded and killed to a man, and Xerxes's army passed unopposed to Athens, which it burned to the ground.

As soon as the pass of Thermopylae was lost, the Greek fleet worked full time to evacuate Athens and its surrounding communities to local islands. They were stationed on the island of Salamis in sight of the ruins of Athens. After a fit of contentious infighting they decided to give battle to the Persians at once. During the famous naval *Battle of Salamis* the Greek fleet won a dramatic and decisive victory over the much larger Persian navy. The Persian fleet was destroyed and Xerxes returned to Persia, leaving Mardonius in charge of the conquered region. Most of the citizens in Athens retired to islands off the mainland or to the Peloponnesian Peninsula, which the Spartans had fortified in anticipation of a Persian attack. It was not until the following spring that Spartan leadership realized the Persians had no intention of meeting them at their fortified isthmus, and that in order to drive the Persians from Greek soil they would have to meet them in open battle. After considerable delay, a terrific battle was fought at *Plataea*, where the Persians were defeated and killed nearly to a man.

The Persian war was remarkable for its ferocious battles, which showcased the superiority of Greek military methods, for the striking personalities involved, the democratic character of the military command, and the ability of the fractious Greeks to drop their strong divisions and unite behind a single cause. The war is a popular one to study, not only because of its striking military engagements and historical significance, but also for the great human dramas that were played out behind the scenes.

TIMELINE—PERSIAN WAR

Year BC	Event
500	Ionian Revolt—Athens supports Ionian Greek's rebellion against Persia.
493	Mardonius leads Persia's first, failed invasion of Greece.
490	Persia's second invasion of Greece foiled by Athens' victory at <i>Marathon</i> .
481	Persia's third and largest invasion of Greece led by Xerxes .
480	<i>Battle of Thermopylae</i> —three hundred Spartans perish holding the pass.
480	<i>Battle of Salamis</i> —great naval victory for Greece destroys Persian fleet.
479	<i>Battle of Plataea</i> —Persian driven from mainland Greece.
478	Death of Pausanias , hero of Plataea, after accusations of treachery.
460	Death of Themistocles , hero of Salamis, after accusations of treachery.

WARS—PERSIAN WAR

Year BC	War	Outcome
499–450	Persian Wars	Greeks repel Persia's invasion of Greece and win freedom for Ionian colonies.
492–340	Sicilian Wars	Greek Sicilians repel Carthaginian invasions and tyrants.

RECOMMENDED READINGS—PERSIAN WAR

Book Title	chaps	Selected Chapters
Famous Men of Greece by Haaren	4	Miltiades the Hero of Marathon to Aristides
Story of Greece by Macgregor	13	Darius Demands Earth to Battle of Plataea
Story of Greek People by Tappan	3	Persian Expeditions to Great Persian Invasion
Story of the Greeks by Guerber	16	Great King to Death of Pausanias
Greek Life and Story by Church	6	Battle-field of Freedom to Traitor or Patriot
Historical Tales - Greek by Morris	5	Athenians at Marathon to Plataea's Day
Children's Plutarch: Greeks by Gould	2	Savior of Athens to Just Man
Old World Hero Stories by Tappan	2	Darius Repulsed to Xerxes tries to Conquer
Plutarch's Lives by Weston	2	Aristides to Themistocles
Young Folks Plutarch by Kaufman	2	Themistocles to Aristides
Greek Gods and Heroes by Harding	4	Athenians Fought Persians to Themistocles
Stories of Ancient Greeks by Shaw	4	Battle of Marathon to Wooden Walls
Xerxes by Abbott		<i>all</i>

CHARACTERS—PERSIAN WAR

Character	Date BC	Short Biography
Artaphernes	fl. 500	Satrap of Lydia during Ionian Rebellion. Led Persia at Marathon.
Histiaeus	died 494	Close advisor to Darius, rescued him in Scythia, later rebelled.
Aristagoras	fl. 494	Son-in-law of Histiaeus. Led rebellion of Greeks in Ionia.
Pheidippides	died 490	Ran from Athens to Sparta before Marathon. Ran to Athens after Marathon, then died.
Miltiades	died 489	Athenian General who led Greece to victory at <i>Marathon</i> .
Mardonius	died 489	Brother-in-law of Xerxes; commander-in-chief of Xerxes's Army.
Bulis and Sperthias	fl. 485	Volunteered to sacrifice their lives to the Persian King to expiate the murder of Ambassadors.
Leonidas	died 480	Spartan King whose army died defending pass of Thermopylae.
Artabanus	fl. 480	Brother of Darius. Close advisor to Darius and Xerxes.
Pythius	fl. 480	Satrap who magnificently hosted Xerxes and was repaid by having his eldest son slain.
Artemisia	fl. 480	Queen of Halicarnassas. One of Xerxes most trusted Generals.
Eurybiades	fl. 480	Head of Spartan Fleet during the Persian War.
Pausanias	died 470	Spartan General who led Greece against Mardonius at <i>Plataea</i> .
Xerxes	520–465	Raised an enormous army for Persian invasion of Greece. Defeated at <i>Battle of Salamis</i> .
Themistocles	525–462	Athenian hero of the <i>Battle of Salamis</i> . Masterminded Athenian naval supremacy.
Demaratus	fl. 480	Exiled King of Sparta, advised Xerxes when he invaded Greece.
Aristides	died 468	Athenian General and Statesman. Fought at Marathon, Salamis; created Delian League.

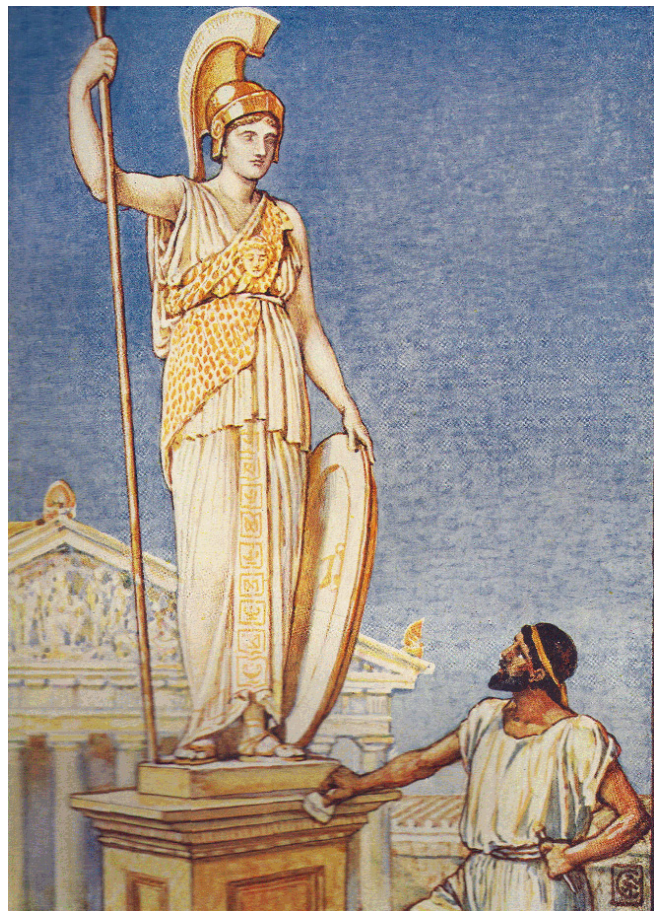
THE ATHENIAN EMPIRE—477 TO 404 B.C.

FORMATION OF DELIAN LEAGUE — FALL OF ATHENS

In the years following the Persian War, Athens was rebuilt and the Greek navy expanded its domination of the Aegean Sea. Further naval victories over Persia liberated several Ionian Greek colonies from the Persian yoke and increased prestige for Greece as a sea power. The formation of the Delian league, a group of Greek colonies located in the Aegean Sea and united for common defense, formalized Athenian naval domination. Although this league was nominally a confederation, it was dominated by Athens and eventually became the foundation of the Athenian Empire. Athens became very wealthy due both to its trade domination and to the inflow of tribute that was paid to Athens in return for protection from Persia.

The most important statesmen in Athens in the years immediately following the Persian war were Cimon, son of Miltiades, and Aristides. Both were involved in organizing the Delian league and rebuilding Athens, which included constructing a fortified wall around the city to protect it from future invasions. Sparta opposed building walled cities lest they fall into enemy hands, but the Athenians insisted and eventually built a great wall from Athens to the sea, wide enough to drive two chariots abreast. The Delian league tributes also funded the construction of great temples and state houses on a scale never before seen in Europe.

In 461 B.C., one of the greatest statesmen in Athens history came to power. Pericles, more than any other person, determined the character of classical Athens. He was a patron of the arts and architecture and extended the democratic franchise to virtually all Athenian citizens. Greek theatre thrived under his leadership, and all four of the great Greek playwrights, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes, lived during his thirty year reign. He made Athens the cultural center of the Mediterranean and paid pensions to philosophers, artists, sculptures, and poets to encourage their contributions. The Parthenon and many other great public buildings were built under his leadership, and the famous Greek historians Herodotus and Thucydides were both his contemporaries.



Phidias and Athena at the Parthenon.

Sparta, shunning luxury and empire, looked upon Athens with distrust and jealousy. As Athens became more arrogant and contemptuous of the rights of its colonies, tensions between the cities grew until finally Sparta and its allies declared war on Athens, thus beginning the Peloponnesian War. It was a futile, drawn-out affair, lasting almost 30 years. It involved dozens of battles, but few consequential ones and its main long term effect was only to weaken and depopulate much of mainland Greece. Athens avoided meeting Sparta in land battles and instead depended on its fortified walls and control of the seas for defense during the long years of warfare. Ten years of fighting failed to resolve any issues, so a cease-fire was arranged. The 'Peace of Nicias' lasted until Athens, under the influence of Alcibiades, undertook an ill-fated expedition to conquer the island of Sicily. This disastrous campaign was the turning point of the war. It destroyed Athens's naval supremacy and critically weakened it for the continuing struggle against Sparta. Still the conflict raged for almost a decade until Sparta defeated the last remnant of the Athenian navy at the battle of Aegospotami and starved the walled city into submission.

Even during the Peloponnesian war, Athens continued to produce some of its greatest geniuses. Socrates, Aristophanes, Euripides and Thucydides all lived during this period, and their writings are among the most cherished in Western civilization. Undeniably, however, the Peloponnesian war was a disaster from which Greece and Athens never fully recovered. Athens regained its reputation as a center of culture and education, but was never again politically powerful.

TIMELINE—ATHENIAN EMPIRE

Year BC	Event
477	Formation of Delian League under the leadership of Athens.
466	Delian Navy, under Cimon, destroys Persian fleet at Eurymedon River.
459-445	First Peloponnesian War: conflict between Athens and non-aligned cities.
456	The Long walls of Athens are completed.
453	Treasury of the Delian League is moved to Athens
445	Conflict between Spartan allies and Athens is settled by the "Peace of Pericles"
445-431	Pericles leads Athens during the "Golden Age" of the Athenian Empire.
447-438	Construction of the Parthenon to serve as temple and treasury.
431-404	Peloponnesian War.
430	—The Plague at Athens.
428	—The Revolt of Mytilene.
427	—Destruction of Plataea by Sparta.
421-415	—"Peace of Nicias" provides 6 year break in hostilities
415-413	—Expedition to Sicily led by Nicias and Alcibiades ends in disaster for Athens.
405	—Loss of the Athenian fleet at the <i>Battle of Aegospotami</i> .
404	—Athens surrenders to Sparta.

RECOMMENDED READINGS—ATHENIAN EMPIRE

Book Title	chaps	Selected Chapters
Famous Men of Greece by Haaren	5	Cimon to Socrates
Story of Greece by Macgregor	26	Delian League to Walls of Athens Destroyed
Story of the Greek People by Tappan	5	After the Persian War to Fall of Athens
Story of the Greeks by Guerber	12	Cimon Improves Athens to Death Alcibiades
Greek Life and Story by Church	11	In the Theatre at Athens to Lion's Cub
Historical Tales - Greek by Morris	7	Four Men of Athens to Socrates & Alcibiades
Children's Plutarch: Greeks by Gould	5	Admiral of the Fleet to Three Powers
Old World Hero Stories by Tappan	2	Pericles and His Age to Socrates and Plato
Young Folks Plutarch by Kaufman	5	Cimon to Lysander
Greek Gods and Heroes by Harding		Aristides the Just to Socrates, the Philosopher
Stories from Comedians by Church		<i>all</i>
Stories from Tragedians by Church		<i>all</i>
Sicilian Expedition by Church		<i>all</i>
Three Greek Children by Church		<i>all</i>
Our Little Athenian Cousin by Cowles		<i>all</i>

CHARACTERS—ATHENIAN EMPIRE

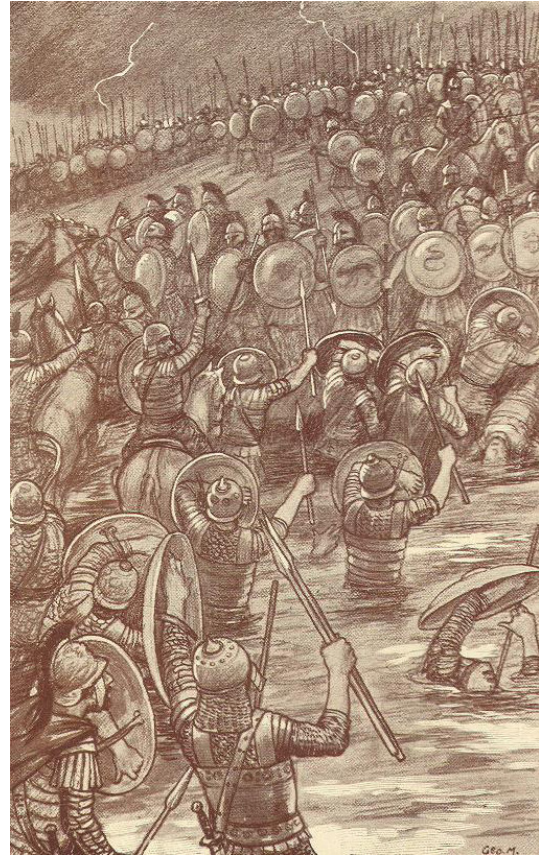
Character	Date BC	Short Biography
Aeschylus	525–456	First Greek Tragedian. Participated in battle of Marathon. Wrote plays including <i>Oedipus</i> and <i>Antigone</i> .
Aspasia	fl. 450	Foreign born courtesan, and wife of Pericles. Highly educated for a woman of her age.
Cimon	died 449	Athenian statesman, friendly to Sparta. Fought Persians in Ionia after the Persian war. Helped form Delian league.
Pindar	518–438	Most famous of Greek Lyric Poets.
Phidias	500–432	Greatest artist of his age. Built statues of Athene in the Parthenon and Jupiter at Olympia. Friend of Pericles.
Pericles	499–429	Athenian statesman during Golden Age of Athens. Made Athens cultural center of Greece.
Anaxagoras	500–428	Philosopher of Athens, thought to be a teacher of Socrates.
Herodotus	484–425	Historian, native of Halicarnassus. Wrote <i>Histories</i> , the famous history of the Persian War and the empires of the east.
Sophocles	496–406	Second Greek tragedian. Wrote <i>Agamemnon</i> , <i>Electra</i> , <i>Orestes</i> .
Euripides	480–406	Third Greek tragedian. Wrote <i>Alcestis</i> , <i>Medea</i> , <i>Orestes</i> , <i>Electra</i> .
Archidamus	476–427	Spartan King during the early years of Peloponnesian War.
Cleon	died 422	War mongering Athenian politician, opposed peace with Sparta.
Brasidas	died 422	Eloquent Spartan general, turned tide of Peloponnesian War in Sparta's favor. Died at Amphipolis.
Lysander	died 395	Spartan Admiral who defeated Athens in Peloponnesian War.
Thucydides	460–400	Historian of Peloponnesian War. An Athenian general sent into exile after he failed a mission. Wrote the <i>Peloponnesian War</i> .
Gylippus	fl. 413	Led the resistance in Syracuse that defeated Athenian forces during Sicilian Expedition.
Demosthenes	died 413	Athenian general in Peloponnesian War. Perished at Syracuse.
Socrates	469–399	First moral philosopher, immortalized by Plato.
Aristophanes	448–388	Greatest of Greek comedian playwrights. Wrote <i>Frogs</i> , <i>Clouds</i> , <i>Peace</i> , <i>Birds</i> , and many others.
Hippocrates	460–377	Father of modern medicine. Set up medical school to train doctors by scientific methods.
Nicias	died 413	Leader of “peace” party after death of Pericles. Led disastrous Sicilian expedition.
Alcibiades	450–404	Controversial statesman and general of Athens, who betrayed the city, but later returned as hero.
Lamachus	died 415	Admiral who led Sicilian Expedition. Died in early combat.

THE DECLINE OF GREECE—404 TO 338 B.C.

AFTERMATH OF PELOPONNESIAN WAR — BATTLE OF CHAERONEA

After Athens's defeat at the end of the Peloponnesian War, Sparta became the undisputed first power among the Greek city-states. The Spartan general Lysander had Athens's walls pulled down and appointed thirty loyal Spartans to run the city. These leaders, the "thirty tyrants," put many of their political opponents including Socrates to death. Plato, Socrates's student, witnessed these oppressions, and they greatly influenced his later writings.

The period immediately following the Peloponnesian war is called the "Spartan Hegemony," because, although Sparta did not collect tribute, it allowed only governments which were friendly to Sparta to exist throughout Greece. The major figure of this time was Agesilaus, a brave and noble Spartan king who came near to freeing all the Greek colonies in Asia Minor before he was recalled to deal with a political crisis at home. While Agesilaus was fighting Persians in the east, the Spartan government had fallen into trouble. The riches and spoils from the successful wars had corrupted the leadership of Sparta as well as the general population; besides destructive intrigue and infighting there were wars with Corinth and Thebes. These problems, combined with a significantly reduced population, led to the disaster in 371 B.C. at the *Battle of Leuctra*. Only 33 years after they prevailed in the Peloponnesian War, the Spartans suffered a humiliating defeat against Thebes. This was the first major land battle that the Spartans had lost to another Greek state in five hundred years, and they never recovered their mystique. The spoils of victory had done more to damage Sparta in a single generation than any enemy had been able to do in half a millennium.



**Timoleon holding the ford of
the Crimesus**

Thebes's rise to being a dominant power in Greece was unprecedented. Although it was always a large and prosperous city, it had never had particularly talented military leaders until Epaminondas and Pelopidas became Theban generals. Under their leadership, Thebes achieved military predominance over most of Greece for the first time, putting a check on Sparta's influence. The battle of Leuctra revealed Epaminondas as a first-rate military genius, and his subsequent diplomatic victories also showed his talent as a statesman.

The period of Theban influence, however, did not long survive the death of Epaminondas at the *Battle of Mantinea*. Sparta was humiliated, Thebes was leaderless, and no great power arose to provide dominant leadership to Greece. The Athens's fortunes did eventually improve, but it never recovered its former predominance and was not prepared to resist the Macedonian threat when it did arise.

Macedonia was a semi-barbaric country north of Greece that the Greek city-states had never considered fully civilized. Philip of Macedonia, however, had spent his youth as a hostage in Thebes under the great Epaminondas. There he had learnt the best of Greek military strategies and became a great admirer of Greek culture. He ascended to the Macedonian throne in 359 and spent the early part of his reign reforming the Macedonian military, expanding his power, and promoting Greek culture. His first military dealings with Greece involved the Sacred War during which he generously defended the interests of the Oracle at Delphi against a band of marauding Phocians. Once this foothold was made, he used statesmanship and diplomacy to gain ascendancy over many weaker Greek allies until Athens and Thebes, at the behest of the Athenian orator Demosthenes finally recognized the threat. When Philip finally met their combined forces in 338 at the *Battle of Chaeronea*, however, the Greeks were soundly thrashed and fell under the Macedonian yoke. Since Philip admired the Greeks, he granted them many freedoms, but little power. Greek culture and philosophy continued to thrive in Athens for many years afterward, but the political autonomy of mainland Greece was gone forever.

TIMELINE—DECLINE OF GREECE

BC	Event
401	<i>Battle of Cunaxa</i> ; retreat of the 10,000.
399	Prosecution and death of Socrates .
393	Long Walls of Athens rebuilt.
382	Spartans capture Theban citadel.
387	The Peace of Antalcides ends the <i>Corinthian War</i> .
379	Spartans expelled from Thebes.
385	Plato founds his Academy in Athens
371	<i>Battle of Leuctra</i> destroys Spartan supremacy in Greece.
362	The death of Epaminondas at the <i>Battle of Mantinea</i> ends Theban supremacy.
357	The Sacred War begins: Philip of Macedonia starts meddling in Greek affairs.
340	Timoleon frees Syracuse; drives Carthage out of Sicily at the <i>Battle of Crimissus</i> .

WARS—DECLINE OF GREECE

Year BC	War	Outcome
401–399	Retreat of the 10,000	Ten thousand Greeks retreat through Asia Minor
395–394	Corinthian War	Rebellion of Corinth and Thebes against Spartan Hegemony
373–362	Boeotian Wars	Successful Theban rebellion against Spartan Hegemony
357–356	Athenian Social War	Rebellion of colonies ends Athens effort to rebuild empire.
355–352	Sacred War	Greek rebels seize the temple at Delphi and stir up a war with Philip of Macedon.

RECOMMENDED READINGS—DECLINE OF GREECE

Book Title	chaps	Selected Chapters
Famous Men of Greece by Haaren	2	Xenophon to Epaminondas and Pelopidas
Story of Greece by Macgregor	12	March of the Ten Thousand to Sacred War
Story of the Greek People by Tappan	3	When Sparta Ruled to Philip of Macedonia
Story of the Greeks by Guerber	23	Overthrow of Tyrants to Philip Masters Greece
Greek Life and Story by Church	4	Wisest of Men to One Hero of Thebes
Historical Tales - Greek by Morris	5	Retreat of the Ten Thousand to Sacred War
Children's Plutarch - Greeks by Gould	6	In Old Persia to Man Who Saved Sicily
Young Folks Plutarch by Kaufman	6	Artaxerxes to Timoleon
Greek Gods and Heroes by Harding	2	Epaminondas to Philip and Demosthenes
Plutarch's Lives by Weston	2	Pelopidas to Timoleon
Callias - The Fall of Athens by Church	<i>all</i>	
Helmet and Spear by Church	<i>all</i>	

CHARACTERS—DECLINE OF GREECE

Character	Date BC	Short Biography
Cyrus the Younger	died 401	Plotted to kill brother Artaxerxes, and assume Persian throne.
Tissaphernes	died 395	Persian Satrap of Asia Minor during Peloponnesian War. Allied with Sparta.
Damon and Pythias	fl. 380	Friends whose story celebrates trusted and self-sacrifice.
Dionysius the Elder	430–367	From humble origins, rose to become Tyrant of Syracuse.
Pelopidas	410–364	Helped to liberate Thebes. Leader of the "Sacred Band".
Epaminondas	418–362	Greatest General of his age. Defeated the Spartans at the <i>Battle of Leuctra</i> , and made Thebes predominant.
Agesilaus	444–360	Leader of Sparta after the Peloponnesian War. Campaigned in Asia Minor and warred with Thebes.
Artaxerxes I	died 424	King of Persia during early part of Peloponnesian War.
Artaxerxes Mnemon	died 358	King of Persia during the retreat of the Ten Thousand.
Xenophon	430–357	Greek historian who led the retreat of the Ten Thousand
Dion	409–354	Brother-in-law of the Dionysus; helped to overthrow him.
Plato	427–347	Writer of moral philosophy. Student of Socrates. Wrote <i>Dialogues</i> . Tutored Dionysus the Younger, to no avail.
Dionysius the Younger	397–343	Continued tyrannical reign in Syracuse after the death of his father; student of Plato, overthrown by Dion.
Timoleon	died 337	Liberated Syracuse from Tyrants and Carthaginians.
Diogenes	412–323	Cynic Philosopher.
Phocion	402–318	Athenian statesmen who tried to avoid war between Athens and Macedonia. Sometimes opposed Demosthenes.
Philip of Macedonia	382–336	Used statesmanship as well as military force to bring Greece under sway of Macedonia.
Demosthenes	385–322	Great orator. Spoke against Philip and the Macedonians.

THE HELLENISTIC AGE—336 TO 146 B.C.

ACCESSION OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT — DESTRUCTION OF CORINTH

Philip of Macedonia died shortly after the battle of Chaeronea, leaving his young son Alexander the Great to the throne. The Greeks, led by Thebes, immediately tried to throw off the Macedonian garrison, but Alexander, only twenty years old at the time, put down all revolts with an iron hand. He razed Thebes to the ground, sold their citizens into slavery, and he prevented a revolution in Athens by a combination of threats and diplomacy.

Immediately after pacifying Greece, Alexander started planning for an ambitious invasion of Persia. The idea was not originally his, since his father had already laid the groundwork by building up the Macedonian army into the finest fighting force of the ancient world, and Alexander had his father's generals to rely on. Nevertheless, Alexander's military instincts were near genius, as his subsequent series of astounding victories against enormous Persian armies showed. Macedonia was a very poor nation, and Alexander crossed the Hellespont with only about 40,000 Greek and Macedonian soldiers. With this, he conquered an empire of around forty million people, the largest and wealthiest in the ancient world.

Alexander's conquest of Persia is a fascinating story, but it boils down to several large-scale battles, each wherein the Macedonian forces prevailed over a vastly larger Persian host. The four great battles of Alexander's Persian conquest were *Granicus*, *Issus*, *Guagamela*, and *Hydaspes*, which won him the Near East, Syria, Media, and Hindustan respectively. The entire conquest took only seven years and was completed before Alexander's 30th birthday. His very youth, not another conqueror caused his downfall into dissipation. Only a few years after returning from his farthest campaign in India, he succumbed to an illness undoubtedly brought on by excessive drink.



Death of Alexander

Alexander's conquests were enormously important both politically and culturally. After his death, there was neither any legitimate heir to inherit his empire, nor was there a single general strong enough to hold it together. The empire was therefore divided, after the twenty-year Wars of the Diadochi, between four of his generals. The main divisions early in the wars were Ptolemy I in Egypt, Seleucus in the Far East, Antigonos I in the Near East, and Antipater in Macedonia and Greece, but in the final settlement, Antipater's descendants lost their kingdom to those of Antigonos. The kingdoms were all of the traditional despotic variety with no pretense of self-rule or democratic government.

The cultural effects of Alexander's conquests were, therefore, much more striking and significant than his political legacy. Alexander, who had grown up with Aristotle as a tutor, believed that Greek culture was superior to any other, and did all he could to spread Greek language and learning throughout the regions he conquered. Both Alexander and his generals founded new cities based on the Greek model, with streets laid out in grids, market places, gymnasiums, theatres, council halls, and baths. Greek became the language of education and higher learning. Most of the major cities maintained libraries and schools. Many of the towns founded by the Macedonians were never more than military camps and didn't take root, especially in the far east. Nevertheless, in the regions around the Mediterranean, Greek culture became completely dominant and prevailed until the Moslem Conquests of the seventh century.

TIMELINE—HELLENISTIC AGE

Year BC	Event
338	Macedonia, under Philip II conquers Greece at the <i>Battle of Chaeronea</i> .
336-323	Reign of Alexander the Great as king of Macedonia and conqueror of Persia.
335	Alexander destroys Thebes.
334	Alexander invades Persia. <i>Battle of the Granicus</i> conquers Asia Minor.
333	Alexander cuts Gordian Knot; Victory at <i>Battle of Issus</i> conquers Syria.
332	<i>Siege of Tyre</i> ends in victory; Egypt opens its doors to Alexander.
331	Alexander meets Darius III in <i>Battle of Arbela</i> —conquers all of Persia.
327	Alexander invades central Asia; conquers India at the <i>Battle of Hydaspes</i> .
323	Death of Alexander, and the division of his Empire.
322	Death of Demosthenes the orator.
302	Division of Alexander's empire is settled at the <i>Battle of Ipsus</i> .
280	The Achaean League of city-states on the Peloponnese instituted.
280	Pyrrhus , King of Epirus defeats the Romans at the <i>Battle of Heraclea</i> .
183	Achaean League under Philopoemen defeats the tyrant of Sparta.
168	Romans conquer Macedonia at the <i>Battle of Pydna</i> .
146	Achaean League resists Rome and is defeated. Romans destroy Corinth.

WARS—HELLENISTIC AGE

Years BC	War	Outcome
338–331	Lucian War	Greek colonies in southern Italy resist the Italic Lucians
338–322	Macedonian Wars	Alexander the Great's wars of Conquest
321–280	Wars of the Diadochi	Wars of Alexander's successors for control of Macedonian Empire
282–275	Pyrrhic Wars in Italy	The Greek colonies in southern Italy resist Roman domination.
244–198	Syrian Wars	Wars for Control of Syria between Seleucid and Ptolemy Empires.
226–146	Wars of Achaean League	Last independent coalition of Greeks fights Macedonia and Rome
198–168	Roman Macedonian Wars	Roman conquest of Greece and Macedonia

CHARACTERS—HELLENISTIC AGE

Character	Date BC	Short Biography
Darius III	died 330	Last king of Persia, overthrown by Alexander the Great.
Parmenio	410–330	Chief general of both Philip of Macedon and Alexander the Great.
Porus	fl. 325	Proud King of India, defeated by Alexander, then restored as Satrap.
Alexander the Great	356–323	Greatest general of ancient times. Conquered Persian Empire with 40,000 soldiers.
Demosthenes	385–322	Great Orator of Athens. Spoke against Philip and the Macedonians.
Aristotle	384–322	Renowned scientist and philosopher. Cataloged all types of knowledge. Tutor to Alexander the Great.
Perdiccas	died 321	Took over the empire of Alexander at his death, but couldn't keep it.
Antipater	died 319	Trusted General of Philip II. Ruled Macedonia during Alexander's conquests.
Olympias	died 316	Wife of Philip II, Alexander's mother. Quarreled with Antipater.
Eumenes	361–316	Enemy of Antigonius, allied with Perdiccas; ruled Asia Minor.
Antigonius I	382–301	Allied with Antipater and Ptolemy I in early Diadochi Wars. Won control of Asia Minor and Syria.
Cassander	358–297	Son of Antipater. Gained control of Macedonia from Polyperchon.
Demetrius	337–284	Son of Antigonius, active in the wars of the Diadochi.
Ptolemy I	died 283	General of Alexander, founded Ptolemaic Dynasty in Italy.
Lysimachus	355–281	Bodyguard of Alexander. Took control of Thrace on his death.
Cineas	fl. 280	Minister of Thessaly; friend and advisor of Pyrrhus of Epirus.
Seleucus	died 280	Alexander's general. Founded Seleucid Dynasty, in Syria and Persia.
Pyrrhus	318–272	Renowned general, won victories in Macedon, Italy, and Greece, but failed to follow up wins with a long-term reign.
Agis IV	died 241	King who tried to reform Sparta and return to laws of Lycurgus.
Antigonius II	320–239	Son of Demetrius. After many battles, ended with control of Macedon and established Antigonid Dynasty.
Cleomenes III	236–220	Successfully implemented many reforms in Sparta, but was resisted by Achaean League.
Aratus	died 213	Led Achaean League; First resisted Macedonia, then forced an alliance to defeat Sparta.
Philopoemen	252–182	Led the Achaean League. Tried to unite Greeks, shortly before Greece fell to Rome.
Antiochus III	241–187	King of Syria who warred with Rome in Thrace and Asia Minor.
Judas Maccabee	died 160	Lead a Jewish rebellion during the reign of Antiochus V.

RECOMMENDED READINGS—HELLENISTIC AGE

Book Title	chaps	Selected Chapters
Famous Men of Greece by Haaren	7	<u>Alexander the Great</u> to <u>Fall of Greece</u>
Story of Greece by Macgregor	13	<u>Alexander & Bucephalus</u> to <u>Demosthenes</u>
Story of the Greek People by Tappan	1	<u>Alexander the Great</u>
Story of the Greeks by Guerber	25	<u>Birth of Alexander</u> to <u>A Roman Province</u>
Historical Tales - Greek by Morris	5	<u>Alexander</u> to <u>Death-Struggle of Greece</u>
Children's Plutarch: Greeks by Gould	9	<u>Orator</u> to <u>Last of the Greeks</u>
Old World Hero Stories by Tappan	2	<u>Demosthenes</u> to <u>Alexander the Great</u>
Young Folks Plutarch by Kaufman	9	<u>Demosthenes</u> to <u>Philopoemen</u>
Greek Gods and Heroes by Harding	1	<u>Alexander the Great</u>
Plutarch's Lives by Weston	2	<u>Alexander the Great</u> to <u>Philopoemen</u>
The Hammer by Church		<i>all</i>
Young Macedonian by Church		<i>all</i>
Alexander the Great by Abbott		<i>all</i>
Pyrrhus by Abbott		<i>all</i>

THE GRECO-ROMAN ERA—146 B.C. TO 415 A.D.

FALL OF MAINLAND GREECE — DECLINE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

The first contact between Roman and Greco-Macedonian powers occurred during the Pyrrhic Wars in 291 B.C., when the Greek city-states in southern Italy invited Pyrrhus, king of Epirus and the greatest general of his age, to help them resist Rome. Rome eventually overcame Pyrrhus and absorbed the Greek cities into its growing empire. It was not until the second Punic Wars that Hannibal made an alliance with Macedonia, and a Roman army was sent into Macedonian territory.

Three Roman-Macedonian Wars followed, with Rome increasing its influence over Macedonia each time. The first occurred during the second Punic War (214-205 B.C.), and the last, fought in 168 B.C., resulted in the complete overthrow of Macedonian rule over mainland Greece. About this time, several of the city-states on mainland Greece formed the Achaean league and fought a series of wars to defend their interests against Sparta, Macedonia, and Rome. In 146 B.C., because of an uprising led by the Achaean league, a Roman army invaded Greece and destroyed the city of Corinth. After this, mainland Greece was ruled as a province of the Roman Empire.

The Greek influence on Roman culture was tremendous. Even before the Roman conquest of Greece, Greek scholars and teachers were influential in Rome, since Greek was the language of learning throughout the Mediterranean. The Roman religion, art, philosophy, literature, and even grammar were heavily influenced by Greek culture. Educated Greek slaves were very expensive and sought after by aristocratic Roman families as teachers for their children. But just as in classical Greece, where there was tension and distrust between stoic Sparta and cultured Athens, the Greek influence was resisted by stoic Romans such as Cato the Censor, who feared its decadent influence.

Eventually Rome conquered most of the territory that was once part of Alexander's Hellenistic empire, but Greek was so entrenched that it remained the language of trade and



A Corinthian nobleman being sold as a slave in the marketplace.

learning in the eastern Mediterranean long after Rome's political domination of the area. It was only in the western part of the Empire, Italy, Gaul, and Britain, where Latin became the predominant language. The Greek centers of learning in the east, including Athens, Alexandria, Rhodes, Ephesus, Tarsus, and Perganum, continued to prosper under the *Pax Romana* and produced many of the greatest scholars of Roman times in literature, medicine, geography, astronomy, philosophy, and many others. Among them were Archimedes, one of the greatest scientists of ancient times; Plutarch, the great biographer; Eratosthenes, who correctly measured the size of the earth; Galen, who made great advances in medicine; and Hypatia, a female philosopher and teacher. In addition, Christianity thrived in the eastern empire and produced many of the most important early saints and missionaries of the time.

CHARACTERS—GRECO-ROMAN

Character	Date	Short Biography
Euclid	340–300 BC	Eminent mathematician, who wrote <i>Elements of Geometry</i> .
Archimedes	287–212 BC	Eminent scientist and inventor. Held off Roman siege of Syracuse with clever defenses.
Eratosthenes	275–192 BC	Early Greek scientist from Alexandria who correctly predicted the precise size of the earth in 200 BC.
Polybius	203–120 BC	Greek hostage from Macedonian; historian of Punic Wars.
Strabo	64 BC–24 AD	Greek Geographer and philosopher. Wrote a 17 volume geographic history of the world.
Plutarch	46–122 AD	Most outstanding moralist and biographer of ancient times. Wrote <i>Lives of Greeks and Romans</i> .
Ptolemy	90–168 AD	Greatest map-maker of Roman times. Renowned expert in Astronomy and Geography.
Galen	129–199 AD	Renowned physician and philosopher whose works on the human body were studied until the 17th century.
Hypatia	380–415 AD	Philosopher and teacher who lived in Alexandria. Murdered by a mob.

RECOMMENDED READINGS—GRECO-ROMAN

Book Title	chaps	Selected Chapters
Historical Tales - Greek by Morris	2	<u>Zenobia and Longinus</u> to <u>Literary Glory</u>
Story of the Romans by Guerber	1	<u>Inventor Archimedes</u>
Stories of the Ancient Greeks by Shaw	1	<u>The Great Mechanic</u>

HISTORICAL AND OUTLINE MAPS

MAINLAND GREECE

Mainland Greece, during Ancient times, encompassed the southernmost portion of the Balkan Peninsula. The Peloponnesian Peninsula, dominated by Sparta, was the primary home of the Dorian Greeks. The region surrounding Athens, on the opposite side of the strait of Corinth, was the primary home of the Ionian Greeks. Many of the Greek cities throughout the Mediterranean were colonies, with ties to their Greek homeland.

GEOGRAPHY TERMS

City States:

Sparta:	Military leaders of Greece, warrior citizens
Athens:	Birthplace of Democracy, Cultural center of Greece.
Thebes:	Home of Hercules, Oedipus.
Olympia:	Site of Olympics Games.
Delphi:	Famous for Temple of Apollo, Oracle of Delphi
Corinth:	Commercial center, located on isthmus of Peloponnese.

Regions:

Lacedaemonia:	Region surrounding Sparta
Attica:	Region surrounding Athens
Bocotia:	Region surrounding Thebes and Plataea.
Peloponnesus:	Peninsula in Southwest Greece, Spartan Domain

Battle Sites:

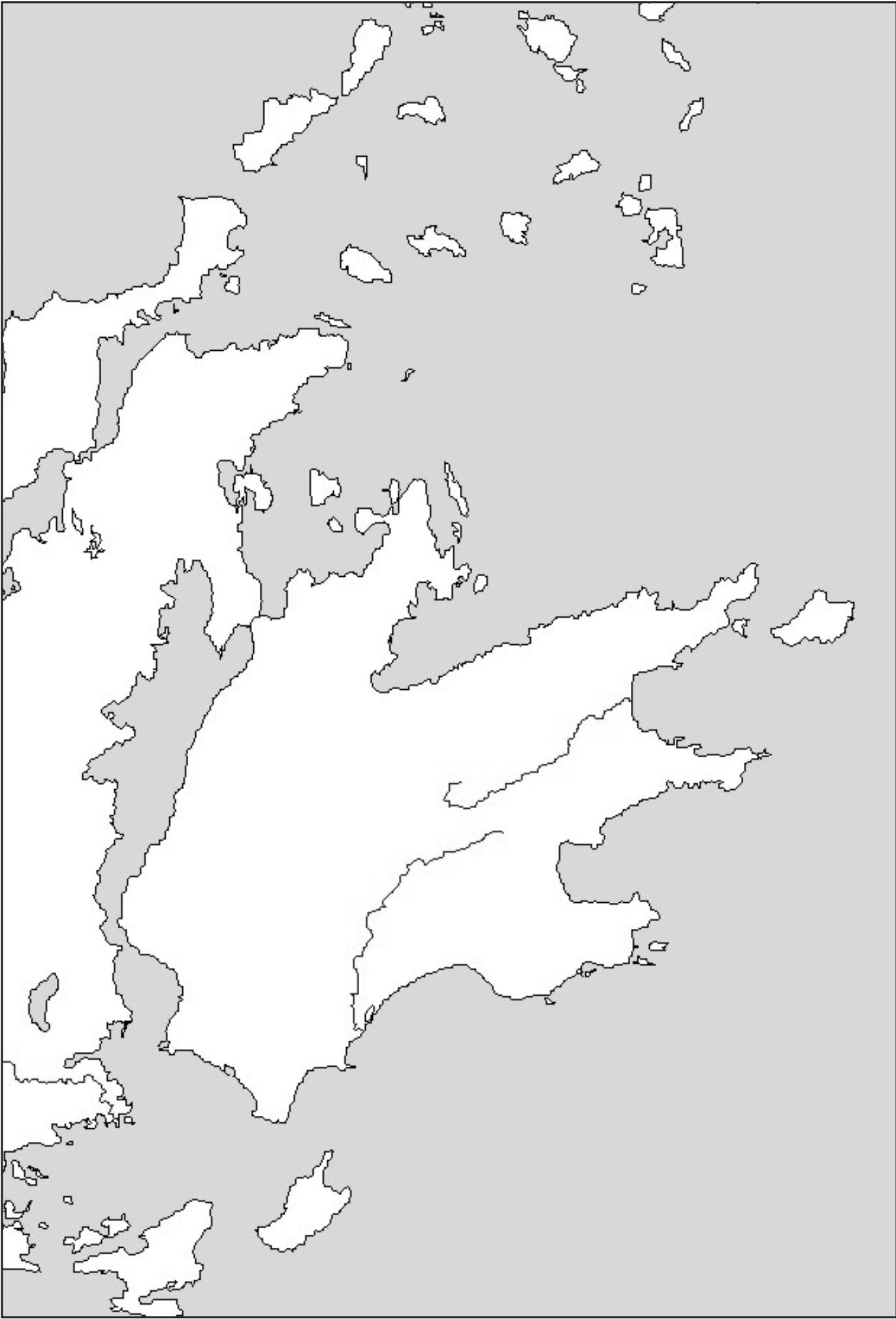
Marathon:	490 B.C. Athens and Plataeans repel Persians
Salamis:	480 B.C. Naval Battle Site off an Island near Athens
Plataea:	479 B.C. Greeks drive Persians out of Greece.

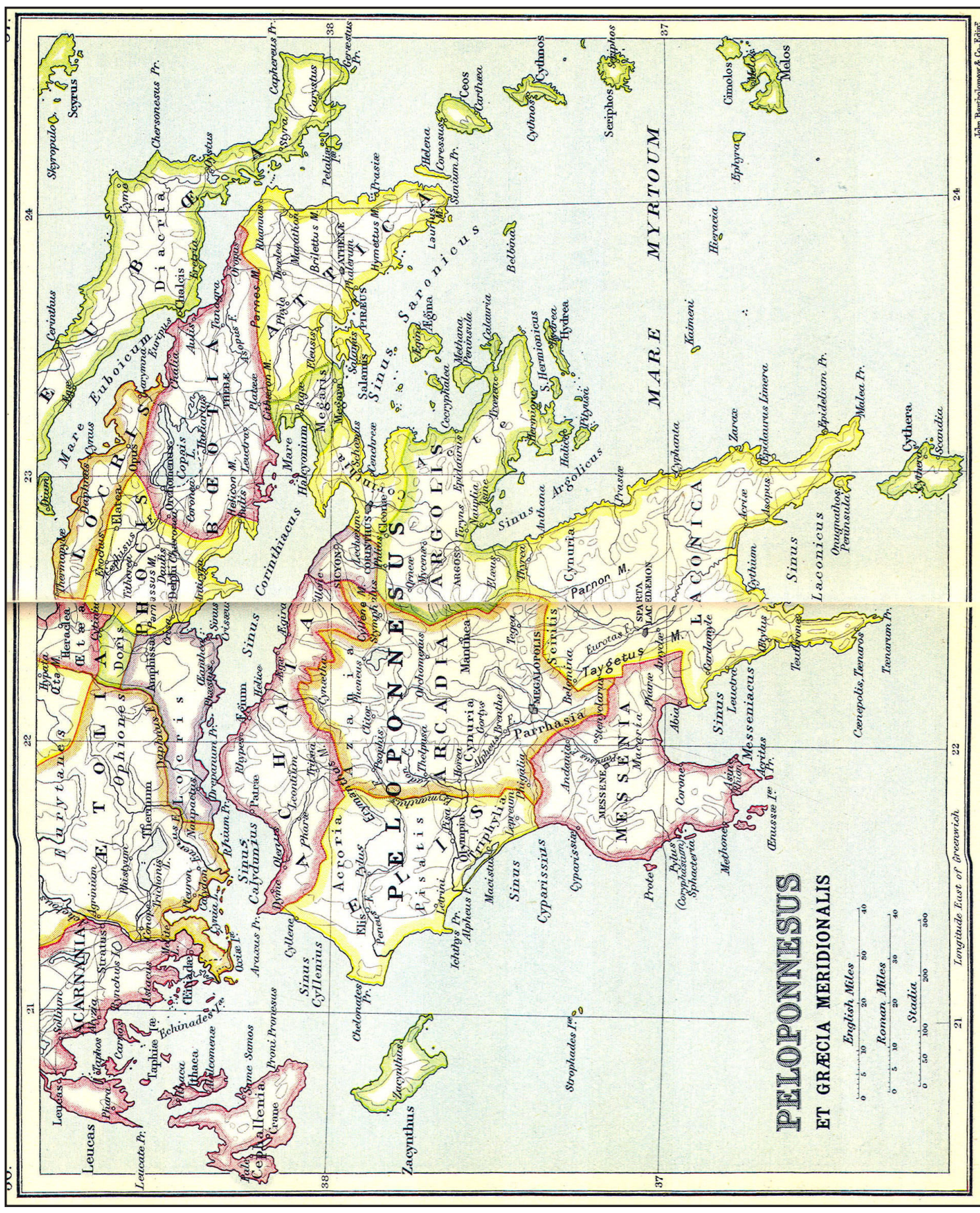
Landforms:

Mount Parnassus:	Mountain Location of the Oracle at Delphi
Gulf of Corinth:	Gulf separating Peloponnese from northern Greece.

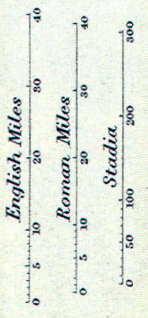
Maps:

Outline Map
Peloponnesian Peninsula





**PELOPONNESUS
ET GRÆCIA MERIDIONALIS**



Longitude East of Greenwich.

ANCIENT GREECE AND ASIA MINOR

The Greeks were a Sea-faring race and they settled colonies throughout the Mediterranean, but especially among the islands of the Aegean Sea and on the western shores of Asia Minor. The previously identified cities and landforms can be found on this larger map of Ancient Greece, along with the following—

Cities:

Halicarnassus:	Greek city on coast of Asia Minor. Birth-place of Herodotus.
Byzantium:	Ancient Name of Constantinople.
Sardis:	City in Asia Minor, capital of Ancient Lydia.
Ephesus:	Greek city on the West Coast of Asia Minor.
Miletus:	Wealthy Greek city on the West coast of Asia Minor.

Regions, Islands:

Macedonia:	North of the Greek Peninsula, home of Alexander the Great.
Thessaly:	Northeast region of mainland Greece.
Asia Minor:	Region settled by Greeks, present day Turkey
Rhodes:	Island south of Asia Minor
Delos:	Island east of Athens, Home of Delian League

Battle Sites:

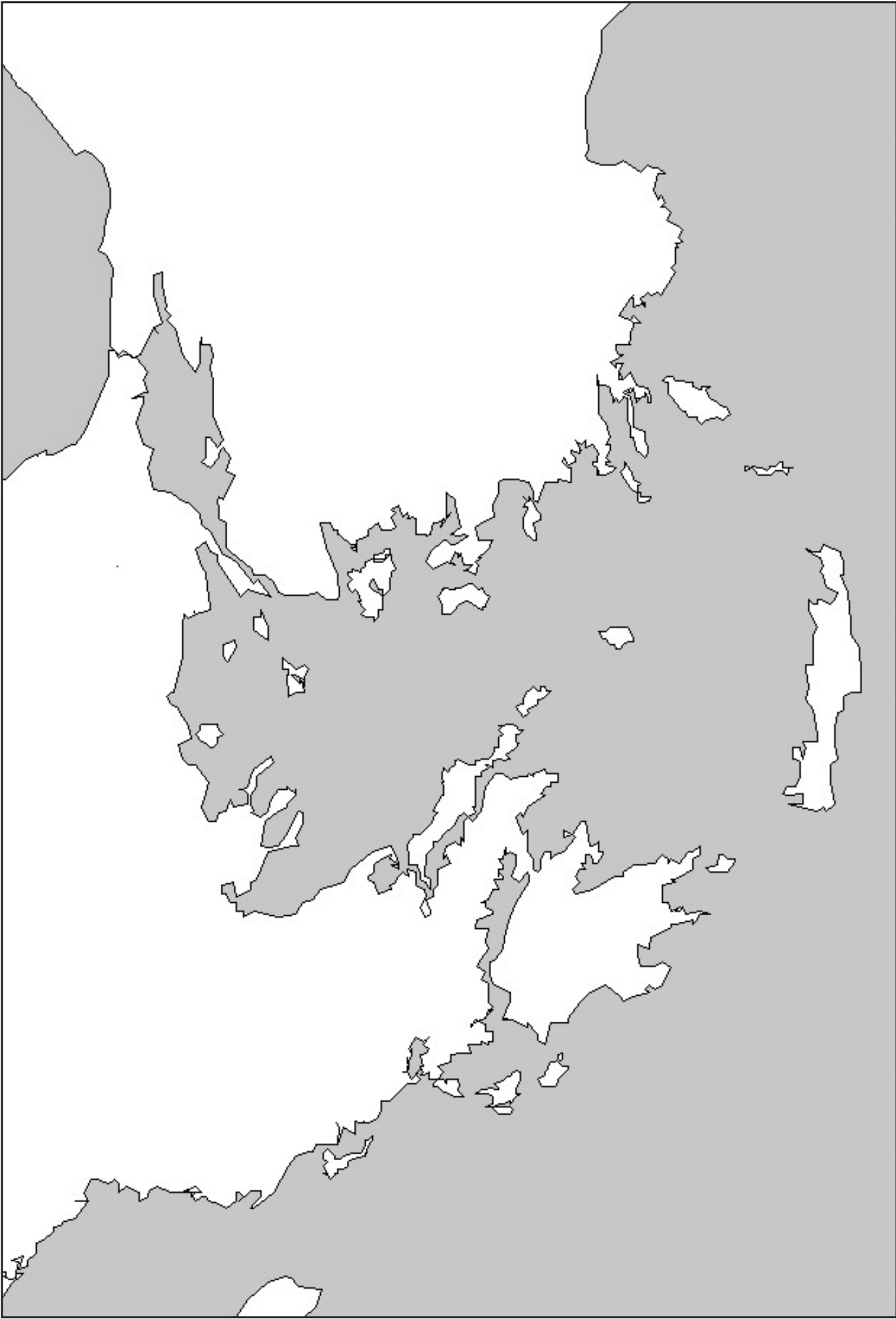
Thermopylae:	480 B.C. 300 Spartans hold off hundred thousand Persians
Troy:	1000 B.C. Epic Siege recorded by Homer, near Dardanelles.
Amphipolis:	422 B.C. City in Thrace, site of battle in the Peloponnesian War.

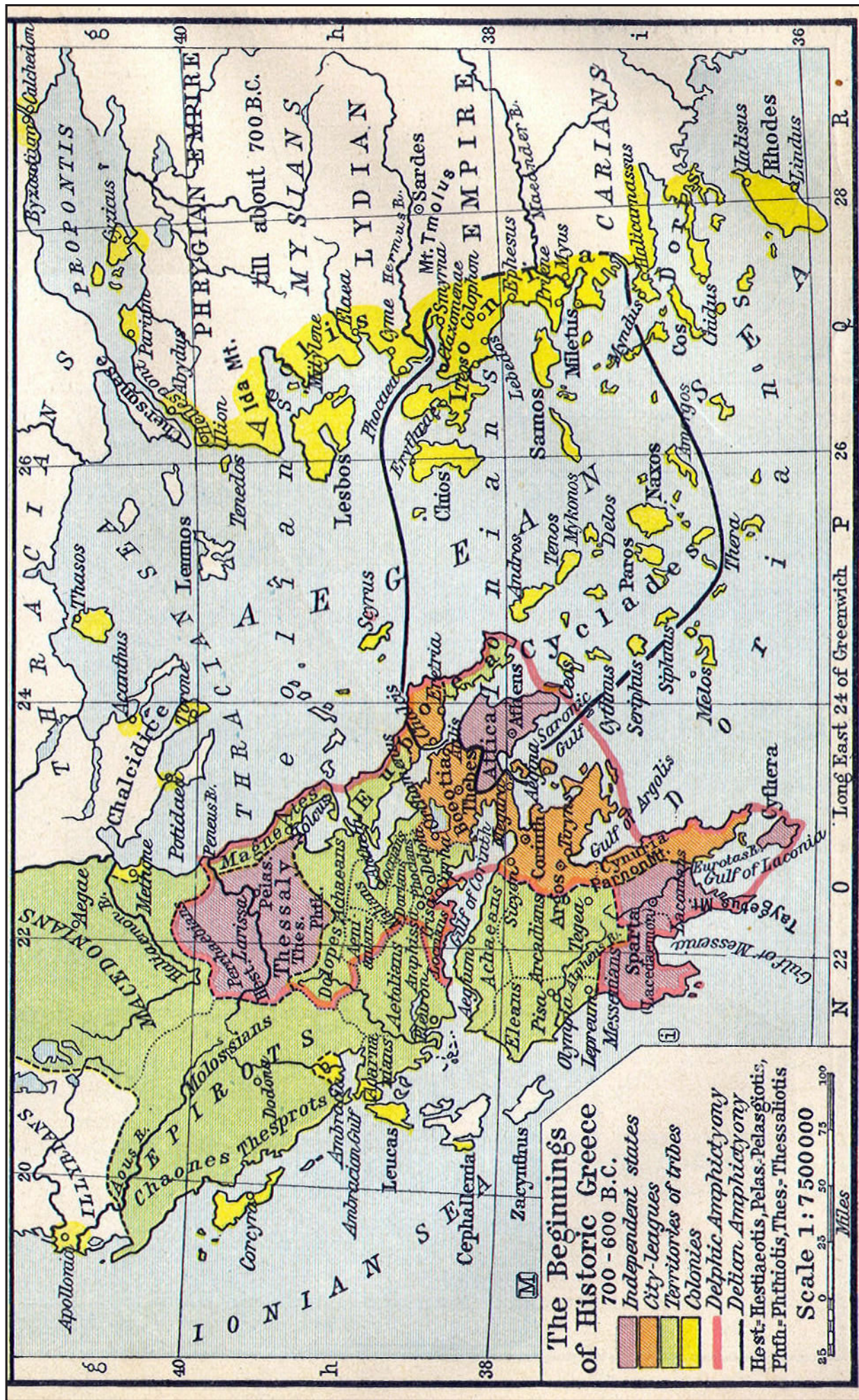
Landforms, Water Bodies:

Mount Olympus:	Home of the Olympian—Zeus, Hera, and the Greek Gods.
Aegean Sea:	Sea between Greece and Asia Minor.
Hellespont:	Channel separating Europe from Asia Minor, a.k.a Dardanelles.
Propontis:	Water body linking Aegean and Black Seas, a.k.a. Marmara.

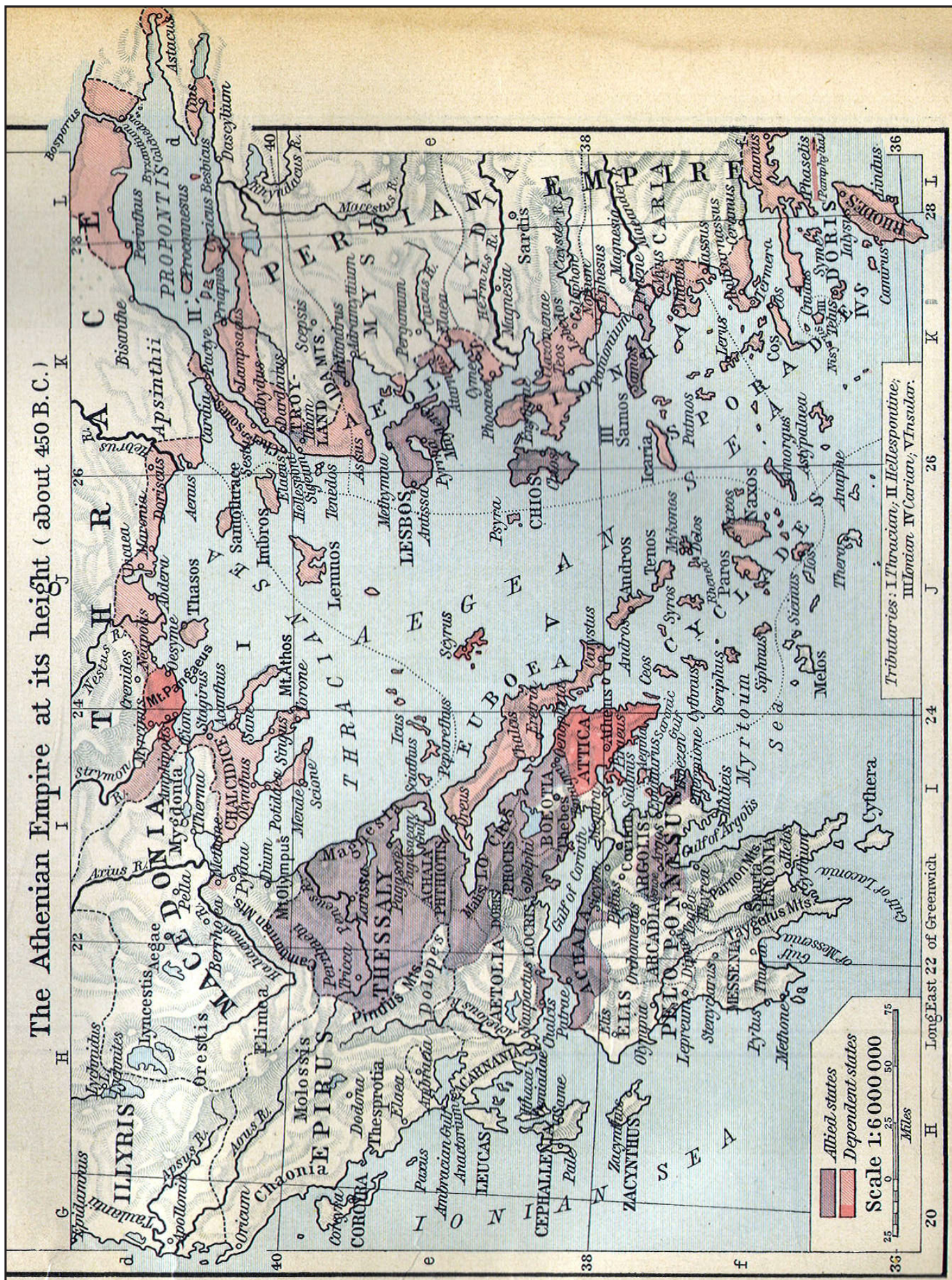
Maps:

Outline Map
Greek City States and colonies—600 B. C.
Empire of Athens—450 B. C.





The Athenian Empire at its height (about 450 B.C.)



EASTERN EMPIRES

The Eastern Kingdoms were the most important neighbors of Greece, before, during, and after the period of the Persian Empire. Under Alexander, all of Persia came under Greek influence, which lasting until the Moslem conquests in the 7th century A. D.

GEOGRAPHY TERMS

Cities:

Damascus:	Capital of Syria.
Babylon:	Capital of Babylonian Empire. Famous for hanging Gardens.
Memphis:	Capital of Ancient Egypt.
Ecbatana:	Capital of Ancient Medes.
Persepolis	Capital of Ancient Persia.

Regions:

Lydia:	Wealthy kingdom in Asia Minor, governed by Croesus.
Mesopotamia:	Fertile, populated land between Euphrates and Tigris rivers.
Babylonia:	Wealth Empire, eventually overrun by Persians.
Medes:	Empire composing area of Ancient Iran. Conquered by Persia.

Battle Sites:

Tyre:	332 B.C. Wealthy Phoenician trading city on coast of Syria.
Issus:	333 B.C. Alexander's battle against Darius in Southern Turkey
Gaugamela:	331 B.C. Alexander's final battle in Northern Mesopotamia
Ipsus:	301 B.C. Final Battle of the Diadochi. in Asia Minor.

Landforms, Water Bodies:

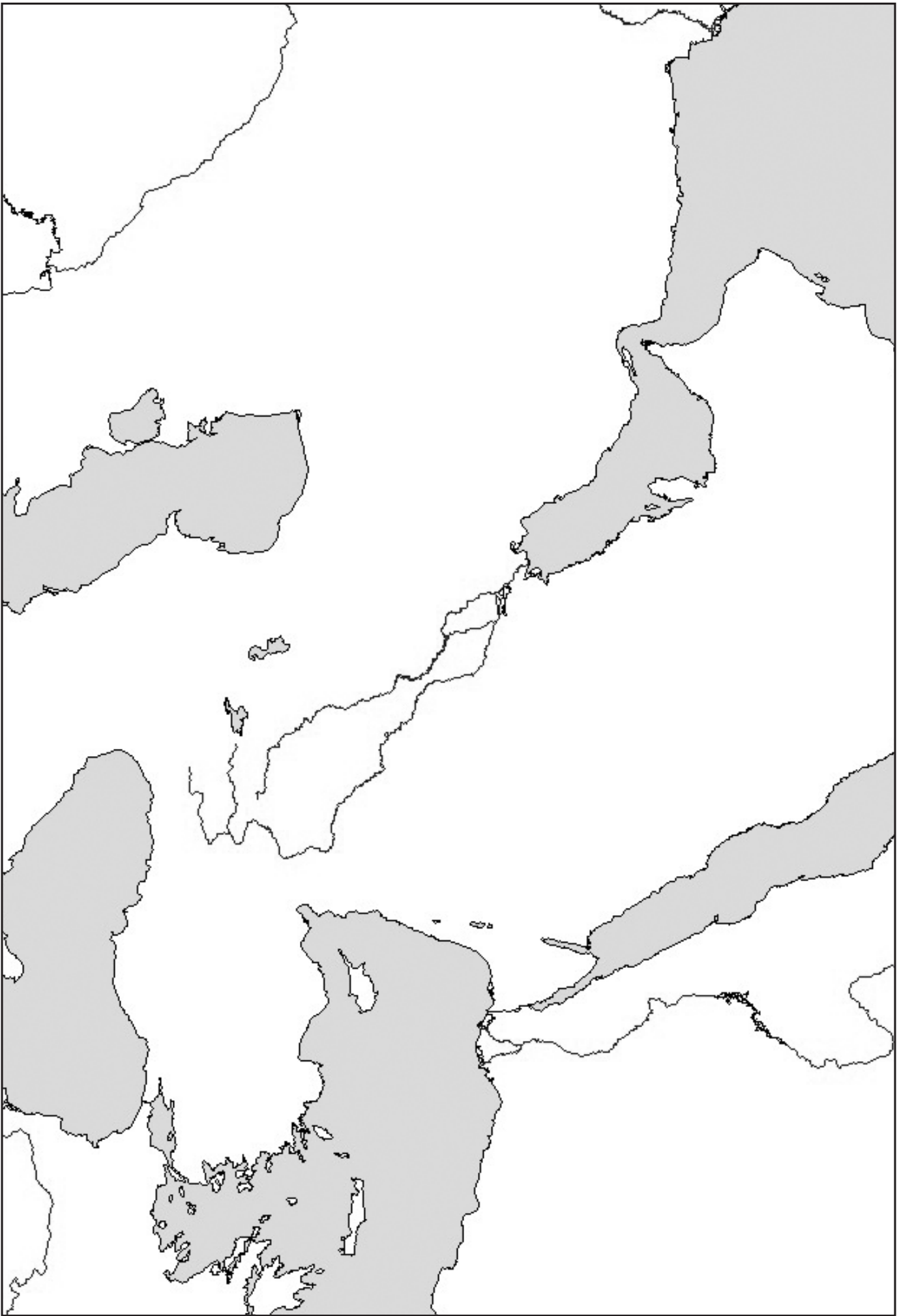
Euphrates, Tigris:	Rivers that border the rich region of the Mesopotamian valley.
Persian Gulf:	Gulf into which the Tigris and Euphrates rivers run..

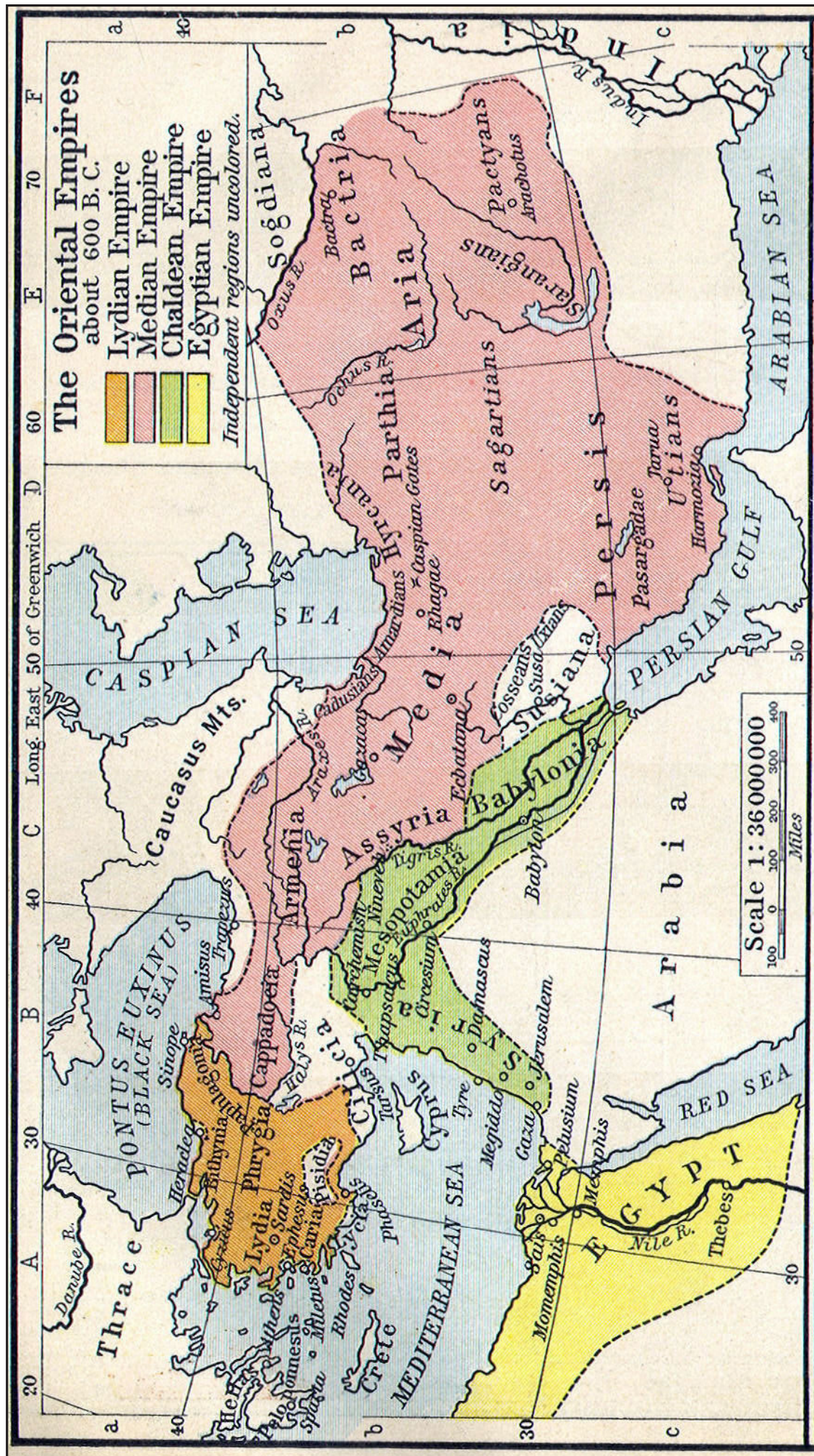
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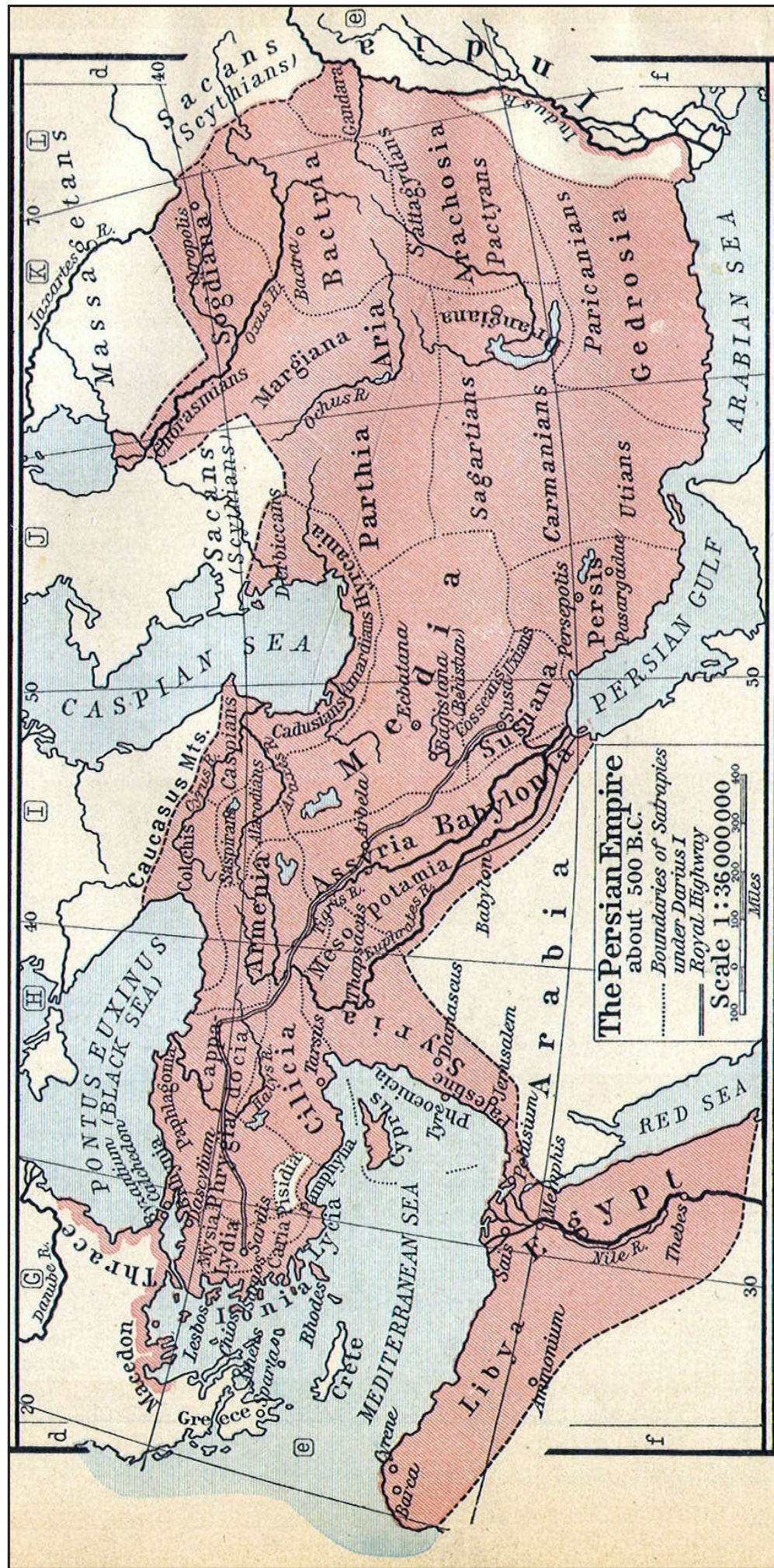
Persian:	550-330 B.C. Founded by Cyrus, conquered by Alexander.
Alexandrian:	333-323 B.C.. Vast empire comprising all of Greece and Persia.
Ptolemaic:	305-30 B.C. Empire in Egypt founded by Ptolemy I.
Seleucid:	312-63 B.C.. Empire carved from Alexander's Empire.
Antigonid:	294-168 B.C. Empire in Greece and Macedonia ruled.

Maps:

Outline Map
Eastern Empires—600 B.C.
Persian Empire—500 B.C.
Hellenistic Empires—300 B.C.







The Persian Empire

about 500 B.C.

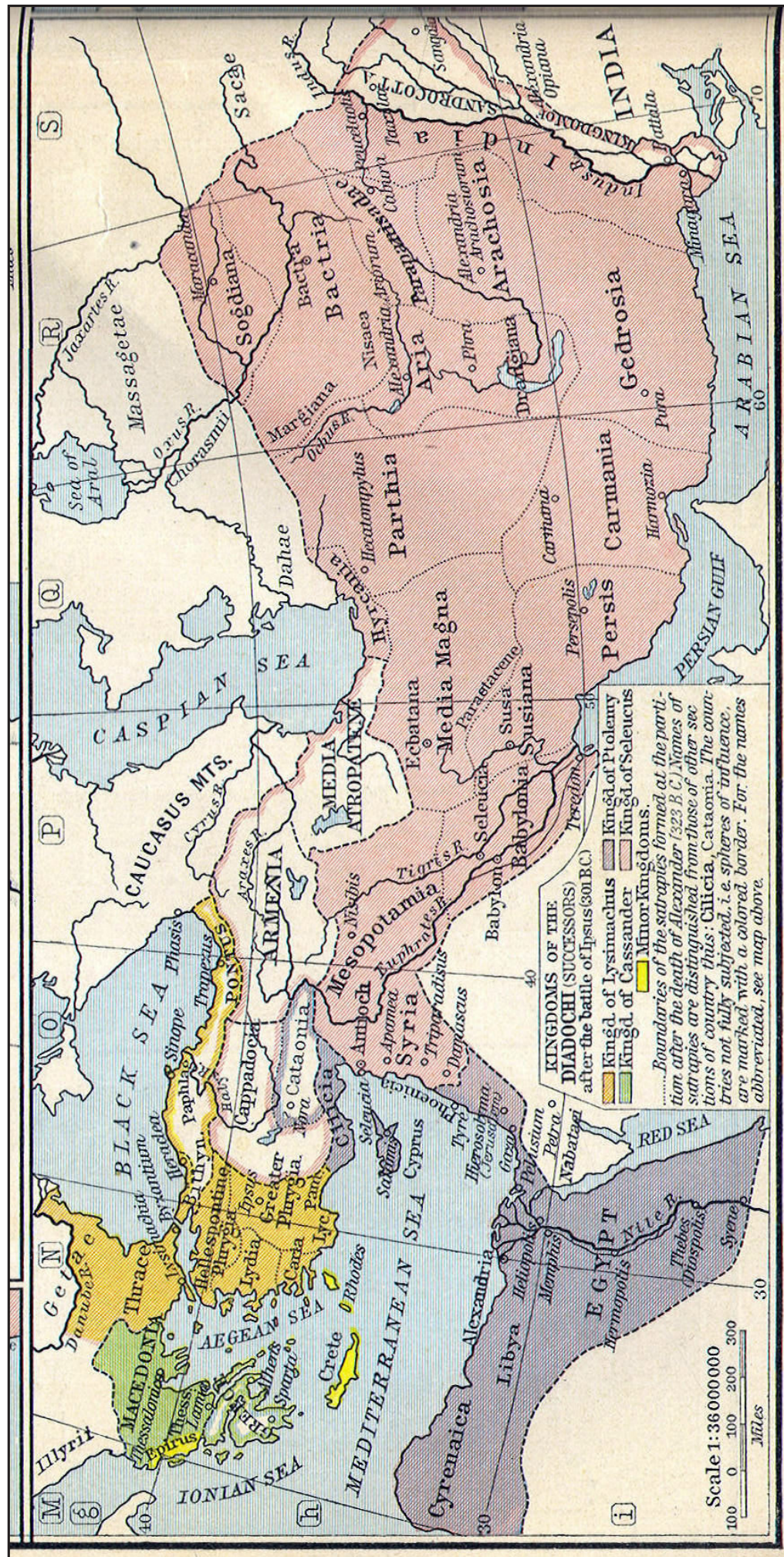
Boundaries of Satrapies

under Darius I

Royal Highway

Scale 1:36,000,000

Miles



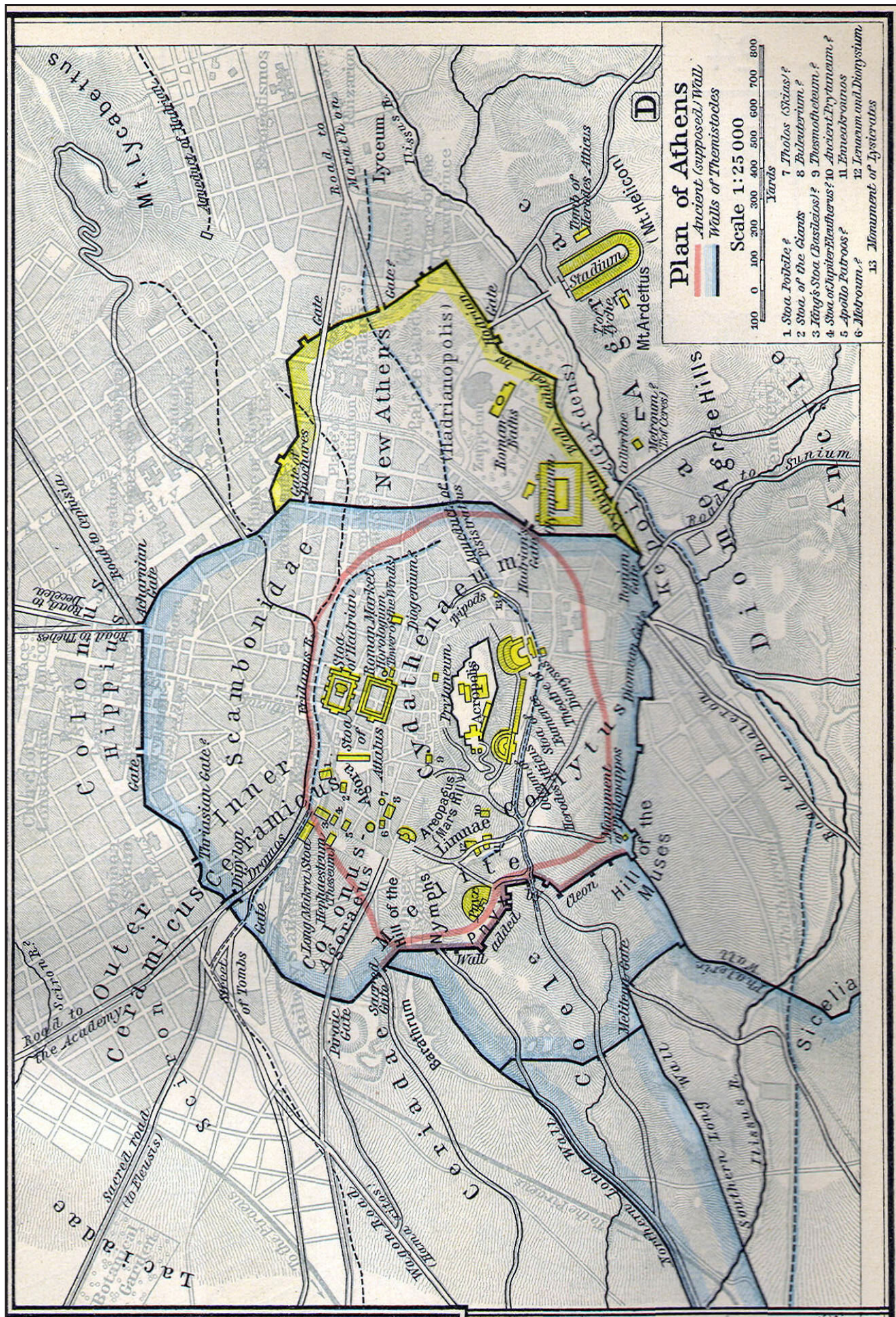
OTHER REGIONS

Maps:

City of Athens—450 B. C.

Athens and the Piraeus—450 B. C.

Greek Colonies in the Mediterranean—550 B. C.



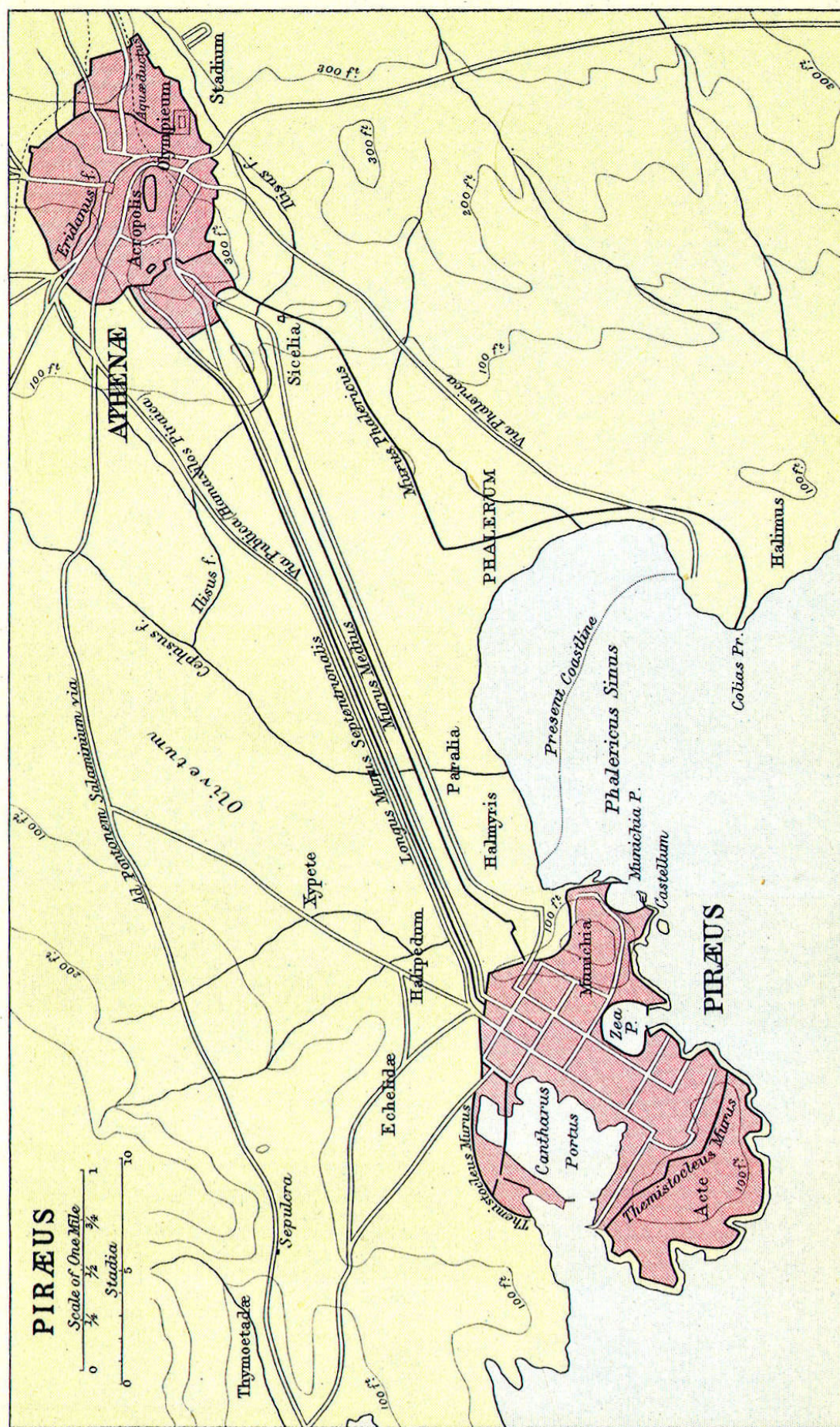
Plan of Athens

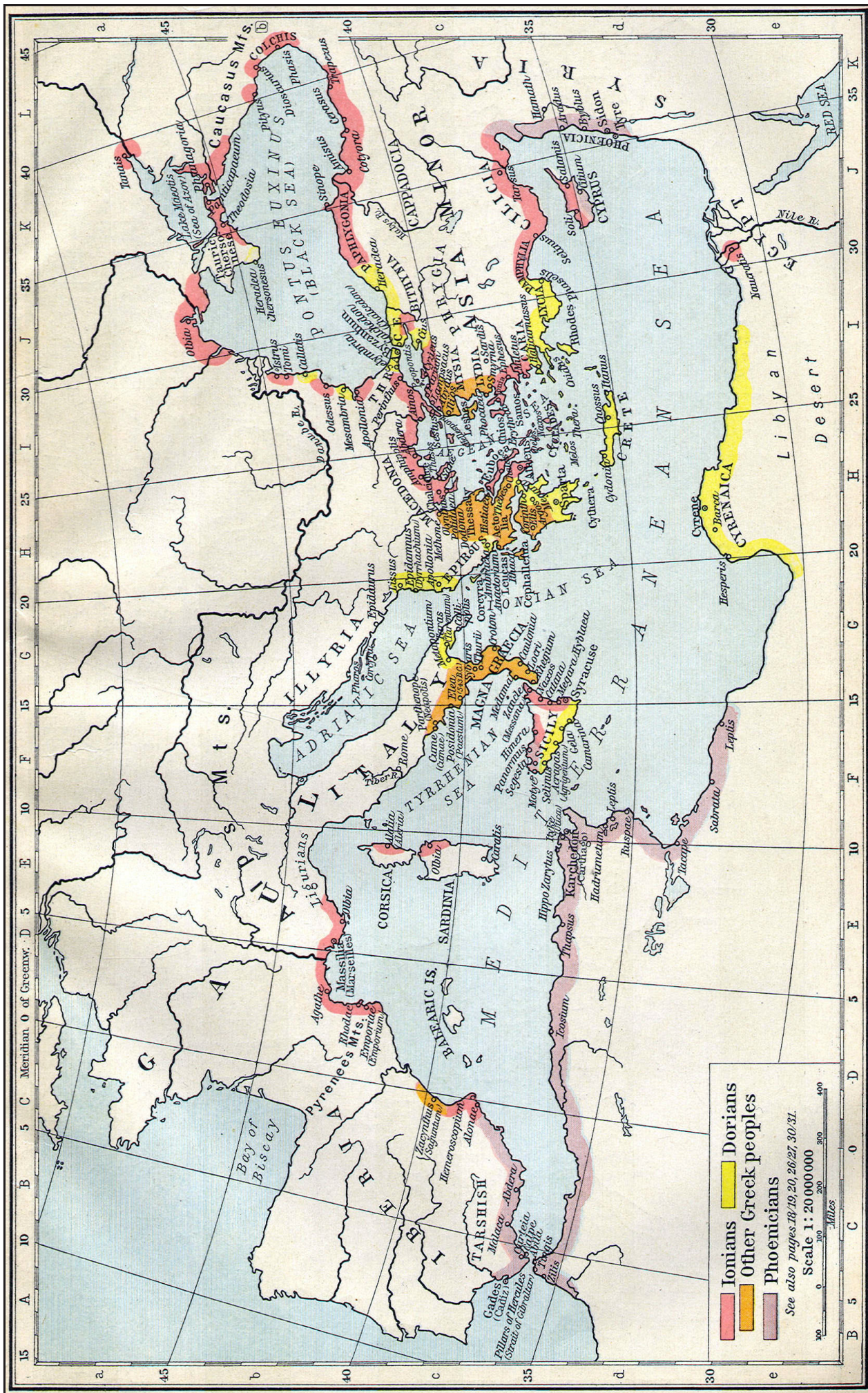
— Ancient (supposed) Wall
— Walls of Themistocles

Scale 1:25 000



- 1 Stoa Poikile
- 2 Stoa of the Giants
- 3 King's Stoa (Basilica)
- 4 Stoa of Jupiter-Eleutherus
- 5 Apollo Patroos
- 6 Metroon
- 7 Tholos (Stoa)
- 8 Balneum
- 9 Thesmophorium
- 10 Ancient Prytaneum
- 11 Enneakteon
- 12 Lenaeum and Dionysium
- 13 Monument of Lysicrates





ACCOUNTABILITY FORMS

The following pages may be reproduced to help keep track of students' weekly and quarterly history reading objectives.

Book Selection Register:

When a student selects a book to read he enters it in his Book Selection Register. When he completes the books he writes comments if desired. Each form registers up to five books.

Title: <i>Plutarch's Lives</i>	Category: <i>suggested</i>	Length: <i>90 pgs</i>
Author: <i>W. H. Weston</i>	Start: <i>11-10</i>	Finish: <i>11-19</i>
Comments: <i>Only read the chapters on Greeks: Aristides, Themistocles, Alexander, Timoleon, and Philopœmen.</i>		

Weekly Reading Register:

Each day that a student reads history, he should write down the number of minutes he spent reading, and the name of the book and author. The "length" of the book can be tracked either by recording printed pages, or in the case of e-books (which don't have fixed page numbers), by recording chapters. Students can make up to five entries per week using this form.

Date	Mon	Tues	Thu	Sat		Weekly Total
Time	<i>1:20</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>1:45</i>		<i>4:35</i>
Author/ Title	<i>Church Iliad</i>	<i>Church Iliad</i>	<i>Colum Golden Fleece</i>	<i>Colum Golden Fleece</i>		<i>Finished Iliad</i>
Length	<i>Ch 10- 19</i>	<i>Ch 20- 26</i>	<i>Ch 1-5</i>	<i>Ch 6-16</i>		<i>Iliad-16 Fleece-16</i>

Weekly Reading Long Form:

The Weekly Reading long form contains much of the same information as the Weekly Reading Register, but organized differently, with more room to write information about reading topics.

Instructors can also create their own forms to personalize tracking methods.

BOOK SELECTION REGISTER

Title:	Category:	Length:
Author:	Start:	Finish:
Comments:		

Title:	Category:	Pages:
Author:	Start:	Finish:
Comments:		

Title:	Category:	Pages:
Author:	Start:	Finish:
Comments:		

Title:	Category:	Pages:
Author:	Start:	Finish:
Comments:		

Title:	Category:	Pages:
Author:	Start:	Finish:
Comments:		

WEEKLY READING REGISTER

Date						Weekly Total
Time						
Author/ Title						
Length						

Date						Weekly Total
Time						
Author/ Title						
Length						

Date						Weekly Total
Time						
Author/ Title						
Length						

WEEKLY READING

Name: _____

Date : _____

Day	Minutes	What I Read
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

TOTAL _____

Comments
