In this section you will

1. Learn how people lived in ancient Sparta.
2. Discover some results of the Persian invasion of Greece.
3. Understand the conflicts that the Athenian empire faced.
Key Terms

Sparta

helots
Peloponnesian War

plague

blockade
Life in Sparta was harsh and cruel. 
Spartans were tough, silent, and grim. 
Sparta turned into a powerful war machine. 
Basic rule: always put the city’s needs above your own.
Spartans conquered the lands around their city and turned conquered people into helots (slaves owned by Spartans).

Helots did all the farm work, and left Spartans free to wage war.

Helots outnumbered the Spartans, so they feared a revolt and turned their city into an armed camp.
What type of people were the Spartans?
The Spartans were tough, silent, and grim.
Growing Up in Sparta

The life of every Spartan was in the hands of the government from birth.

Only the healthiest children were raised because they only wanted the healthiest people in their city.
Growing Up Male

Training began at 7, and continued for the next 13 years.
At 12:

- Boys practiced with swords and spears, had only one cloak and a thin mat to sleep on.
- Boys were given a little amount of food, they had to steal the rest (considered an ability for war). If he got caught stealing he would be punished.
- Boys were expected to bear pain, hardship, and punishment in silence.
At 20: a young man officially became a soldier until their 60th birthday.

At 30: a man was able to take his place in the assembly

Slaves were not considered citizens.
Girls also trained in wrestling and spear throwing, but weren’t expected to become soldiers.

Spartans believed that girls that grew up strong and healthy would have strong, healthy children.
Women were allowed to own land and take part in business.

They had to obey the males (fathers, husbands, or brothers).

Women had to run the farms or estates because men were constantly at war.
Spartan Attitudes

- Spartans were not allowed to travel.
- They looked down on the desire for wealth and trade.
- They lacked interest in the arts, but their warriors were known for their skill and bravery.
What was the Spartan attitude about trade?

The Spartans were not interested in wealth and looked down on people who were involved in trade.
The Persians Invade
The Expanding Persian Empire

Cyrus the Great had founded the Persian Empire in the mid-500s B.C.

By 520 B.C., they had gained control of the Greek colonies on the west coast of Asia Minor.
Battle at Marathon

Persian soldiers gathered at Marathon outnumbering the Athenians at least 2 to 1.

For several days the armies stared at each other intensely across the plain.

Without warning, the Athenians rushed the Persians.
At the end of the battle, 6,400 Persians and 192 Athenians were killed.

In a short time, this tiny state had defeated the giant that had come to destroy it.
What happened during the battle at Marathon?

At Marathon, the small Athenian army defeated the Persian army that outnumbered them 2 to 1.
More battles with Persia followed.

Persia distracted the Greek city-states from fighting one another.

United, they drove away the Persians.

Greeks believed that their gods had favored them and had influenced the outcome of the wars.
Athens emerged as the most powerful city-state in Greece.

Athens joined other city-states in the Delian League (named after Delos, where the Treasury was kept).

In time, these cities were treated more like subjects of Athens and less like allies, Athens used the league to create its own empire.
Why did the Greeks believe they had won their wars with Persia?

They believed that the gods had favored them.
Athens moved the treasury from Delos to Athens and used the money to build the Parthenon and finance other projects.
The Peloponnesian War

People from the city-states began to resent and fear Athenian power; they looked to Sparta (who didn’t join the alliance) to protect them.

Sparta formed the Peloponnesian League (named after the southern Greek peninsula, Peloponnesus, were Sparta was located).
In 431 B.C. Sparta fought against Athens and its allies in the Peloponnesian War for 27 years.

Athens: had a great navy and more wealth, but its geography was a great disadvantage.

Sparta: located inland (couldn’t be attacked from the sea), they had only to march north to attack Athens by land.
The Fall of Athens
When Sparta invaded Athens, Pericles let the people from the countryside to move inside the city walls, which led to a plague.

By the time the plague ended, one third of Athenian population had died from it, including Pericles.

Power struggles to take Pericles’ place also mined the city’s government.
Sparta allied itself to Persia to have the advantage of their navy.

In 405 B.C., Spartans staged a blockade.

They surrounded the harbor were Athenians received food shipments.

Athenians surrendered, starving and beaten.

Spartans knocked down the walls of Athens, destroyed its navy and decimated its empire.