Greece Week 2 May 4-8

This week we will continue with the events on the timeline leading to the development of Greece as a nation. The first section deals with a few details about population dynamics and a few terms and points of interest.

Greece’s early history is also marked by a number of conflicts and we will learn about some of that history in the next few days.

Look on the school’s website for the second part of the chapter on Greece. I will also attempt to upload a couple of slideshows for you, given that there is a lot of detail covered here. If we were doing this in class I would go over them quickly with you before distributing the assignment.

Greece – Rise of the City State and Colonization (pgs. 139-140)

Questions

1. Name the two main areas of settlement and the major cities in each.
2. Define: polis, apoika, triremes
3. The growing population put a strain on what?
4. What became necessary to help solve this strain?
5. What important developments occurred during colonization?
6. An ongoing gaming tradition had its start during these times. What was it and when did they begin?
7. What was the intention in Homer’s literary works?

The Persian Wars

**Recommended viewing:**

As mentioned before, we are into a history that has been somewhat popularized by various media over a long period of time. There are lots of mini-documentaries on YouTube and also some lengthy ones.

If you have ever seen the movie “300” you will have some familiarity with the events covered by the following sets of questions. The Battle of Thermopylae was a key event in the conflict and the subject of the movie. The movie shows a fair amount of creative license but it is loosely based on the history. I think we can disregard the existence of some of the more exotic elements of the Persian Army (monsters etc.) shown in the film. There is also a documentary called “300 Spartans” that is a little more scholarly.

**Persian Wars (#1) – pages 140 – 142**

1. Who did the Greeks face a threat of invasion from at the beginning of the fifth century? What was the name of their King?
2. Why were they so ill prepared to defend themselves?
3. What happened in 546 BCE?
4. Which city-state led the other Ionian city-states in a revolt against the Persian rule? What sparked this revolt?
5. What did the Persians do in reaction to this revolt? Where did they advance to next?
6. Where is Marathon located?
7. Who was the new king and what was he determined to do?
8. Who is Miltiades. Where did he set up camp? Why?
9. Who is Pheidippides? What news did he bring back from the Spartans? What did he make popular?
10. Why was the Athenian decision to attack a risky one? What did they do as part of their battle strategy?
11. What was the result of the Athenian strategy?
12. What did the Persians hope to find at Athens? What were they forced to do?

**Persian Wars (#2) – pages 142 – 144**

1. Who is Themistocles? What did he develop and why?
2. What did the Greek states do in 481 BCE? Why was this significant?
3. Who is Xerxes? What did he do in 480 BCE?
4. What were the strengths of Xerxes’ army? (2)
5. What position did the Greeks choose? Where?
6. Who is Leonidas? What was his contribution to the Greek defense?
7. What did the Greek traitor do? What was the result of the battle of Thermopylae?
8. What was the result because of the Greek defeat at Thermopylae? Where did people flee?
9. Where did Themistocles place his Athenian fleet? Why?
10. Themistocles sent false information to whom? What was the message?
11. What happened to the Persian fleet in the battle of Salamis?
12. Where did the Persians fight their final battle with the Greeks?
13. What did one single Spartan unit do during this battle?
14. Where did the last action of the war happen? What happened?
15. What was the result?

**Next topics coming up are Classical Greece, Alexander the Great and the forms of Government in the Greek States. The rest of Chapter 6 is in the portion of the textbook provided this week.**