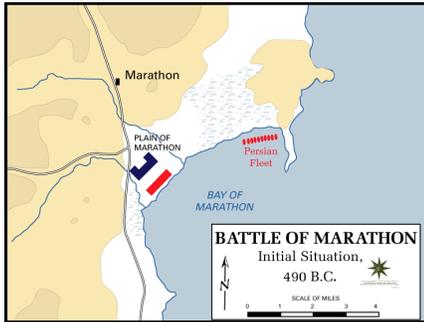




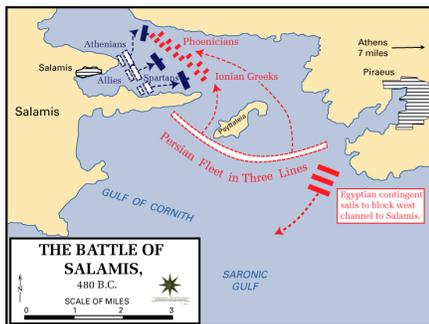
Winning the Persian Wars

Athens and Sparta, often enemies, joined forces to win a series of wars against the Persians. The Persians had wanted to extend their empire to include parts of ancient Greece.



In 499 B.C. Athens sent soldiers to help other city-states fight off a Persian invasion. They fought for five years, and finally Athenian forces defeated the Persians. The Persians invaded again in 490 B.C., at the battle of Marathon. The Persians landed on the plain of Marathon about 26 miles northeast of Athens. After several days, the Persians decided to sail directly to Athens and attack it by sea. They began loading their ships. As soon as most of the Persian soldiers were aboard, Greek soldiers ran down in close order from the hills around Marathon. The remaining Persian troops were not prepared to meet this kind of attack and were defeated. A runner set off for Athens with news of the victory. Upon reaching Athens, he cried out Nike!, the Greek goddess of victory, and then died of exhaustion. Winning the battle of Marathon gave the Greeks a great sense of confidence.

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The next major battle of the Persian Wars was a sea battle. In order to stop the Persians from taking all of Greece, 20 Greek city-states banded together. The Spartans led the army and Athens led the navy. First 7,000 Greek soldiers headed for the narrow pass of Thermopylae, about 100 miles from Athens. There they held off the Persian army for three days. This gave the people of Athens time to flee to the island of Salamis. The Persians, helped by a traitor, found a way around the pass. They killed every soldier guarding the pass and then marched on Athens. Finding the city almost deserted, they set it on fire. Then, the Greeks tricked the Persians fleet into sailing into the strait between Athens and Salamis. Since the strait was too small for the Persian ships to enter at once, the Greeks could take them on a few at a time. Also, once the Persian ships were in the strait, their large size made them difficult to handle. The Greeks defeated the Persian fleet.

The Persians invaded one more time. The Greek army, led by the Spartans, defeated the Persians on land. Meanwhile, the Greek navy attacked and burned the entire Persian fleet of ships. Finally, in 479 B.C. the Persian invasion was over.

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Cause and Effect

Cause (Why/how did the event happen?)	Effect (what happened/ an event)
The Persians wanted to extend their empire to include parts of Ancient Greece.	
	At the Battle of Marathon the Greeks defeated the Persians.
	The city of Athens is invaded and set on fire.
The Greeks trick the Persians into sailing into the strait between Athens and Salamis.	
The Greek army, led by the Spartans, defeated the Persians on land.	

1. What text to world connections can be made from the battle of Marathon?

Your social studies teacher has argued to the class that the Greek's knowledge and use of their geographic environment allowed them to defeat a much larger force of invading Persians.

What evidence from the text could she use to support her argument?