

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Year 5 History

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sheet: Who were the Ancient Greeks?

## The Battle of Marathon

The battle of Marathon is one of the earliest recorded battles in history.

After the Ionian Revolt in 499BC the Persians and their king Darius wanted to conquer Greece. The Persians were angry at the Athenians for invading Anatolia during the Ionian Revolt. The Persians thought they would attack Athens and then attack the rest of Greece. In 490BC the Persian army landed at Marathon.



Persian ships at Marathon

Miltiades who was chosen as a general persuaded most of the people of Athens to fight an open war with the Persian army. According to legend the Athenians sent a runner called Pheidippides to Sparta to ask for help. The Spartans said they would not assist the Athenians in battle because of religious reasons and could not fight until the moon was full, so the people of Athens were alone.

The Greek general Miltiades had a great battle plan. He divided his army into three groups. The group in the middle ran towards the Persian army first and then pretended to fall back. The Persian army ran after them. The other two groups, the left wing and the right wing, came in from both sides attacking the Persian army. The Persians were defeated.

The Battle of Marathon is perhaps the single most important battle in Greek history. If the Athenian army had lost, Greece would have eventually been ruled by the Persians and all the culture and accomplishments of the Greeks would not have taken the form they did.

### Did You Know ?

- After the Athenians had defeated the Persian army, Pheidippides was sent to Athens to bring the news of victory. He ran 26 miles from Marathon to Athens. It was the first marathon ever and was successfully completed in about three hours.

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## Battle of Marathon Worksheet

Answer the following questions:

1) When was the Ionian revolt? \_\_\_\_\_

2) What was the name of Persia's king? \_\_\_\_\_

3) Why were the Persians angry at the Athenians?

\_\_\_\_\_

4) Who was Miltiades?

\_\_\_\_\_

5) Who did Athens send to Sparta to ask for help?

\_\_\_\_\_

6) Why could Sparta not assist the Athenians in battle?

\_\_\_\_\_

7) Were the Athenians victorious?

\_\_\_\_\_

8) How many groups was the Athenian army split into?

\_\_\_\_\_

9) How would Greece be different today if Athens had lost the battle?

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