

Core Knowledge

YEAR 3: ANCIENT GREECE (five lessons): Lesson 4. The Persian Wars

UK



TAGS: [Athens](#) [Sparta](#) [Persia](#) [Hoplite](#) [Phalanx](#)

General information	
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Author of the Entry	Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@biu.ac.il
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Lisa Maurice, Bar-Ilan University, lisa.maurice@biu.ac.il Daniel A. Nkemeleke, University of Yaoundé 1, nkemelekedan@yahoo.com

Creators

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Additional information

Contents & Purpose

After the previous lessons discussed Athens and Sparta, the present lesson focuses on the students' engagement with the Persians during the 5th century B.C.E. the students learn about the Persian wars and also how the Athenians and Spartans worked together for the salvation of Greece. The lesson offers activities on Cyrus cylinder and a summary of the Persian empire in order to provide students with some background on the Persian empire.

The lesson includes empty and complete worksheets of a Greek hoplite and explanation on the phalanx.

Further comments

While the lesson focuses on the Greek army, it also raises questions regarding freedom and the cooperation of Athens and Sparta to defend Greece. Hence the teachers can use the opportunity this lesson provides and discuss with their students themes of peace, war, reconciliation, freedom and more.

From this lesson the Persian appear as a great empire with great kings (Cyrus) and not an inhuman enemy who simply wished on a whim to enslave Greece. It is imperative that students get to know Persia better in order to understand the roots of its conflict with Greece.

