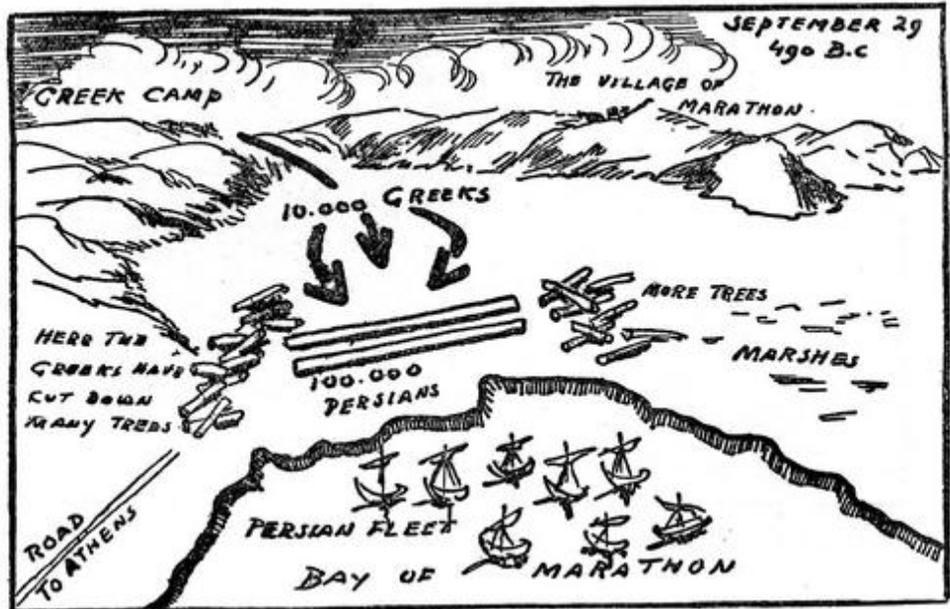


BACKGROUND ON THE BATTLE OF MARATHON

The Greeks (and especially the Athenians) set up colonies to the east of the Peloponnesus. Further east, the Persians were colonizing and conquering lands in a westerly direction. Eventually (in the 540s B.C.E.) these two competing powers collided in Ionia. At this time, the Persians gained control of the Ionian Greek colonies and demanded not much more than taxes from them. Though the Persians were not very demanding rulers, the Ionians still could not settle to be controlled by "barbarians." In 499 B.C.E., the Ionians staged a revolt against Persian rule and sought help from their fellow Greeks. The Athenians answered their call and sent 20 triremes of hoplites to the aid of the Ionians. Though the Athenians aided the Ionians in burning the Persian city of Sardis to the ground, the end result was that the revolt was suppressed. For the next nine years, Darius, the king of Persia ordered a servant to remind him of his hatred for the Athenians on a daily basis.

In 490 B.C.E., Darius sent troops to Greece. First they conquered the island of Euboea and then they moved onward to the shores of Marathon, a coastal town 26.2 miles from the heart of Athens.



FROM THE HISTORIES OF HERODOTUS

[6.105] ...[When the Persian fleet was approaching Attica], the [Athenian] generals sent to Sparta a herald, Pheidippides an Athenian...

[6.106]...[and] on the second day out of Athens he was in Sparta; and coming before the magistrates he said: "Lacedamians, the Athenians need you to help them and not to watch a city, the oldest among the Hellenes, fall enslaved to men who are *barbaroi*, for even now Euboea is reduced to slavery and so by a notable *polis* Greece has become the weaker."

Indeed, he gave them the message entrusted to him; for their part they were delighted, on the one hand, to help the Athenians; but it was impossible, on the other hand, immediately to do this, since they did not want to break a law; for of the first part of the month it was the ninth day and on the ninth they would not go out, they said, except when the moon was at the full point of its cycle.

[6.112] And when the Athenians were stationed and the sacrificial omens were good, then as soon as they were released the Athenians at a run went against the *barbaroi* (and there were between them not less than eight *stadai*). But when the Persians saw them coming on at a run they prepared to receive them, and deemed it a mania among the Athenians—and one wholly destructive—seeing them so few and charging at a run, not having horsemen with them nor archers. Such things then the *barbaroi*

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surmised; but the Athenians, when all in a bunch they mixed in with the *barbaroi*, fought in a way worthy of report. For they were the first of the Hellenes—of all those of whom we know—to make use of a running charge against enemy warriors, and the first who bore even seeing the clothing of the Persians and the men therein clothed—until then it was for Hellenes a fearful thing even to hear the name of the Persians.

[6.113] While they were battling at Marathon a long time passed, and in the middle of the battle-line victory went to the *barbaroi* and breaking through they pursued the Athenians inland; on the other hand, at the horn (flank) on each end victory went to the Athenians. And since they were victors, they allowed the routed part of the *barbaroi* to flee, but at the middle, against those who had broken through their own lines, they pulled together the horns and, on both sides, fought. The Athenians were the victors. And as the Persians fled, they followed, cutting them down, until when they had come to the sea they demanded fire and seized the ships.

[6.114] This too: in this work that Kallimachos was killed and also there died, of the generals, Stesileos son of Thrasileos; and this too: Kynegiros son of Euphorion there, seizing the stern of a ship, had his hand cut off by an axe, and fell; so too other Athenians, many and famous.

[6.115] Seven of the ships were gotten in this way by the Athenians. But in the rest the *barbaroi* put out to sea and, taking up from the island in which they had left them the Euboean slaves, they sailed. The *barbaroi* then sailed away later back to Asia.

[6.117] In this battle at Marathon were killed, of the *barbaroi* about six thousand four hundred men, and of the Athenians one hundred and ninety-two—there fell, on both sides, so many.

[6.120] And of the Lacedamians there came to Athens two thousand, after the full moon, and they had great zeal to get there, so much so that on the third day out of Sparta they were in Attica. Although they arrived too late for the battle, they desired nevertheless to view the Persians, and going to Marathon, they viewed them. Afterwards, praising the Athenians and the deed done by them, they went off back again.

ASSIGNMENT: Using your critical reading of the previous primary source, create a 3 scene story board that shows how the battle progressed. Use the drawing on the front of this document to depict the landscape for each scene. Make sure to label Persian and Athenian troops differently. Use arrows to depict troop movement.