

## War with Persia

- **Persia = Present day Middle East; largest (and very powerful) empire at the time – wanted to expand west (towards Ancient Greece)**
- **499 BC Athens sent soldiers to help city states on the eastern side of the Aegean Sea (Ionians) against a Persian invasion; at first worked, but Athens removed their support to fast; Persia crushed the Ionians and wanted to punish Athens for initially helping**
- **490 BC Battle of Marathon – Persia attacked Athens; Athens flanked Persian army and won, a stunning victory**
- **480 BC Battle of Thermopylae – Persia (180,000 soldiers) attacked Greek city states that joined together (mostly Athenians and Spartans – 6,000 to 7,000 soldiers); "300" Spartans held their ground to allow other Greeks to escape; Persian victory – overran mainland and burned Athens**
- **Month later – Greeks defeated the Persians at the Battle of Salamis (sea battle)**
- **479 BC Battle of Plataea – Persians attacked; Sparta and Athens worked together to defeat Persia**

### **Summary:**

**-Mountains encouraged the development of city-states**

**-Competition between city-states made the city-states weak against external threats**

**-City-states had to work together (unity equals strength)**

**-Athens had to rebuild – they will rebuild, and become the strongest city-state in the region**