

Battle: Battle of Marathon

Year: 490 B.C.E.

Who fought?

Athenians against the Persians. Spartans declined to fight because of a festival, Athens forced to fight alone.

Cause of War?

King Darius I wanted to punish the Athenians for helping the Ionians in burning the city of Sardis.

Location of Battle?

The plain of Marathon 24 miles north of Athens on mainland Greece.

Military Leaders?

Persia : King Darius I
Greece : Miltiades a general

Strategy?

Use of phalanx
The Persians: placed stronger soldiers in the center and weaker ones outside. Trained soldiers - archers no armor.
The Greeks : placed stronger soldiers on the outside with weaker ones in the center. Free men heavy with armor and great general

Outcome?

Athenians won.
They were able to defeat the weaker soldiers, surround the strong ones and win the battle.
And return to Athens to defend the city.