

Battle: Battle of Salamis

Year: 480 B.C.E.

Who fought?

The Persians and the Greeks (20 city-states joined together including: Sparta and Athens who took the lead)

Cause of War?

Xerxes continuing his campaign against the Greeks

Location of Battle?

In a narrow strait between the island of Salamis and the Greek mainland.

Military Leaders?

Persia : King Xerxes
Greek : Themistocles, an Athenian politician

Strategy?

A prophecy at the Oracle of Delphi told Athenians they would find protection behind "wooden walls." The Greeks lured (fleeing the city) the Persian fleet in a narrow strait where they could fight their ships a few at a time in a sea battle. Once past the strait, many triremes awaited the rest of the Persian fleet.

Outcome?

Persia burned down the city of Athens.
Athenians won and Sparta joined from the north to help defeat the Persians. The Persian retreated.