

**Battle:** Battle of Thermopylae

**Year:** 480 B.C.E.

**Who fought?**

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

**Cause of War?**

Xerxes wanted to avenge the defeat of his father, Darius

**Location of Battle?**

A narrow mountain pass, Thermopylae.

**Military Leaders?**

Persia: King Xerxes  
Greek: Leonidas a Spartan general

**Strategy?**

Persians severely outnumbered the Greeks. They made a bridge and crossed the Hellespont to enter Europe. The Greeks tricked the Persians into fighting in a narrow space between the mountains (only fought a few at a time) and kept driving them back.

**Outcome?**

A traitor told the Persians of a back passage through the mountains. Persians surprise attack from the rear many Spartans retreated and 300 stayed to hold the Persians back. Persian won. Marched on to Athens and burned the city.