AGENDA – 9/17

- Share about our weekends
- Sub Friday – talk about it
- To what extent was Athens a Democracy?
  - Let’s share
- Today: Rise of Persia, and how to govern the largest empire the world had ever seen

- Homework: reading and notes! I’ll check your Greece notes during the next quiz (Persia/Macedon – 9/25)
THE RISE OF PERSIA
PERSIAN EMPIRE (AKA ACHAEMENID EMPIRE)
PERSIAN EMPIRE (BASIC TIMELINE)

- Beginnings
  - **Cyrus the Great** conquers the Medes, then Babylon
- Golden Age
  - **Darius I** expands the empire
- Decline
  - **Xerxes** and the loss to Greece in the Greco-Persian Wars
BEGINNINGS: THE PERSIAN (ACHAEMENID) EMPIRE

Skilled horsemen – bows and arrows
Reign: 558-530 BCE

• The George Washington of Persia – uniter of tribes and general good guy
• Established vast empire stretching from India to Mediterranean
  • Looting and burning not allowed!
• Honored local traditions and customs

When you think of Cyrus and Persia, think TOLERANCE.
THE DOWNSIDE OF MONARCHY

It’s hereditary --- Cambyses II (530-522 BCE)
THE DOWNSIDE OF MONARCHY

• It’s hereditary
• Cambyses II (530-522 BCE)
  • Conquered Egypt in 525 BCE
  • Looted, burned, pillaged, destroyed temples, ridiculed Egyptian polytheism, ordered images of their gods to be burned
• But... is this true?
GOLDEN AGE: DARIUS I

- Reign: 521-486 BCE
- A young kinsman of Cyrus... or was he?
- Built the **largest empire in world history up until that point**
  - 2500 miles – Northwest Turkey to the Indus Valley
- Incredible army
- Ruled more than 70 ethnic groups
- Built new capital at **Persepolis** (in modern-day Iran), 520 B.C.E.
THE PERSIAN EMPIRE UNDER DARIUS I
DISCUSS WITH A PARTNER

• You have just conquered the largest empire the world has ever seen.
• What steps would you take to control and maintain such an empire?
  • Be specific! Formulate at least 5 means of controlling a large, diverse area.
  • Think of the US – how do we do it here? How might they have done it more than 2000 years ago?
HOW DID THE PERSIANS CONTROL THEIR EMPIRE?

Social

- Limited slavery
  - Prisoners of war
- Women treated with more social and legal freedoms than in other areas at the time
Politics

- **Satraps**: governors to rule provinces for the central government
  - Ruled over **satrapies**
  - Represented emperor, maintained defense, collected taxes
  - Checked on by "King’s Eyes and Ears"
  - Local people still made up local governance
HOW DID THE PERSIANS CONTROL THEIR EMPIRE?

Politics

- Standardized **laws**
- Communication systems
  - Royal Road // pony express
- Created largest military in history (until the Romans came along)
  - And they were AWESOME
How did the Persians control their empire?

**Culture**

- Persian religion: **Zoroastrianism**
- Monotheistic
  - A good god: Ahuramazda
  - A lesser, evil god: Ahriman
- Could be practiced alongside other religions
**How Did the Persians Control Their Empire?**

**Culture**

- **Tolerance, tolerance, tolerance**
  - Conquered peoples allowed to practice their local customs and traditions
- **HUGE melting pot**
- **Spread and mix of art, religion, architecture, food, races, and ethnic groups**
HOW DID THE PERSIANS CONTROL THEIR EMPIRE?

Economics

• Formalized **taxes** instead of a tribute system
• Standardized **coins** and laws
  • What’s the benefit?
  • Gold *darics* and silver *siglos*
• Political stability encouraged the growth of trade
THE PERSIAN EMPIRE UNDER DARIUS I
Which artifact does the best job representing the Persian Empire?
• Turn in your homework to the front table

• *How do we recount and record history?:* the Greco-Persian Wars from two perspectives

• *Homework: quiz/notes due next TUESDAY.*
THE PERSIAN WARS
GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: WHY DID THEY START?

- Ethnic Greeks living in Ionia (coast of Turkey) rebelled against the Persians, with the help of some city-states (especially Athens)
- Persian rulers put down the rebellion and invaded Greece as punishment
- Two major invasions – 490BCE (Darius) and 480BCE (Xerxes)
Some Greek poleis were in support of the Persian Empire. Why?
GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: WHY DID THEY START?

Athens and Sparta, most notably, were not. Why?
GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: FIGHTING STYLE

• Phalanx vs
GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: MAJOR EVENTS

- **Battle of Marathon**
  - 490 BCE
  - 10,000 vs somewhere between 15,000 and 600,000
  - Athenians defeat Darius’s troops
GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: MAJOR EVENTS

- Quick discussion:

- What does this mean for Persia?
• Quick discussion:

• What does this mean for the Greek poleis?
GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: MAJOR EVENTS

- **Battle of Thermopylae**
  - 480BCE (aka, the ‘Hot Gates’)
  - Xerxes invades and defeats Spartans (think: the movie 300)
  - Offered peace a ton of times; Leonidas says no
  - “Molon labe” : “Come and take them”
GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: MAJOR EVENTS

• **Battle of Salamis 480BCE**
  - Athenian naval victory over Xerxes’s forces (decisive battle of the war)
  - According to some historians, the most important battle in all of world history
THE BATTLE OF SALAMIS,
480 B.C.

SARONIC GULF

SCALE OF MILES

0 1 2 3

Egyptian contingent sails to block west channel to Salamis.
GRECO-PERSIAN WARS: WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE WARS?

- Greeks win and remain independent
- Start to view themselves as a united Greece and not only independent poleis
  - Delian League
- Persia does not collapse – it just doesn’t conquer Greece
- Leads to the **Golden Age of Greece** and the height of Athenian power

(and then Alexander the Great conquers everyone, but we’ll get there next time)
ACTIVITY

In your groups, you will read through two different accounts of the Battle of Salamis.

- **Herodotus** was a Greek historian born in 485BCE who wrote an anthology called *The Histories* in 440 BCE.

- **Waterfield** is a British classical historian who translated many Greek works into English in the 1980s and 1990s. He now writes children’s books.
STEP ONE: INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

• Read the **first paragraph** silently and highlight the one sentence or phrase that you think is the **main idea** of that paragraph.

• Circle or underline any details that you think are necessary to understand the main idea.
STEP TWO: COMPARE

• In your group, have everyone share the sentence they highlighted and why they thought that was the main idea.

• If there are differences, discuss and try to come up with a single answer as a group.
STEP THREE: READ AS A GROUP

• Read the **second paragraph** as a group (one person reads aloud or you popcorn read). Afterwards, decide as a group which sentence or phrase should be highlighted as the main idea.

• Also as a group, decide which details should be circled/underlined as necessary to understanding the main idea.
STEP FOUR: INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

• Read the **last paragraph** on your own again and highlight the main idea and circle/underline the important details.

• After you’re done, GIST your three-paragraph reading and compare your GIST with the rest of your group.
HERODOTUS ALSO SAID HE SAW GIANT ANTS THAT MINED GOLD.
FATHER. OF. LIES.

WHO IS THE FATHER OF HISTORY
IT IS I! HERODOTUS

BASICALLY I INVENTED HISTORY!
THAT IS PRETTY IMPRESSIVE!
WALL YOU LIKE TO CARVE A BUST OF ME FOR YOUR LIBRARY?
GET IN LINE!

ACTUALLY, THE LIFE FOR UGLY STATUES IS THE OTHER WAY

GENTLEMAN IN THE REAR
DO YOU MIND
NOT AT ALL!
I JUST HAD SOME QUESTIONS
OH - THUCYDIDES

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME AROUND HERE ANYMORE

YES YES, JUST ONE THING. I HAVE YOUR HISTORIES HERE. WHAT'S THIS BIT ABOUT, HMM

THAT IS HOW IT WAS TOLD TO ME AND IT IS ENTIRELY VALID

VALID? THIS IS TOTAL SHIT
I AM THE REAL FATHER OF HISTORY

YOU'RE THE REAL JOHNNY COME LATELY AND NOTHING ELSE

AT LEAST I'M NOT THE FATHER OF LIES! HERE LET ME FIND ANOTHER, THERE ARE SO MANY TO PICK

YOU'RE THE FATHER OF PAIN IN MY ASS

YOU'RE THE FATHER OF FAT BUTTS

HISTORY: I'M SORRY, DID YOU THINK WE WERE NOBLE? MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY MEDICINE OR SOMETHING.
AWESOME WOMAN ALERT

- **ATOSSA**
  - Daughter of Cyrus
  - Wife of Cambyses
    - Yes, her brother
  - Wife of Darius
    - He married into the royal family to legitimize his rule
  - Mother of Xerxes

"Atossa was of great authority, and during the Greek war initially recommended by her, Darius made use of her advice. She was even interested in accompanying her husband in the process of war."
- Herodotus