

The Persian Wars

The Greeks had occupied many territories on the eastern Mediterranean, but the **Persian Empire** also had interests in that area. The territorial disputes between them were called the **Persian Wars**.

FIRST PERSIAN WAR

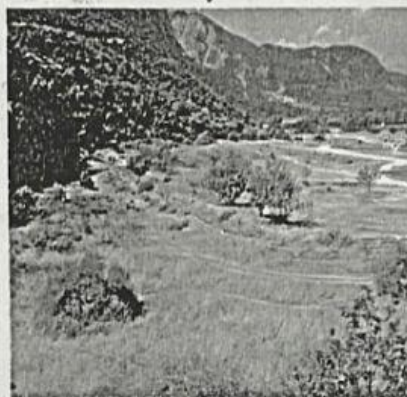


Representation of the Battle of Marathon.

The Persians, led by [] crossed the Aegean Sea to take over Greece, but the Athenians stopped them at the **Battle of []**

To announce the victory after the battle, a Greek soldier ran [] km from Marathon to Athens, but died of exertion. One of the most important Olympic events that we still celebrate commemorates this event.

SECOND PERSIAN WAR



Thermopylae pass.

[] son of Darius, conquered northern Greece. An alliance between Greek poleis, led by Sparta, tried to stop the Persian advance, but despite their heroic defence, the Greeks were defeated at the **Battle of []**

That same year, the Persians took Athens, but were finally defeated in the naval **Battle of []**

THIRD PERSIAN WAR



Delos Island, where the alliance was formed.

Despite the Greek victories of the second Persian war, the Persians were still stronger than the Greeks so the poleis formed the [] to protect themselves from future Persian attacks.

The League decided to continue the war against the Persians, while Sparta, distrusting Athens, withdrew from the conflict.

The Greco-Persian conflict lasted until [] BC. The Persian Empire would eventually be conquered by the Greeks under the leadership of Alexander the Great.