

where Themistocles and Eurybiades forced a naval battle in the Straits there before the very eyes of Xerxes, who had been so confident of victory that he set up a golden throne on the promontory to watch the battle. Needless to say, he promptly retreated to Asia but left an army under Mardonius. Under the Spartan commander Pausanias, the allied forces defeated the Persians in 479 BCE at Plataea, while the Greek fleet destroyed that of the Persians at Mycale.

It is interesting to note the subsequent careers of the main leaders. Xerxes retired home, built extensively at Persepolis, and was murdered during a court intrigue; Themistocles lost influence to more conservative leaders, was ostracized in 471 BCE, and eventually became a Persian governor under Artaxerxes I; and Pausanias, after a somewhat checkered career, was accused of fomenting a helot revolt. He took sanctuary in a temple in Sparta where he was left to starve.



### TEACHER BY THE WAY

Herodotus tells us that Pheidippides had run from Athens to Sparta and back seeking the Spartans' aid against the Persians. Tradition tells us that he then marched with the Athenians in full armor to Marathon and following the battle ran to Athens to announce the Athenian victory. After reporting "Rejoice! We conquer!" Pheidippides dropped dead.

Today's marathon is named for and based roughly on the distance (26 miles, 385 yards/42.195 km) from Marathon to Athens.

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Standards 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2



### TEACHING TIP

The teacher may wish to assign chapter 5 of RRA for reading or review. See p. 73.

## TRANSLATION OF LATIN PASSAGE

### Themistocles Saves the Greeks

Themistocles is the general of the Athenians and <is> a very clever person. Xerxes, king of the Persians, is said to prepare war against the Greeks with great care. Xerxes has many soldiers and many ships and he is sailing toward Greece with many armed men. The Athenians fear war and decide to seek the oracles of the Pythian priestess. The Pythian priestess lives at Delphi, and she gives the counsels of Apollo to people. The Pythian priestess says these words to the Athenians in the Delphic temple: "The Athenians can be saved by means of wooden walls." Only Themistocles thinks he understands the advice of Apollo. He says that the wooden walls are ships. The Athenians think the words of Themistocles are good. They flee from their land, but they build many ships. Then, with great courage, they attack the ships of the Persians and they defeat the Persians. The Athenians are freed from fear.



### TEACHER BY THE WAY

Nepos, for example, notes that the Romans of his day considered it shameful for a nobleman to perform on stage, behavior the Greeks found totally acceptable.

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