

## Lesson

# 2

### MAIN IDEAS


- 1 Government** Athens and Sparta and their allies fought a war over Athens' growing power.
- 2 Government** Athens lost the Peloponnesian War.
- 3 Government** More than 25 years of war weakened all of the Greek city-states.

### TAKING NOTES

#### Reading Skill: Comparing and Contrasting

Comparing and contrasting the war strategies of Athens and Sparta will help you understand the outcome of the war. In Lesson 2, look for the differences between the war strategies of the two city-states. Record the differences on a chart like the one below.

War Strategy	
Athens	Sparta

 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R4



▲ Spartan Soldier  
Sparta had the most powerful army of all the Greek city-states.

### CALIFORNIA STANDARDS

**6.4.2** Trace the transition from tyranny and oligarchy to early democratic forms of government and back to dictatorship in ancient Greece, including the significance of the invention of the idea of citizenship (e.g., from *Pericles' Funeral Oration*).

**6.4.6** Compare and contrast life in Athens and Sparta, with emphasis on their roles in the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars.

**HI 1** Students explain the central issues and problems from the past, placing people and events in a matrix of time and place.

**HI 2** Students understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence, and correlation in historical events, including long- and short-term causal relations.

# Peloponnesian War

## TERMS & NAMES

Peloponnesian War  
plague  
truce

**Build on What You Know** In Chapter 11, you learned that important differences existed between Athens and Sparta. Tensions had been building between Athens and Sparta for years. Sparta did not like Athens growing more powerful.

## The Outbreak of War

**1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION** What led Athens and Sparta to fight a war?

There were many differences between the city-states of Athens and Sparta. For example, Athens had a democratic form of government. Sparta had a culture that glorified military ideals. Both wanted to be the most powerful city-state in the region. This competition led to clashes between the two city-states and their allies.

**Causes of the War** There were three main reasons war broke out. First, some city-states feared Athens because of its grab for power and prestige. Second, under the leadership of Pericles, Athens grew from a city-state to a naval empire. Third, some Athenian settlers began to move into the lands of other city-states.

**Trireme** A trireme was a ship propelled by three tiers of oarsmen. Athens' fleet of triremes was the largest and best in the Mediterranean. ▼



**Athens Disliked** The other city-states also resented how Athens spent money from the Delian League, intended for the mutual protection of all the city-states. Athens used some of the money to beautify its city. Because of this practice several city-states tried to break free of Athenian power. Pericles' policy was to punish any city-state that resisted Athens.

Sparta headed a league of city-states to stand up to the power of the Delian League. It is called the Peloponnesian League because many of the city-states were located on the Peloponnesus. Finally, in 431 B.C., Sparta declared war on Athens. This conflict was called the **Peloponnesian War**.

**REVIEW** What were the causes of the war between Athens and Sparta?

## The War Rages

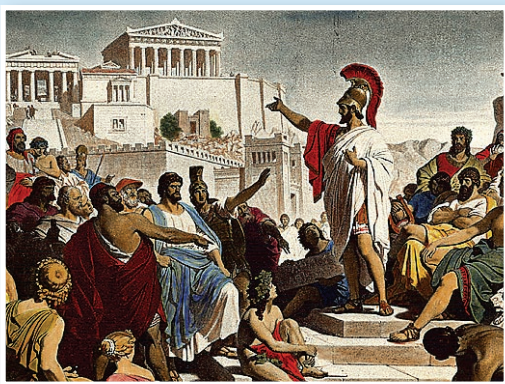
**2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION** What happened during the Peloponnesian War?

Each side in the war had advantages and disadvantages. Sparta had the better land-based military force, and its location could not be attacked by sea. Athens had the better navy and could strike Sparta's allies by sea. These differences shaped the war strategy of each side.

### Primary Source

#### Pericles' Funeral Oration

**Background:** Pericles spoke to honor Athenians killed in action during the first year of the Peloponnesian War, which began in 431 B.C. Parts of his speech paid tribute to democracy in Athens as well.



#### from *The History of the Peloponnesian War*

By Thucydides (Translated by Rex Warner)

It is true that we are called a democracy, for the administration is in the hands of the many and not of the few. But while the law secures equal justice to all alike in their private disputes, the claim of excellence is also recognized; and when a citizen is in any way distinguished, he is preferred to the public service, not as a matter of privilege, but as the reward of merit. Neither is poverty a bar, but a man may benefit his country whatever be the obscurity [insignificance] of his condition.

#### DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

Why do you think Pericles praises Athenian life in a tribute to the war dead?





**Strategies of War** Sparta's strategy was to cut off the Athenian food supply by destroying crops. The Spartans did this by taking control of the countryside around Athens.

Athens' strategy was to avoid battles on land and to rely on sea power. Pericles persuaded the Athenians to allow the Spartans to destroy the countryside. He brought people from the areas surrounding Athens inside the city walls. The people would be safe there and Athens would be supplied with food by sea.

**Disaster Strikes Athens** Because of Pericles' plan to bring people into Athens, the city became badly overcrowded. In the second year of the war, an outbreak of a **plague** took many lives in Athens. The plague was a disease that spread easily and usually caused death. Athens lost as many as one-third of its people and armed forces. Pericles, too, died from the plague.

In 421 B.C., Athens signed a **truce**, or an agreement to stop fighting. Athens finally surrendered to Sparta in 404 B.C.

**REVIEW** What caused Pericles' strategy to fail?

## Consequences of the War

### 3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What was the result of the Peloponnesian War?

The Peloponnesian War lasted for over 27 years. Cities and crops were destroyed, and thousands of Greeks died. All of the Greek city-states suffered losses of economic and military power.

To the north of the Greek city-states, King Philip II of Macedon came to power in 359 B.C. Planning to build an empire, he looked south toward the weakened Greek city-states.

**REVIEW** What was the long-term effect of the Peloponnesian War?

### Lesson Summary

- The wealth, prestige, policies, and power of Athens caused resentment among other city-states.
- A plague that killed many Athenians helped Sparta defeat Athens.
- The Peloponnesian War weakened all of the Greek city-states for 50 years.

### Why It Matters Now . . .

The Peloponnesian War shows that countries that wage war may lose power and prestige instead of gaining it.

## 2 Lesson Review

### Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of Peloponnesian War plague truce

### Using Your Notes

**Comparing and Contrasting** Use your completed graphic to answer the following question:

2. How was the war strategy of Athens different from that of Sparta? (6.4.6)

War Strategy	
Athens	Sparta



### Main Ideas

3. Why did smaller city-states resent Athenian control? (6.4.2)
4. What was the Peloponnesian League and who led it? (HI 1)
5. Why did the Greek city-states lose power after the Peloponnesian War? (6.4.6)

### Critical Thinking

6. **Making Generalizations** What can happen to both sides in a war when the fighting goes on for many years? (HI 2)
7. **Making Inferences** What might have helped the Greek city-states to be more cooperative at the end of the Peloponnesian War? (6.4.6)

### Activity

**Writing a Persuasive Composition** Write a persuasive composition in which Pericles tries to convince people to leave their land and move into Athens to be safe from Spartan attacks. (6.4.6)