

Lesson 2 Peloponnesian War

MAIN IDEAS

Government Athens and Sparta and their allies fought a war over Athens' growing power.

Government Athens lost the Peloponnesian War.

Government More than 25 years of war weakened all of the Greek city-states.

The Outbreak of War

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

Causes of the War

- Many differences between Athens and Sparta
 - Athens had democracy, Sparta had military-led government
- Three main reasons for war
 - some city-states feared Athens' grab for power, prestige
 - under Pericles, Athens built a naval empire
 - some Athenian settlers moved into other city-states' lands

Athens Disliked

- Other city-states resented Athens spending Delian League money
 - some tried to break away from Athens control
 - Pericles' punished city-states that resisted Athens
- Sparta headed Peloponnesian League that opposed the Delian League
 - many of its city-states were located on Peloponnesus
- Sparta declared war on Athens in 431 B.C.; began **Peloponnesian War**

REVIEW QUESTION

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

The War Rages

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What happened during the Peloponnesian War?

Strategies of War

- Sparta had better land forces and city was safe from sea attack
- Athens had better navy, could attack Sparta's allies from sea
- Sparta captured land around Athens, destroyed crops, food supply
- Athens' strategy was to avoid land battles, rely on sea power
 - Pericles persuaded Athens to let Sparta destroy crops
 - brought people inside city walls, brought food in by sea

Disaster Strikes Athens

- Under Pericles' plan, Athens became overcrowded
- In second year of war, a **plague** broke out in Athens
 - disease that spread easily, often led to death
 - city lost up to third of its people and army, including Pericles
- In 421 B.C., Athens signed **truce**—agreement to stop fighting
 - Athens surrendered to Sparta in 404 B.C.

REVIEW QUESTION

What caused Pericles' strategy to fail?

Consequences of the War

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What was the result of the Peloponnesian War?

The Aftermath

- Peloponnesian War lasted over 27 years
- Cities, crops were destroyed; thousands of Greeks died
- All the Greek city-states suffered economic, military losses
- King Philip II of Macedon came to power in 359 B.C.
 - Macedon was kingdom north of Greek city-states
 - Philip planned empire, looked south to weakened Greek city-states

REVIEW QUESTION

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.