



**50BCE-450CE**  
Ancient and  
Classical Era



1000-1250  
High Medieval



1500-1800  
Early Modern



1900-1950  
Modern: Early  
20<sup>th</sup> Century



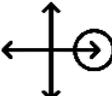
450-1000  
Early Medieval

1250-1500  
Late Medieval

1800-1900  
Modern:  
Industrial

1950-Present  
Modern: Contemporary

### Key developments

1	Persian Empire	The Persian Empire was a large and powerful empire that existed around the same time as the Greeks in Europe. It controlled lots of land in the <b>Ancient Near East</b> . Their land stretched from Egypt all the way to India.	
3	Herodotus	A Greek historian called Herodotus provides us with information about the Persian empire. He wrote a book about Persia after he visited and used the stories told by other people to reconstruct the past.	
3	Cyrus the Great	Cyrus became king of Persia in <b>559BCE</b> . He was the first official king of the Persian Empire and was known as 'Darius the Great'. He had a large army and <b>conquered</b> lots of lands in Asia taking them under the control of Persia.	
4	Cambyses	Cambyses was the son of the previous king Cyrus. Cambyses attacked Egypt and took control of their lands. Cambyses was known as the 'mad king' because he did not always respect the Egyptian people's religion and beliefs.	
5	Darius the Great	The next king, Darius, was a cousin of Cambyses. He took control of Persia and created lots of building projects.	
6	Persepolis	King Darius built a whole new city during his reign, this city was called Persepolis. Some of the best preserved <b>remains</b> from the Persian empire come from this city. This city had amazing art and <b>architecture</b> and a lot of Persian money was put into the city. Some remains still exist today.	
7	Darius and the Battle of Marathon	The <i>Battle of Marathon</i> took place in 490 BCE. Darius wanted to <b>conquer</b> Greece and take the land for his empire. Persian ships landed at the Bay of Marathon, on the coast, 25 miles from the city of Athens. The Persians had a lot more soldiers, but the Greeks had stronger soldiers.	

		Sources like Herodotus tell us that the army of Athens killed around 6,000 Persians and only lost 192 Greeks. After the battle, the Athenian army ran the 25 miles back to Athens in order to prevent the Persians from attacking the city. This is the origin of the marathon running race that people take part in today.
8	Xerxes and the Battle of Thermopylae	Xerxes was a powerful leader who also decided to <b>conquer</b> Greece., Ten years later than Darius, in 480 BCE, King Xerxes decided to get his revenge on the Greeks from when they defeated his father. Sources say that he had a huge army of over 200,000 soldiers and 1,000 ships. The Greeks put together a small group led by the Spartan King Leonidas and 300 Spartans who fought in a <b>phalanx</b> style. They met the Persians at a narrow road in the mountains called <i>Thermopylae</i> . The Greeks stopped the Persians and killed thousands, until the Persians found a way around the mountains and got behind the Greeks. The Spartans fought to the death, killing as many Persians as they could.

### Key terms

9	Ancient Near East	Countries such as Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. Today it is sometimes called the Middle East.
10	BCE and CE	Before the common era (also known as BC) and common era (also known as AD)
11	Monument	A building or statue built to remember something.
12	Conquer	To take over, sometimes using violence.
13	Architecture	The way buildings look.
14	Phalanx	The style of fighting used by the Greek soldiers.

Knowledge Organiser – 3 – The Persian Empire 1000 BC to 500AD (Prehistoric and Classical periods)