**Greece: From Dark Ages to Democracy**

*Early Greece consists of hundreds of independent city-states. Petty warfare is common and constant. There is no unified, overarching central power.*

c. 1100 BC Mycenaean civilization collapses, leading to decreases in commerce and production as well as depopulation.

620-594 BC The Athenian reforms of Draco and **Solon.**

**525 BC** Athenian democracy begins under the leadership of **Cleisthenes**

**The Persian Wars**

*The Persian empire was the greatest power of its day, stretching from modern day Turkey and Egypt all the way to modern day Pakistan.*

490 BC Persia, under King Darius, invades Greece

- Greek city-states are forced to work together against the Persian threat

- Battle of **Marathon**

480 BC Persia invades again, under Darius’ son Xerxes

- Battle of **Thermopylae** (300 Spartans)

- Battle of Salamis (key naval battle)

**The Peloponnesian War** (431 - 404 BC)

*The Greek city-states coalesce around the leadership of either democratic Athens or oligarchic Sparta*

- The **Delian League** (Athens + allies) rely on naval superiority

- The **Peloponnesian League** (Sparta + allies) rely on land superiority

405 BC The Athenian navy is completely destroyed by the Spartan leader Lysander at the battle of Aegospotomi. Athens quickly surrenders.

- With both major powers exhausted, this is sometimes referred to as the end of **Classical Greece**.

**Alexander and the Macedonians**

*Macedonia is a region in northern Greece. In classical Greece they were not considered fully Greek, but semi-barbarized. Unlike most of the southern Greek city-states, the Macedonians were ruled by kings.*

359 - 337 BC The Macedonians, under the leadership of **Philip**, subdue the southern Greek city-states and for the first time one leader rules all of Greece.

334 - 324 BC **Alexander**, now 18 years old, invades the Persian empire.

323 BC Alexander, now called “**the Great** (gk. *megas*)” dies in Babylon. His empire is divided between his former generals.

- This ushers in the **Hellenistic Age** (323 - 31 BC), marked by the rise of great cultural centers like Alexandria and the foundation of enormous libraries. Science, math and Greek culture flourish.