

Teacher's Guide for CALLIOPE *The Rise and Fall of Persia*

November 2006

Teacher Guide prepared by Gail Hennessey. She has taught 6th grade social studies for 33 years and has a helpful website for teachers at <http://www.gailhennessey.com>.

Use this issue of Calliope as an extension on a study of the Persian Empire

The World is Mine pages 2-5

1. What was the title that Cyrus assumed?
2. Why do you think that Cyrus wanted to control the Mediterranean coast and Turkey?
3. Why was the kingdom of Lydia strategically important in Cyrus's conquest?
4. Many people went to oracles for what purpose?
5. What animal did Cyrus use in his battle against the Lydians and why?
6. Some would say that Cyrus was a good leader to those he conquered. Explain how this was true.
7. What land did Cyrus' son try to conquer which hadn't been attempted to control?

The WORLD in 660 BC pages 6-7

Mapwork

1. Into which body of water do the Tigris and Euphrates flow into?
2. Which body of water is closest to Media?
3. Which body of water is to the east of Marathon?
4. Which body of water is north of Asia Minor?
5. Which city is north of Lydia?

Culture Clash page 8-9

Write a paragraph on three reasons the Ionian colonies decided to revolt against the Persians.

The article tells of shaving a slave's head and tattooing a message and then letting the hair grow back. Another popular spy technique were skytales. Messages were written on strips of leather or papyrus. To read the message, you had to wind the leather strip around a stick of the same size to decipher the message. Go to this site to see how you can have your students make one: <http://www.ryanannhunter.com/p.greekspy.html>

Darius of Persia pages 10-11

1. What was the trading center of Darius' empire?
2. What was the symbol of eternity which Darius 1 held in his left hand in the picture?
3. An ancient canal existed in the time of Darius. From where to where did it stretch?
4. In what ways did Darius bring his empire under one control?
5. Write a diary entry pretending to be someone traveling the area at the time. Include 4 facts from the article as to dangers along the way and what you might see.

A Son's Revenge pages 12-16

Use the play as an activity with your students encouraging acting out the roles with different voices.

Discuss how the Greeks were able to beat the mighty Persians at the Battle of Marathon and have the students then write up an essay of 3-4 reasons the Greeks were victorious(include the idea of "home court advantage"-knowing the land better, working as a team, strong desire to keep their way of life, Persians being over confident, Persians being "tired" from long journey, etc.)

When Xerxes lost at the Battle of Salamis, he ordered the city of Athens burned to the ground. Why do you think he did this before leaving?

The Archaeo-Shuffle.

Have the students divide into groups and have them assemble the pictures in correct order.

Discuss with the students the characteristics to being an archaeologist(ie: patience, needing a background in history, perseverance, etc)

Make a chart of POSITIVE and NEGATIVE aspects of being an archaeologist.

Make inferences about the following culture based on things unearthed.

1. Bag of seeds
2. Blue tipped stained eight inch pointed sticks
3. Pottery with lots of fish symbols
4. Clay monkey on a stick that could move up and down

Armor Tells All pages 18-19

Use some of the words from this reading and play a Bingo game of six of the following terms. When a student has three across, down or diagonally, they stand and say HISTO and must define the terms.(Tunis, tiara, gerron, corselet, immortals, hoplon, cuirass, spolas, greaves

Let the People Speak pages 20-21

1. Who is credited with establishing the first true democracy?
2. What is a limited democracy?
3. Why do you think the city of Sparta had TWO rulers?
4. What is an oligarchy?

Fun with Words pages 22-23

Use a dictionary with the history of words and try and find the word origin for addition words such as pajamas, cotton, zero, democracy, waffles, tacos.

How did the girls figure out the mule was blind in one of its eyes in the history of the word *serendipitous*?

Magnificent Persepolis pages 24-27

Write a paragraph describing a visit to Persepolis with five specific facts learned from the article.

If you could leave five items behind in a foundation deposit, what would you leave behind to represent your life. Explain your choices.

Why do archaeologists believe the city of Persepolis was built by freemen and not slaves?

The Appeal of the Good Mind pages 28-29

Write a paragraph explaining the Zoroaster religion begun by Zarathushtra including four facts from the reading.

Athenian Glory pages 30-32

1. What was considered to be heresy during this time?
2. Who was to be honored with the buildings on the top of the Acropolis?
3. <http://www.greece.org/parthenon/marbles/children.htm#parthenon>

Have the students review that fact that much of the Parthenon's marble frieze was taken and is now found in the British Museum in Great Britain. Write an essay explaining your thoughts on whether ancient treasures should be returned to their places of origin or allowed to stay in the museums that they are now found.

Divide the class into small groups and assign each group one of the following articles. Have each group take notes (of at least 7 points) and have the students present the information learned to the rest of the class.

In League Against Persian pages 34-36

According to Xenophon page 38-39

Before the Fall pages 40-41

A Conquest of Two Worlds pages 42-45

Legacy of the Struggle pages 47-49

Discuss with the class how a civil war can lead to a country's end. Discuss other civil wars that have or are occurring in the world today.

Discuss with the students the important contribution that Alexander made to the history of the world as he spread his empire. (spread Greek ideas)

Discuss the role of an historian such as Xenophon and the best way to learn about events taking place? What are some characteristics of an historian?

What were some factors in the fall of the Persian empire?

Trivia:

Divide the students into groups and do the following trivia hunt:

1. What did King Xerxes use to protect himself from the sun? (parasol)
2. What is a *foundation deposit*? (artifacts placed into the foundation of a temple or other building)
3. The word *polis* is Greek for which word? (city)
4. Who was the "father of history"? (Herodotus)
5. What action did Xerxes do at Hellespont which some felt would offend the gods? (lashed the water 300 times)
6. What is a timocracy? (system based on a landowner's wealth)
7. What was a profitable cash crop of Athens? (olives)
8. What word comes from Persian *Bar Bar* and what did it mean? (barbarian/strange, ignorant)
9. What did the envoys of Darius ask the Athenians and Spartans to give as a token of their submission? (earth and water)
10. What was the hill in Athens called? (Acropolis)
11. What does an etymologist do?
(studies words)
12. What does the phrase "*taj mahal*" mean in Persian? (the best of buildings)
13. What message was Pheidippides delivering to the people of Athens? (defeat of Persians at Marathon)
14. If a rebellion or change in rulers occurred, what happened to the Royal Road? (detour was made)

