

# The Battle of Marathon



# Aim

- I have an understanding of the Battle of Marathon.

# Success Criteria

- I can explain why the Spartans didn't help the Athenians.
- I can order events of the Battle of Marathon.

# The Greek and Persian Empires

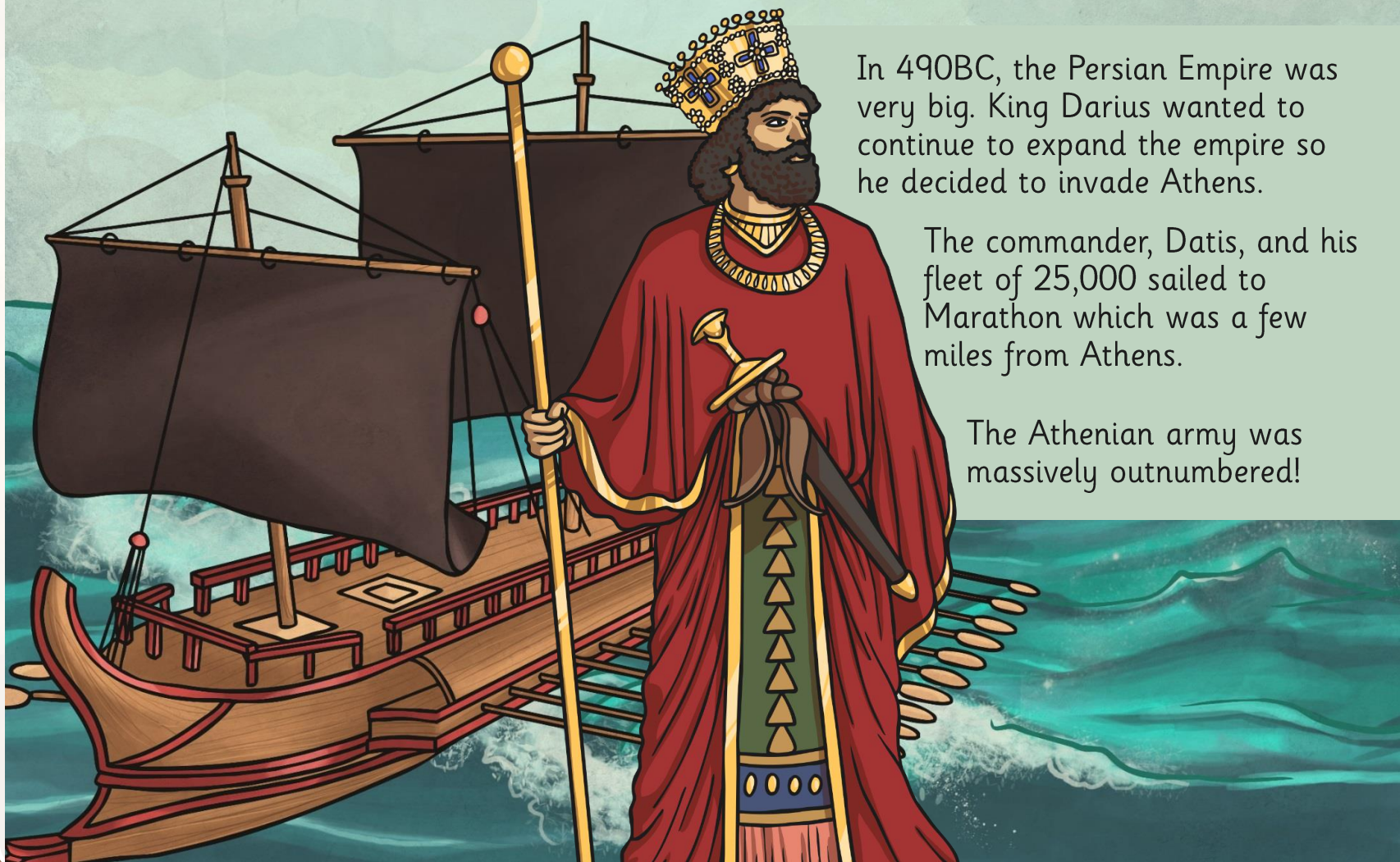


# The Battle of Marathon

In 490BC, the Persian Empire was very big. King Darius wanted to continue to expand the empire so he decided to invade Athens.

The commander, Datis, and his fleet of 25,000 sailed to Marathon which was a few miles from Athens.

The Athenian army was massively outnumbered!



# Help!

The Athenians needed to ask for help! So they decided to ask the Spartans. Although they often fought against each other, when faced with an outside enemy the Greek city states usually joined forces. The Spartan army was very famous and would have been very useful to the Athenians. They sent a runner, Pheidippides, to Sparta to ask. He ran for 2 days and nights from Athens to Sparta, running 240km in total.

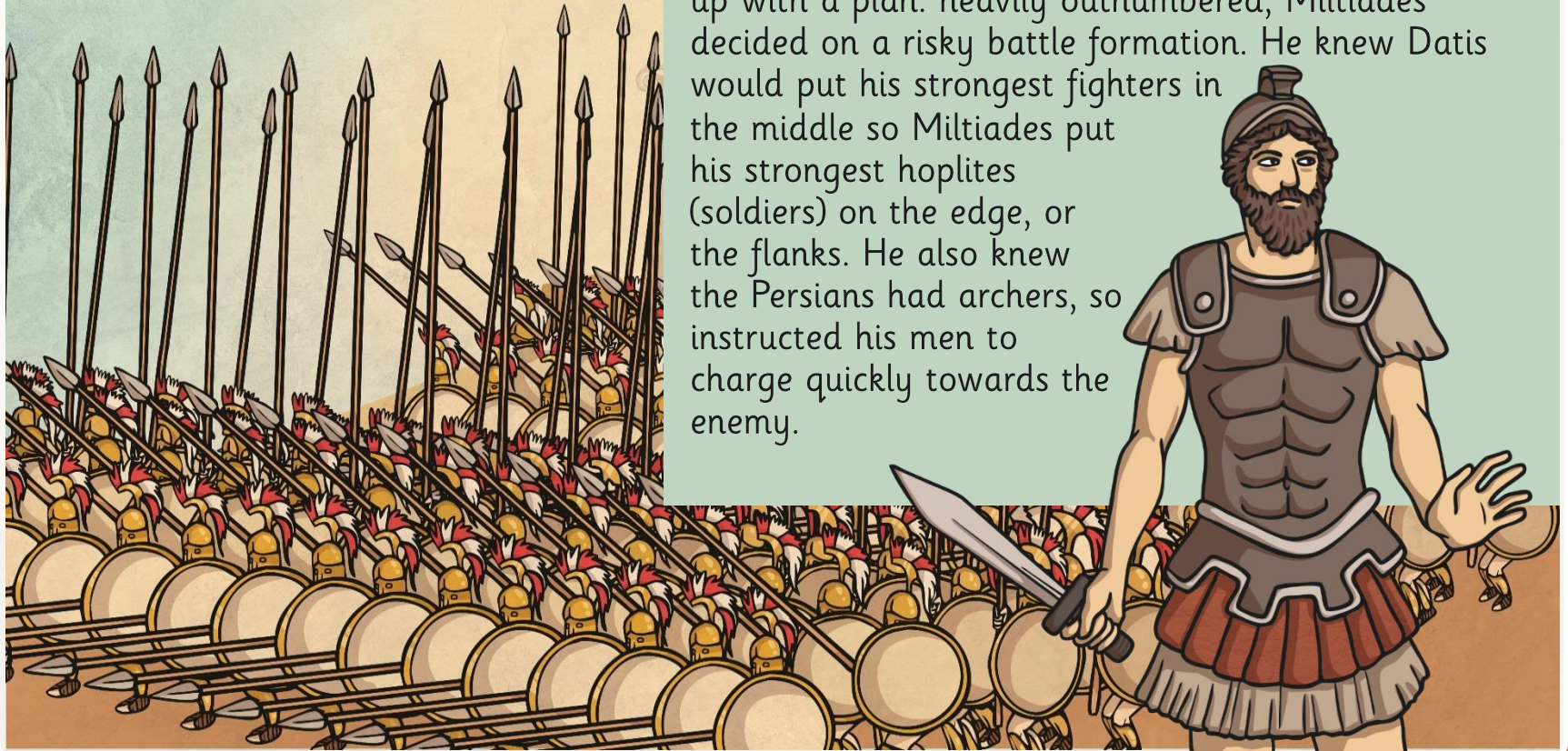
The Spartans were celebrating a festival and so said they would help, only once the festival was over. Pheidippides then ran back to Athens with the news that they would need to wait!

In pairs, role play the conversation between the Athenians and the Spartans. Why didn't the Spartans help? How do the Athenians feel about the Spartans' reason for not helping?



# Let Battle Commence!

The Athenian army, led by General Miltiades, tried to wait for the Spartan army but they knew they would have to fight on their own. He had to come up with a plan. heavily outnumbered, Miltiades decided on a risky battle formation. He knew Datis would put his strongest fighters in the middle so Miltiades put his strongest hoplites (soldiers) on the edge, or the flanks. He also knew the Persians had archers, so instructed his men to charge quickly towards the enemy.





# Surprise!

The Persians were shocked at this strategy and Athenian hoplites quickly ran past the line of arrows flying towards them. They charged straight at the Persians! The stronger fighters on the flanks quickly attacked the much weaker Persian soldiers on their flanks. This left the Athenians free to close in and trap the rest of the Persian army.

The remaining Persians then ran away to their ships!

The Persian army lost over 6,000 soldiers compared to only 192 Athenians!

Pheidippides then ran 26 miles to Athens to tell of their victory, and also to warn them of a possible second Persian attack.

He shouted out:

*'Joy to you, we've won!'*

As he said these words, he died.



Now complete the Battle of Marathon Ordering of Events activity sheet. The worksheet can be found on the resource page for week beginning 01/02/21

### Battle of Marathon Sequencing of Events

Cut out the statements and put them in the correct order.

The Athenians surrounded the Persians. Many Persians died.	The Athenians were not trained fighters but followed orders to run to the Persian army.
Pheidippides arrived in Sparta, but the Spartans refused to help.	The Athenians began to prepare after seeing King Darius' ships approaching.
Pheidippides, who was a runner, was sent to Sparta to ask for help as they were legendary fighters. It took him 2 days to run the 150 miles.	King Darius of Persia wanted to invade Athens to increase his empire.
6400 Persian soldiers died, while only 192 Athenian soldiers died.	After the battle, Pheidippides ran all the way back to Athens to tell the Athenians they had won. He then sadly died.