

Decline of the Greek City-States

By the end of the Peloponnesian War, Greece had fallen on hard times. Unemployment was high. When the brother of the king of Persia rebelled against the king, many young Greek men joined his army as **mercenaries**, or hired soldiers.

After so many years of war and plague, Athens was still able to regain its strength in trade. Two of Athens' greatest philosophers—Plato and Aristotle—taught and wrote during the century following the war. However, all of Greece was weakened by the war. Even Sparta had lost so many of its soldiers in the war that it no longer had the military strength it had once had. In 371 B.C., the Spartan army was defeated in a battle against the Greek city of **Thebes**.

Meanwhile, another power was rising to the north: **Macedonia**. As its army grew and strengthened, Macedonia became a threat to its Greek neighbors to the south. A great leader was soon to emerge from Macedonia.



▶ A coin from Macedonia shows a goat or ram with long horns. Both animals represented kings in this region.


Summarize the Lesson

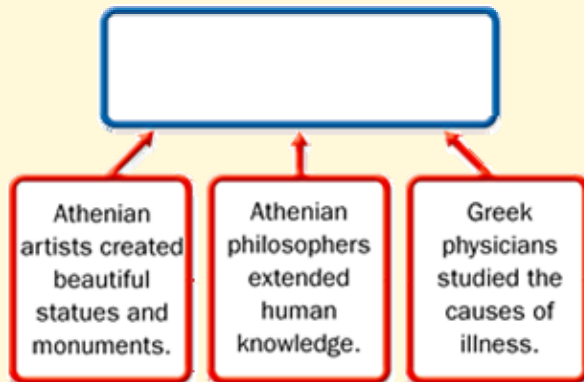
- **490 B.C.** Greeks defeated the much larger Persian army at Marathon.
- **480 B.C.** Athens' fleet destroyed Persian fleet at Salamis, ending Persian threat.
- **404 B.C.** Sparta defeated Athens in Peloponnesian War.

REVIEW

What were the causes of the decline of Athens?
Cause and Effect

Check Facts and Main Ideas

1.  **Main Idea and Details** On a separate piece of paper, fill in the missing main idea in the blank box.



2. What was the Delian League?
3. Why was the Battle of Salamis important to Greece?
4. What were some of the fields of study in which Athens excelled during its Golden Age?
5. **Critical Thinking: Solve Complex Problems** What advice would you have given to the leaders of Athens that might have helped them avoid the problems that developed? Use the word **reason** in your answer.

Link to Mathematics

Use a Calculator The distance Pheidippides ran from Marathon to Athens was 25 miles. Modern marathons are 26.2 miles long. If 1 mile equals about 1.6 kilometers, calculate how many kilometers Pheidippides ran and how many kilometers athletes today run in a **marathon**.

