

The Battle of Marathon

In 490BC a battle took place between Greece and Persia at a place called Marathon .

The Persian king wanted to make his kingdom larger by invading Athens.

Miltiades sent a runner to Sparta to ask for help because the Persian army had up to 90,000 men and the Athenians had only 10,000 men. It took the runner 2 days to reach Sparta. They agreed to come but only after the festival had ended.

The Greeks arrived first so they could choose the battle ground, on one side there were hills and forest and the other side was swamps, forcing the Persians to fight where the Greeks wanted them.

But they were still out numbered so Miltiades put his strongest fighters on the flank and the weak on the inside which was opposite to the way the Persians fought.

As soon as the Persians arrived the Greeks sprinted towards them so the archers couldn't fire their arrows.

Then the Greeks surrounded the Persians and the soldiers who weren't surrounded ran back to the ships so the Greeks had won. Over 6,000 Persians died and only 192 Greeks died.

After the Greeks had won a man called Pheidippides ran 26.2 miles to Athens to announce the victory.