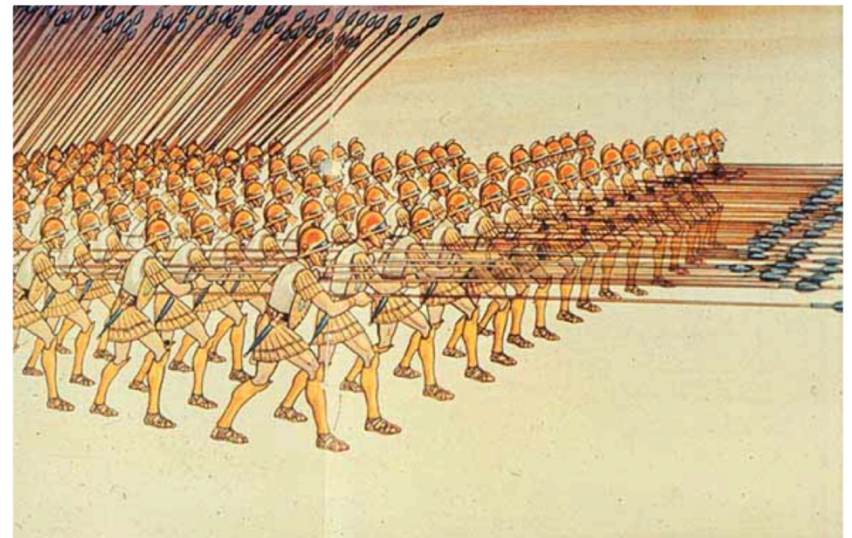
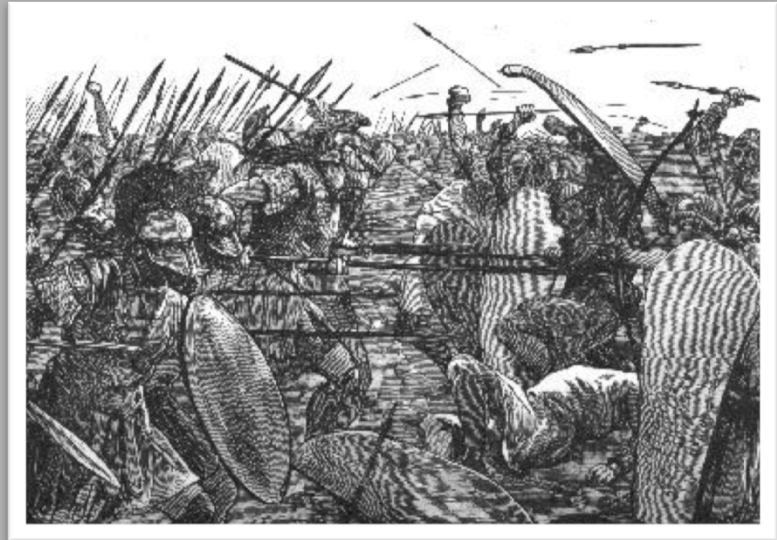


# ANCIENT GREECE MILITARY & BATTLES



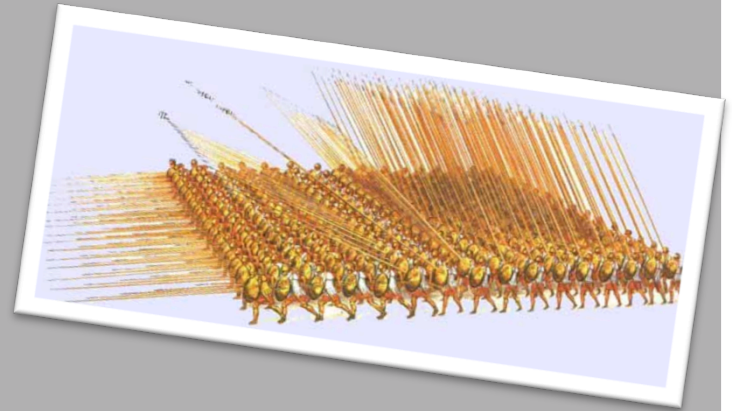
# TRADITIONAL BATTLE FORMATIONS

- Individual combats
- Group ambush but no organized formation



# GREEK HOPLITES (C. 650 BCE)

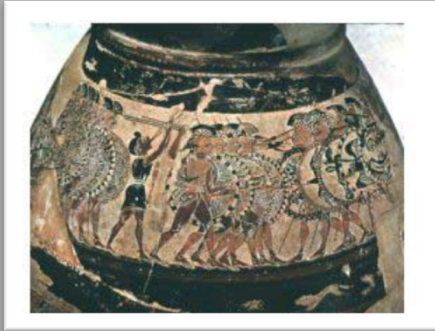
- Greek generals trained their soldiers to fight in lines, shoulder to shoulder
- In this way, each man was protected by the shield of the man standing next to him
- When they all marched forward together, no enemy spears or arrows could get through their wall of shields
- Hoplite formation is similar to a scrum in a Rugby match



# SUCCESS AND EFFECTIVENESS?

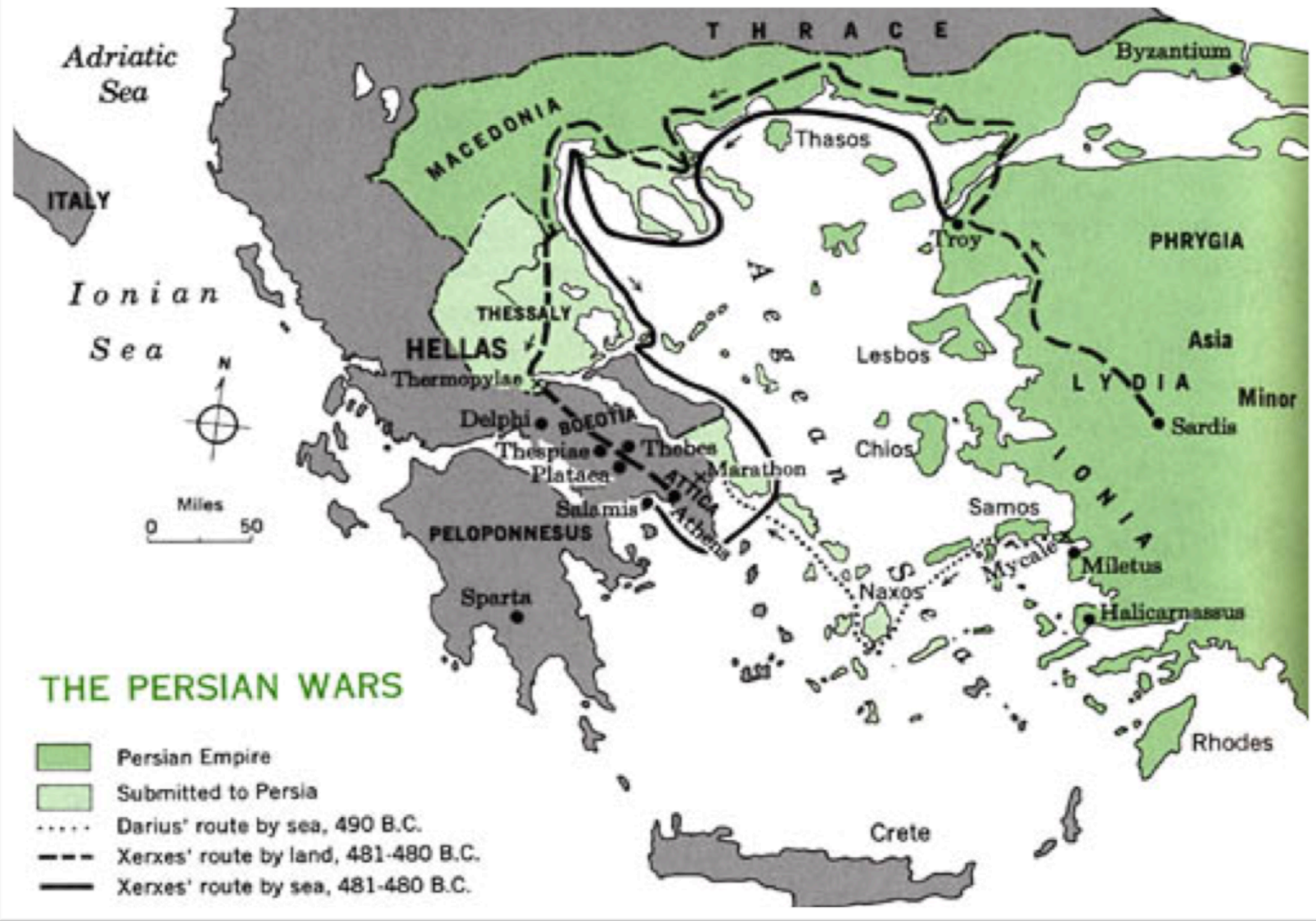
- What would determine the success and effectiveness of the hoplite and phalanx formation?
  - Soldiers had to be well trained and equipped with correct armour, shield and helmet (spear and sword)
  - Soldiers had to be brave to hold the line. If anyone started to run away, the whole line would fall apart
  - Intense training and preparation to perfect formation was required





## EFFECTS OF THE HOPLITE PHALANX

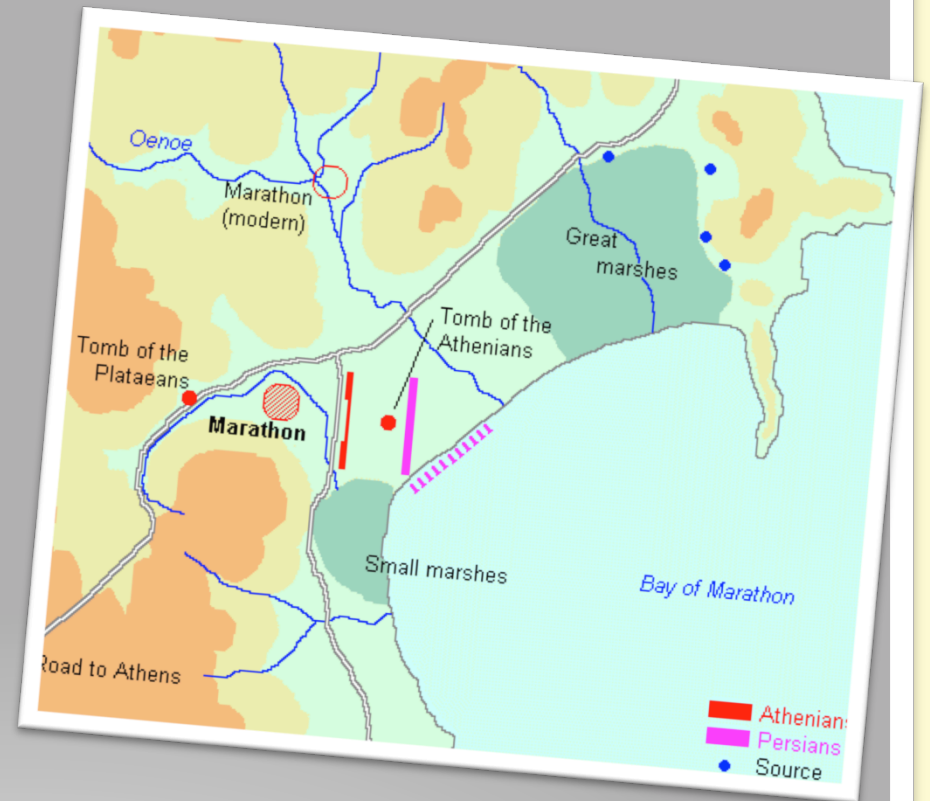
- New emphasis on the importance of each ordinary soldier helped democracy to develop in Greece
- Since armour was required, only the wealthy could be in the army as a hoplite
- The hoplite phalanx made Greek soldiers very desirable mercenaries for hundreds of years
- Hoplite phalanx helped Greece to fight off the Persians during the Persian Wars.
- The Romans used the same hoplite tactics to conquer the Greek empire.



# PERSIAN WARS

# BATTLE OF MARATHON (490 BCE)

- Greece (led by Athens) vs. Persia
- Athens appealed to Sparta for help
- Origin of the 'marathon'
- One of first recorded instances in which phalanx used
- Winner: Greece



# THERMOPYLAE (480 BCE)

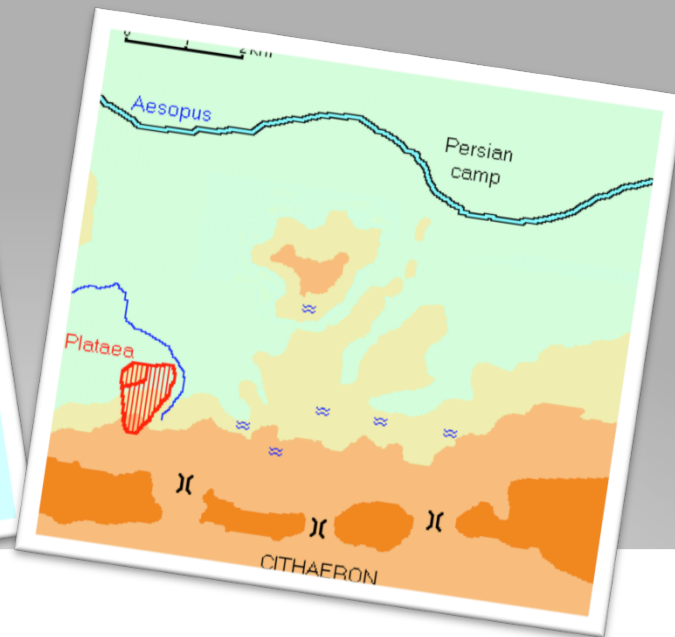
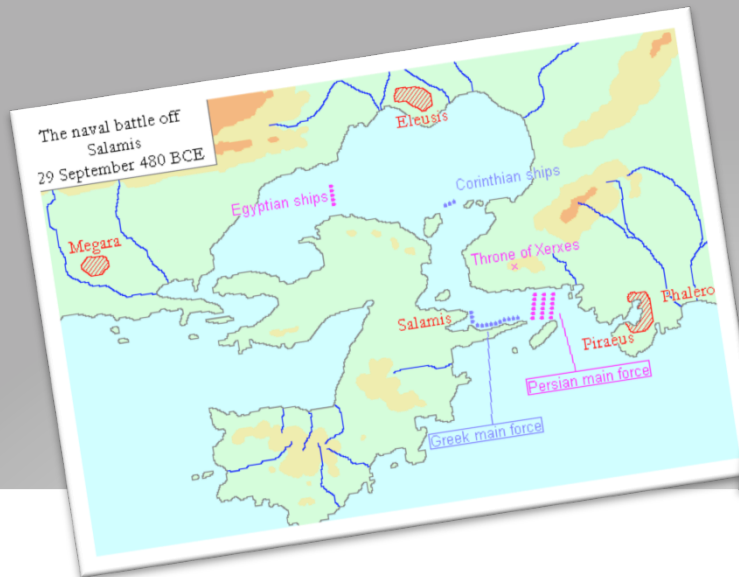
- Persian King Xerxes
- 300 Spartans led by king Leonidas defended narrow pass to protect Greek navy
- Oracle
- Betrayal
- *“Go, tell at Sparta, thou who pass by, that here obedient to her word, we lie”*
- Winner = Persia





# SALAMIS AND PLATAEA (479 BCE)

- Greeks (Athens, Sparta, Corinth) vs. Persia (Xerxes... again)
- Salamis: Naval battle (Greek fleet of triremes (fast ships) = winner Greece
- Plataea: land battle where Persia defeated by the Spartan phalanx



# ATHENS VS. SPARTA

- Deep suspicion and fear between two powers (Sparta= land; Athens = navy)
- 431 BCE: Peloponnesian War
- Pericles: plan to take aggressive action against Sparta's allies sailing troops to coast and away from Athenian lines
- Plague in Athens; death of Pericles
- 10 years later= stalemate
- 50 year peace signed: Peace of Nicias
- Athenian named Alcibiades- 415 BCE convinced Athenians to attack Greek city states on island of Sicily
- 413 BCE Athenians defeated and fleet destroyed in Syracuse leaving Athens powerless
- Sparta attacked Athens and Persia attacked Athens (revenge from Persian Wars)
- 405 BCE- Athenian navy destroyed in a surprise attack
- 404 BCE- Athens totally surrendered to the Sparta who instilled oligarchic government
- Age of Athens, Age of Pericles, the Classical Age and the Athenian Empire- came to and end



# PELOPONNESIAN WAR

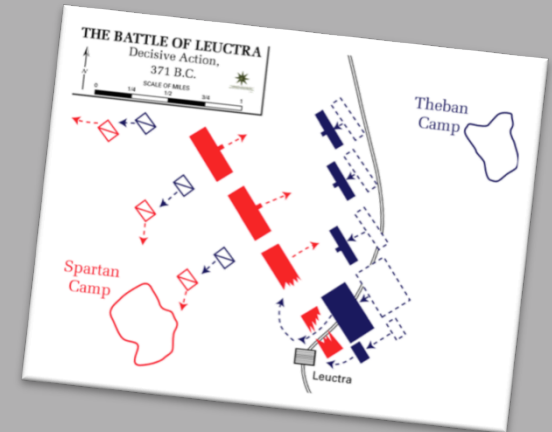
# PELOPONNESIAN WAR

- After Peloponnesian War, Sparta's military strength in Greece did not last long, as Sparta had trouble controlling other Greek city states under their brutal rule
- By 371 BCE, Sparta lost its position as Greece's leading military power
- Thebes became leading power, but only temporarily as Macedonia was gaining power

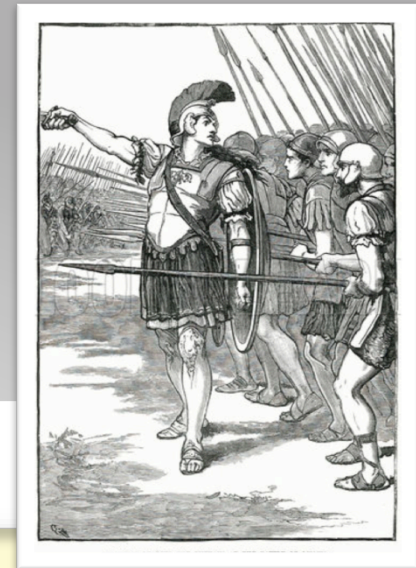


# BATTLE OF LEUCTRA

- Resulted from Theban refusal to sign the peace agreement of 371 BCE
- Cleombrotus was ordered to invade Boeotia and attack Thebes.
- He was met by Epaminondas' Theban force, consisting of about 6,000 hoplites and an unknown number of cavalry.
- Avoiding the usual battle formation of cavalry heading a continuous hoplite phalanx, with the commander on the right wing, Epaminondas massed hoplites to a depth of 50 on his left wing and advanced it ahead of the centre and right wings. When the superior Theban cavalry drove the Spartan cavalry back on the phalanx, the Theban left wing attacked and routed the Spartan right, killing Cleombrotus, the Spartan king.
- Nearly 1,000 Spartan dead



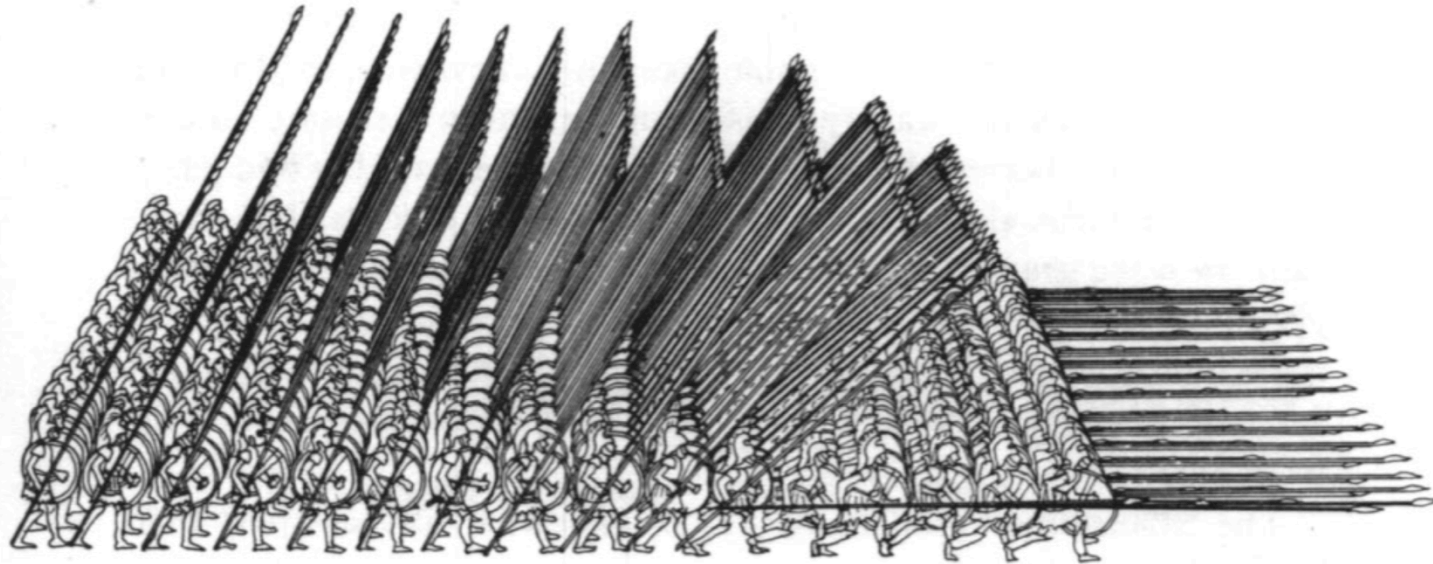
The defeat of Sparta destroyed the reputation of the Spartan hoplite phalanx



# RISE OF MACEDONIA

- **CULTURE:** similar to Greeks (army, gods, resources, language, culture)
- **PHILIP II:** Macedonia leader who was first to unify all of northern Greece under his command and to rule it from the capital city of Pella
- Wanted to unite all Greeks (who constantly feuded) against the barbarians (north) and Persians (east)
- 23 year rule= conquered much of mainland Greece due to successful PHALANX formation
- By 338 BCE, was had become the master of Greece but was murdered by a traitor in his own bodyguard.





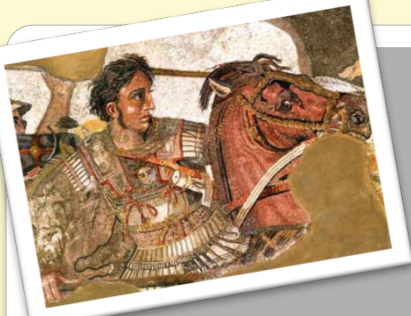
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*The Macedonian phalanx, here shown in its fighting formation of 256 men, the syntagma.*

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- Men had spears that were 4 metres long
- Rows of 16 deep, soldiers marched, front rows with spears pointed forward and rear with spears pointed upwards
- Three phalanx formations would trap the enemy by closing in from all sides
- Cavalry and shield bearers supported phalanx's

# ALEXANDER: RISE TO GREATNESS



- ▣ Alexander ruled at age of 20 after his father's death
- ▣ student of Aristotle and learned of ancient legends and always carried with him a copy of Homer's Iliad
- ▣ Conquered Thebes and set out to rule all of Greece, Persia, Near East (Babylon), Egypt, India (army marched over 17 000 km)
- ▣ Great victory at Issus (Asia Minor) against Persian King Darius and won against Persians who had 3x the size of his army but Darius escaped... story of death of Darius...
- ▣ Attempted to spread Greek culture, knowledge and language as a common uniting force but also showed respect for peoples' customs as he learned of geography and culture of conquered lands
- ▣ Alexander's death in 323 BCE (malaria ?) marks the end of an Classical Age and beginning of Hellenistic Age





# CONQUESTS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

- Within 13 years, Alexander had established the largest empire the world had ever seen
- Upon his death, his empire fell apart as quickly as Alexander had built it (empire split between his family and his generals who rivaled each other for power)
- Founded more than a dozen new cities (“Alexandria”) = most famous is Cairo, the capital of Egypt

