4-3 Notes

* King of Persia – Cyrus the Great – built an empire larger than any before.
* Persia is the area known today as southwestern Iran.
* King Cyrus conquered many lands but he treated his subjects well.
* The Persian Empire had much land and many safe, supplied roads to connect their capital city, Susa with the rest of the empire. It covered northern Mesopotamia, Syria, Canaan, the Phoenician cities, and Asia Minor.
* Another king of Persia, Darius, reorganized the gov’t and divided the empire into 20 satrapies (provinces).
* Each satrapies was headed by a satrap—protector of the kingdom. They collected taxes, acted as judges and chief of police
* King Darius power depended on his army. The king had the Immortals (10,000 soldiers) for his protection.
* The Persians set out to attack the Athenians at the plain of Marathon. The Athenians outsmarted the Persians and won the battle. Pheidippides ran from Marathon to Athens, collapsed shouting “Victory!” This is why we call races marathons.
* Xerxes was Darius’s son sought revenge against the Greeks to increase his country’s wealth and win glory. He took 180,000 troops with a fleet of 1000 ships. After 3 battles (2 on land and another at sea), the Greeks in Asia Minor joined forces with the Athenians and beat the Persians.
* The Straight of Salamis – a narrow strip of water near Athens where the smaller Greek ships beat the larger Persian ships.
* Plataea – where the Greek army crushed the Persians causing them to retreat to Asia.
* The *History of the Persian Wars* was written by Herodotus.