

Primary Source Reading A

BEFORE YOU READ

Interpreting the Source

Classical Greece is the name given to the period of Greek history from around 500 B.C. to 338 B.C. This period was marked not only by a brilliant culture but also by a disastrous war among the Greeks, the Peloponnesian War. The war broke out in 431 B.C. between the Greek city-states of Athens and Sparta. Athens ultimately surrendered in 404 B.C. Thucydides (thoo-SIH-duh-deez) was an Athenian general who fought in the Peloponnesian War. A defeat in battle led the Athenian assembly to send him into exile, which gave him the opportunity to write his *History of the Peloponnesian War*. He did not believe that divine forces or gods caused events in history. Instead, he saw war and politics as the activities of human beings, and he placed much emphasis on the accuracy of his facts. Many historians today consider Thucydides the greatest historian of the ancient world.

Reader's Dictionary

adhering: remaining faithful to
narrative: a story
derive: to receive or obtain
want: lack of
undue partiality: bias or prejudice

Guided Reading

Below is an excerpt from Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*, which discusses the methods he used for collecting and writing this history. Read the selection, and then answer the questions that follow.

From *History of the Peloponnesian War*

With reference to the speeches in this history, some were delivered before the war began, others while it was going on; some I heard myself, others I got from various quarters; it was in all cases difficult to carry them word for word in one's memory, so my habit has been to make the speakers say what was in my opinion demanded of them by the various occasions, of course adhering as closely as possible to the general sense of what they really said. And with reference to the narrative of events, far from permitting myself to derive it from the first source that came to hand, I did not even trust my own impressions, but it rests partly on

what I saw myself, partly on what others saw for me, the accuracy of the report being always tried by the most severe and detailed tests possible. My conclusions have cost me some labour from the want of coincidence between accounts of the same occurrences by different eye-witnesses, arising sometimes from imperfect memory, sometimes from undue partiality for one side or the other.

Source: Thucydides. *History of the Peloponnesian War*, translated by Richard Crawley. classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.1.first.html.

Primary Source Reading A

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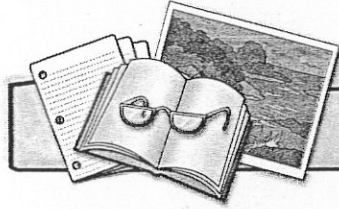
Document-Based Questions

Directions: Use information from the primary source to answer the questions below.

1. **Identifying** What sources did Thucydides use in gathering his information?

2. **Assessing** Thucydides used a particular method for writing the speeches given by people. What was that method, and how might it affect his history?

3. **Analyzing** What concerns does Thucydides raise about the sources he used?



Primary Source Reading B

BEFORE YOU READ

Interpreting the Source

Margaret Thatcher (1925–) is one of the most well-known women in history. Sometimes called the “Iron Lady” because of her strength and confidence, Lady Thatcher was the first woman to be prime minister of the United Kingdom. She held the office from 1979 to 1990, the longest term in more than 150 years. Although she was not always the most popular leader, Lady Thatcher’s hard work and leadership helped bring Britain out of a recession and restore its ailing economy.

Reader’s Dictionary

totalitarian: a type of government that has control over peoples’ lives

Warsaw Pact: the 1955 defensive organization that included the Soviet Union and eastern European countries

Berlin Wall: a wall surrounding West Berlin, built by Soviet-controlled East Germany

Cold War: the power struggle from 1945 to the late 1980s between pro-democracy and pro-communism countries

resolution: determination

Guided Reading

Margaret Thatcher gave her final speech as prime minister of the United Kingdom on November 22, 1990. In this excerpt, she reminds listeners that during her time in office, the world changed greatly. Lady Thatcher also reminds people about the importance of liberty.

From Margaret Thatcher’s Final Speech to the British Government

Ten years ago, the eastern part of Europe lay under totalitarian rule, its people knowing neither rights nor liberties. Today, we have a Europe in which democracy, the rule of law, and basic human rights are spreading ever more widely; where the threat to our security from the overwhelming conventional forces of the Warsaw Pact has been removed; where the Berlin Wall has been torn down and the Cold War is at an end.

These immense changes did not come about by chance. They have been achieved by

strength and resolution in defense, and by a refusal ever to be intimidated. No one in eastern Europe believes that their countries would be free had it not been for those western governments who were prepared to defend liberty, and who kept alive their hope that one day eastern Europe too would enjoy freedom.

Source: Margaret Thatcher. *The Downing Street Years*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1993.

Primary Source Reading B

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Document-Based Questions

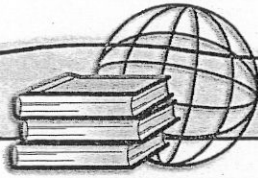
Directions: Use information from the primary source to answer the questions below.

- 1. Describing** How did Margaret Thatcher describe eastern European rule before she became prime minister?

- 2. Listing** Name three things that Thatcher says democracy brought to eastern Europe.

- 3. Analyzing** Does Thatcher believe that the struggle for democracy was an easy one? Explain.

- 4. Evaluating** In her speech, does Margaret Thatcher take full credit for the changes that took place during her time in office? Explain your answer.



World Literature Reading A

BEFORE YOU READ

About the Selection

William Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, Great Britain, and he died there in 1616. He wrote during the English Renaissance, which lasted from about 1485 through the 1660s. This period is also known as the Elizabethan Age, named after Queen Elizabeth I.

The selection below is a speech from Shakespeare's play *Richard II*. Richard II was a tyrant and king of England from 1377 to 1399, when he lost the throne to Henry IV. In the excerpt, John of Gaunt is describing his impressions of England.

Reader's Dictionary

majesty: stately splendor; magnificence

Mars: Roman god of war

demi: half; part; partly

realm: a community or territory over which a king or queen rules

Guided Reading

As you read this selection, think about what England means to John of Gaunt. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Tragedy of King Richard II

by William Shakespeare

This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle,
 This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
 This other Eden, demi-paradise,
 This fortress built by Nature for herself
 Against infection and the hand of war,
 This happy breed of men, this little world,
 This precious stone set in the silver sea,
 Which serves it in the office of a wall,
 Or as a moat defensive to a house,
 Against the envy of less happier lands,
 This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England . . .

Source: www.shakespeare-literature.com/Richard_II/5.html.

World Literature Reading A

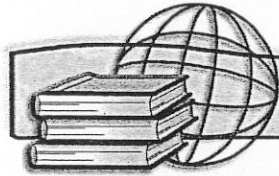
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Literary Response and Analysis

1. **Naming** What type of landform is described in the excerpt from *Richard II*? How can you tell from the language of the poem?

2. **Describing** How does the speaker feel about England? What language indicates these feelings?

3. **Analyzing** The speaker says that England is a "fortress built by nature." What does he mean by that?



World Literature Reading B

BEFORE YOU READ

About the Selection

In addition to 37 plays, Shakespeare also wrote two narrative poems, 154 sonnets, and other poetry. This next selection is a song from the play *As You Like It*. Music was important to Elizabethan audiences, so Shakespeare used songs to help heighten the mood in his plays.

Reader's Dictionary

ingratitude: unfriendliness or rudeness in return for a kindness

keen: sharp or hurtful

feigning: pretending

folly: a mistake

Guided Reading

As you read this song, think about the emotions that the writer displays and how he uses images from nature to convey his message.

Then answer the questions that follow.

"Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind"

by William Shakespeare

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,

Thou art not so unkind

As man's ingratitude;

Thy tooth is not so keen,

Because thou art not seen,

Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh-ho, sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:

Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:

Then, heigh-ho, the holly!

This life is most jolly.

Source: www.shakespeare-literature.com/As_You_Like_It/10.html

World Literature Reading B

continued



Literary Response and Analysis

1. **Explaining** According to the song, what is more unkind than the winter wind? Why?

2. **Specifying** What is ironic about the singer's words in the last line of the song?

3. **Drawing Conclusions** What general conclusions about England's climate and vegetation can you draw from the song?
