550 BC – 330 BC

Persian Empire Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. Who founded the Persian (Achaemenid) Empire around 550 BC?

- (A) Darius I, who divided the empire into twenty provinces
- (B) Artaxerxes I, who signed a peace with Athens
- (C) Cambyses II, who defeated the pharaoh of Egypt
- (D) Cyrus the Great, who conquered the Medes and Lydians

2. What was historically significant about the Cyrus Cylinder?

- (A) It described Cyrus's policy of letting conquered peoples keep their religions
- (B) It described Darius's plan for dividing the whole empire into twenty provinces
- (C) It listed the taxes that each province owed to the Persian king every year
- (D) It recorded the peace treaty that ended the wars between Persia and Athens

3. What were the Persian provinces called, each governed by a royal-appointed official?

- (A) Satrapies
- (B) Prefectures
- (C) Cantons
- (D) Caliphates

4. What happened at the Battle of Marathon in 490 BC?

- (A) A Persian army defeated the Athenians and then burned their city
- (B) A Persian fleet was destroyed by the Greek navy in a narrow strait
- (C) A Persian army was defeated by the Athenians, which shocked Persia
- (D) A Persian army was held back for days by 300 Spartans in a pass

5. Which Persian king led the great invasion of Greece in 480 BC?

- (A) Cambyses II, son of Cyrus II
- (B) Xerxes, son of Darius I
- (C) Darius III, the last king
- (D) Cyrus II, the first king

6. What was the Royal Road built by Darius I?

- (A) A sea route from the Persian Gulf to Egypt that sped up the grain trade
- (B) A road of nearly 500 km from Persepolis to Babylon used for royal parades
- (C) A road from Susa to Athens built to move the army of Xerxes into Greece
- (D) A road of nearly 2,700 km from Sardis to Susa that sped up communication

7. What was Persepolis?

- (A) The capital city of Babylonia, captured by Cyrus the Great with almost no resistance
- (B) The port city of Egypt, where Cambyses II defeated the pharaoh in battle
- (C) The ceremonial capital of Persia, built by Darius I and burned by Alexander
- (D) The capital of Lydia, where the Royal Road began in western Anatolia

8. Who ended the Persian Empire?

- (A) Pericles of Athens, who conquered Persia after the Battle of Salamis
- (B) Alexander the Great of Macedonia, who conquered Persia between 334 and 330 BC
- (C) Leonidas of Sparta, who conquered Persia after the Battle of Thermopylae
- (D) Julius Caesar of Rome, who conquered Persia between 58 and 50 BC

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Persian Empire Quiz: Answer Key

1. **D** Cyrus the Great, who conquered the Medes and Lydians

2. **A** It described Cyrus's policy of letting conquered peoples keep their religions

3. **A** Satrapies

4. **C** A Persian army was defeated by the Athenians, which shocked Persia

5. **B** Xerxes, son of Darius I

6. **D** A road of nearly 2,700 km from Sardis to Susa that sped up communication

7. **C** The ceremonial capital of Persia, built by Darius I and burned by Alexander

8. **B** Alexander the Great of Macedonia, who conquered Persia between 334 and 330 BC