550 BC – 330 BC

Put the Events in Order

Name _____ Date _____

These 8 events from the Persian Empire timeline are out of order. Write a number from 1 to 8 in each box, from the earliest event (1) to the latest (8).

☐ **Darius I Reorganizes the Empire**
Darius I crushes a series of rebellions after Cambyses' death, then reorganizes the empire into 20 provinces called satrapies, each governed by a royal-appointed satrap; he builds the Royal Road from Sardis to Susa and begins construction of Persepolis.

☐ **Cambyses Conquers Egypt**
Cyrus's son Cambyses II defeats the Egyptian pharaoh at the Battle of Pelusium and absorbs Egypt into the Persian Empire, extending Persian rule across the entire eastern Mediterranean coast.

☐ **Battle of Marathon**
A Persian army sent by Darius to punish Athens for supporting a Greek rebellion lands at Marathon and is defeated by a smaller Athenian force, who then famously march back to Athens to prevent a second Persian landing.

☐ **Cyrus the Great Founds the Empire**
The Persian king Cyrus II defeats the Median king Astyages and then conquers the kingdoms of Lydia (in modern Turkey) and the Medes, creating the largest empire the world had yet seen.

☐ **Xerxes Invades Greece**
The Persian king Xerxes leads a massive invasion of Greece; 300 Spartans hold the pass at Thermopylae long enough for Greece to prepare; Xerxes burns Athens, but the Greek navy defeats the Persian fleet at Salamis and Xerxes retreats.

☐ **Peace of Callias**
Athens and Persia sign the Peace of Callias (or a formal agreement of mutual non-aggression), ending fifty years of conflict and establishing the Aegean Sea and western Anatolia as roughly the boundary between Greek and Persian spheres.

☐ **Cyrus Conquers Babylon**
Cyrus captures Babylon — then the most important city in the world — with almost no resistance; he issues the Cyrus Cylinder, a clay tablet declaring that he will respect the city's gods and free peoples deported by the Babylonian kings, including the Jews.

☐ **Alexander the Great Conquers Persia**
The Macedonian king Alexander III crosses into Anatolia, defeats Persian forces three times — at Granicus (334 BC), Issus (333 BC), and Gaugamela (331 BC) — captures Persepolis and burns it, then pursues the last Persian king Darius III until Darius is killed by his own nobles in 330 BC.

550 BC – 330 BC

Put the Events in Order: Answer Key

550 BC — 1. Cyrus the Great Founds the Empire

539 BC — 2. Cyrus Conquers Babylon

525 BC — 3. Cambyses Conquers Egypt

522–486 BC — 4. Darius I Reorganizes the Empire

490 BC — 5. Battle of Marathon

480 BC — 6. Xerxes Invades Greece

449 BC — 7. Peace of Callias

334–330 BC — 8. Alexander the Great Conquers Persia