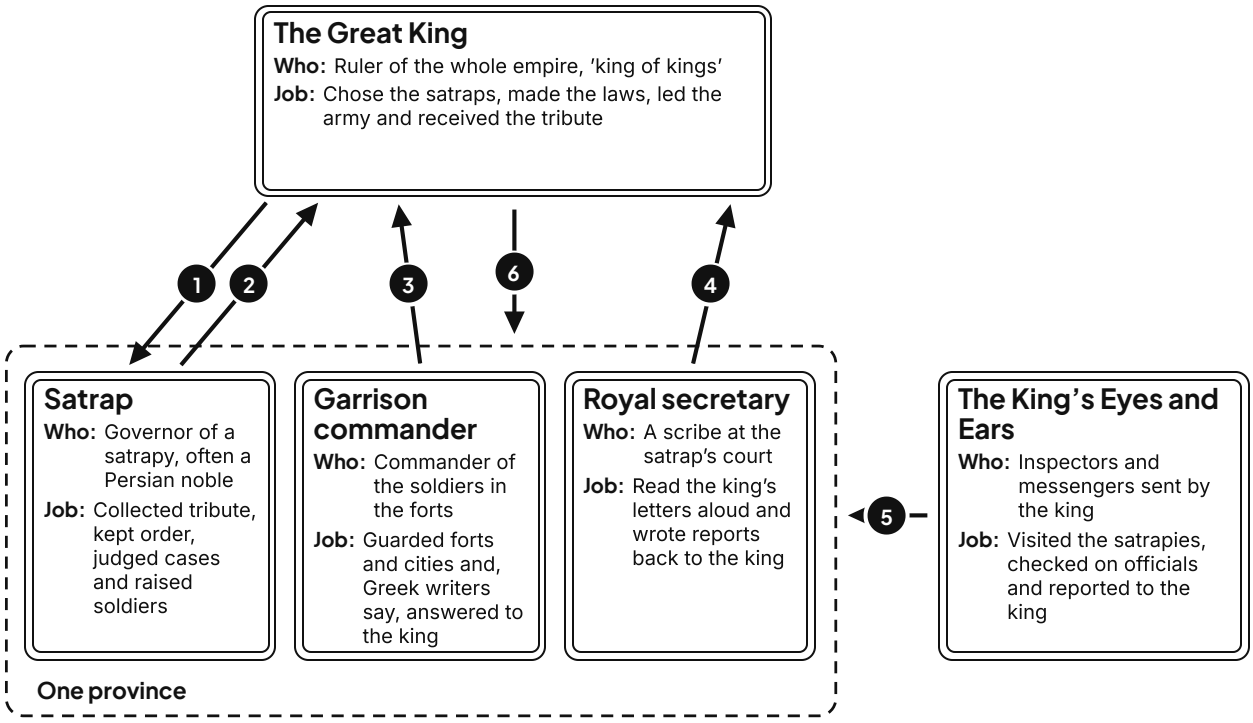
Name _____

# HOW THE GREAT KING RULED

The Persian Empire was huge, and its peoples spoke many languages. Darius I organized it into provinces called satrapies. He did not trust one person with too much power. Greek writers describe several officials in a satrapy who each answered to the king, and royal inspectors who checked on them all.




## ◆ WHAT EACH ARROW MEANS ◆

1. **The Great King → Satrap:** The king appoints the satrap to govern the satrapy.
2. **Satrap → The Great King:** The satrap collects tribute and sends it to the king each year.
3. **Garrison commander → The Great King:** The garrison commander reports to the king, not just to the satrap.
4. **Royal secretary → The Great King:** The royal secretary sends written reports to the king.
5. **The King's Eyes and Ears → the province:** The King's Eyes and Ears inspect the satrapy and tell the king.
6. **The Great King → the province:** The king's orders travel to the satrapy by the Royal Road.

### What Some Districts Paid Each Year

Herodotus, writing about 430 BC, lists 20 tax districts set up by Darius and what each paid every year. Here are seven of them. Most paid in silver; one paid in gold dust.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Ionians, Carians, Lycians and their neighbors (west coast)** | 400 talents of silver |
| **Lydians, Mysians and their neighbors** | 500 talents of silver |
| **Cilicia** | 360 white horses and 500 talents of silver (140 talents paid Cilicia's horsemen) |
| **Egypt, with Libya, Cyrene and Barca** | 700 talents of silver, plus grain for the soldiers at Memphis |
| **Babylon and the rest of Assyria** | 1,000 talents of silver |
| **Ecbatana and the rest of Media** | 450 talents of silver |
| **The Indians (along the Indus)** | 360 talents of gold dust |
| **Persis, the Persians' homeland** | nothing |

A talent was a weight, not a coin. Herodotus counts silver in Babylonian talents, about 30 kg each (sources give about 26 to 34 kg). Persis, the Persians' homeland, paid no tribute. Some peoples sent gifts instead: the Arabians sent frankincense, and the Ethiopians gold, ebony and ivory.

### Coins

Darius was the first Persian king to make coins: the gold daric and the silver siglos. Both showed the king as an archer, with no writing. A daric weighed about 8.4 grams. Coins were used most in the west; elsewhere people paid in silver by weight or in goods.