

Great Battles for Boys: Ancients to Middle Ages

by Joe Giorello

Teacher Answer Sheet

The Battle of Thermopylae

1. What territory did Persia want?
Macedon and Ionia which were controlled by Ancient Greece
2. How old were Spartan boys when they were sent to military schools to be trained as warriors?
Seven
3. Who won the Battle of Thermopylae?
The Persians
4. What did Xerxes do when he found out most of the Athens had fled?
He burned the Athens to the ground

The Battle of Salamis

1. What were triremes?
Powerful ships. They had three levels of oarsmen ("tri" means three), huge sails, and a bronze battering ram at the ship's prow (front end)
2. Who was the Greeks' naval commander?
Themistocles
3. Who won the Battle of Salamis?
The Greeks

The Battle of Issus

1. Who wanted to stop Alexander the Great's invasion of the Persian Empire?
King Darius III
2. Who won the Battle of Issus?
Alexander the Great
3. Who was Alexander the Great's tutor?
Aristotle, a famous Greek philosopher

Battle of Cannae - Second Punic Wars

1. What are mercenaries?
Soldiers with no loyalty to any particular country who fight because they are paid to
2. Who won the Battle of Cannae?
Hannibal Barca
3. Who won the First and Second Punic Wars?
Rome

The Battle of Alesia - The Gallic Wars

1. What was Julius Caesar's plan when he arrived in Alesia?
To build a wall around the Gauls and trap them
2. What Roman military leader showed up at Alesia?
Marc Anthony
3. Who won the battle at Alesia?
Julius Caesar

Battle of Jotapata

1. What Jewish rebel leader was Titus Flavius Vespasian fighting against?
Joseph ben Matthias
2. What was the last trick Joseph tried?
Pouring boiling oil on the Romans
3. What happened to Joseph after the Jews were killed by the Romans?
His life was spared by Titus, he became a Roman citizen, and he changed his name to Josephus. He wrote several books about the Jewish revolt against the Romans which historians use to this day.

The Battle of Tours

1. What is the historical era of 500 AD to 1500 AD known as?
The Middle Ages
2. Who was leading the Muslim forces in 732 to conquer and convert the French to Islam?
Abdul Rahman Al Ghafiqi

3. Who was "The Hammer"?
Charles Martel
4. What was the significant impact of the Battle of Tours?
The Islamic Caliphate lost much of its power and could not conquer the rest of Northern Europe.

The Battle of Hastings

1. What is an heir?
The person who takes over a king's throne after his death.
2. How old was William when he became the Duke of Normandy?
Eight
3. Who won the Battle of Hastings?
William the Conqueror

The Crusades

1. Who were the two main religious groups fighting against each other in The Crusades?
Christians and Muslims
2. Who took control of Jerusalem around 1070?
The Turks
3. Who encouraged Christians to fight back?
The Pope

The Battle of Antioch

1. What was one of the Crusaders' first objectives?
To retake the city of Antioch
2. Who was the leader of the Crusaders in Antioch?
Bohemond of Italy
3. Who won the Battle of Antioch?
The Crusaders

The Battle of Stirling Bridge

1. Who was nicknamed “Toom Tabard” (or “empty coat”)?
King John Balliol of Scotland
2. Who won the Battle of Stirling Bridge?
William Wallace

The Siege Vienna

1. Who led the Turks in the 1500s?
Sultan Suleiman II
2. What is a “jihad”?
A “holy war” by Muslims to conquer non-Islamic nations
3. What did the Turks do to secretly try to break into Vienna?
They were digging tunnels under the city and filling them with gun powder
4. Who was the unlikely soldier who helped Vienna?
Nicolas Graf von Salm

The Spanish Armada Invasion of England

1. What started the conflicts between England and Spain in 1568?
Queen Elizabeth I seized Spanish ships carrying gold
2. What was Spain’s powerful navy called?
The Spanish Armada
3. Who did Queen Elizabeth use to fight the Spanish on the sea until she built a navy?
Privateers or Buccaneers, private English captains who she gave official powers to attack Spanish ships
4. Which country won the battle?
England

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