

CHAPTER

5

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

The Peloponnesian War

Section 3

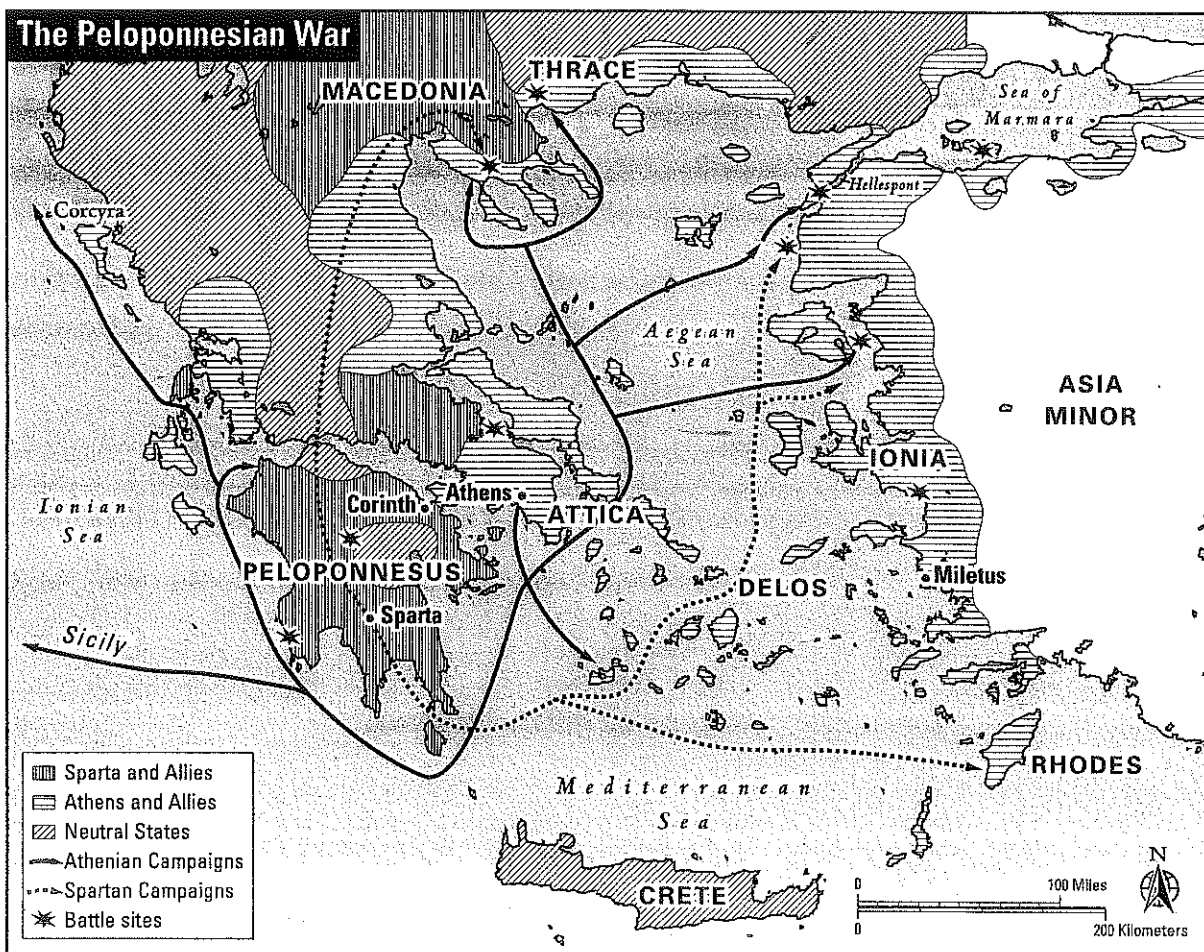
Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

The two Greek city-states of Sparta and Athens maintained an uneasy existence in the fifth century B.C. Spartan discipline, militarism, and aristocratic rule were in direct opposition to creative, vibrant, and democratic Athens.

The immediate cause of the Peloponnesian War was Athenian expansion onto the island of Corcyra in 431 B.C., which threatened the Spartan ally of Corinth. The coastal city of Athens, without a strong army, used its navy to raid the Spartan coast, supply the city of Athens, and maintain contact with its allies. On the other hand, the landlocked Spartans

ravaged the countryside with their army, forcing the Athenians to hide within their city walls. A truce was finally arranged in 421 B.C. after ten indecisive years.

However, Athens broke the peace in 415 B.C. with a poorly planned attack on Syracuse, a Spartan ally located on the island of Sicily. The invasion failed miserably, and the Spartans, with their new ally of Persia, eventually forced the surrender of Athens in 404 B.C. The entire Greek world, though, felt the loss as the Greek city-states began a continuous period of decline.



Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. Name the three bodies of water that form the backdrop for the Spartan and Athenian campaigns.

2. Compare the positioning of Athens and its allies to that of Sparta and its allies.

3. Which city-state seemed to have the geographical advantage? Why?

4. Does Athens or Sparta have more geographic area on the map?

5. Which city-state appears to control the Greek peninsula?

6. Why was this war called the Peloponnesian War?

7. How do the arrows indicating Athenian campaigns reflect their overall strategy for the war?
