**Xerxes and Themistocles Reading Questions**

Read the webpage below and answer the following questions:

[Xerxes I and Themistocles prepare for war - History Skills](https://www.historyskills.com/classroom/ancient-history/anc-between-persian-wars-reading/)

1. When did king Darius I of Persia die, and who succeeded him?
2. What was one of the first challenges that Xerxes I faced when he ascended the throne?
3. How did Themistocles rise to prominence in Athens despite his non-aristocratic background?
4. What was the strategic naval infrastructure that Themistocles established in Athens?
5. What significant argument did Themistocles win in the Athenian Assembly in 483 BC?
6. What was the Hellenic League, and why was it formed?
7. Which city-state was appointed to command the Hellenic League's armies and navies?
8. How did Themistocles interpret the 'wooden walls' prophecy of the Delphic Oracle?
9. How did Xerxes transport his troops across the Hellespont?
10. What did Xerxes order his soldiers to do when his forces reached Mt. Athos?
11. Who led the Greek forces at the Battle of Thermopylae, and what was the outcome?
12. What happened to the city of Athens after the Battle of Thermopylae?
13. How did Themistocles protect the Athenians from Xerxes' army after the fall of Athens?
14. Where did the Battle of Salamis take place and who emerged victorious?
15. Where was the Persian army finally defeated, ending the Persian invasion of Greece?
16. How is Themistocles remembered in Greek history?

**Paragraph Writing**

Based upon what you have learnt in your readings, answer the question below in paragraph format (Topic Sentence, Explanation, Evidence, Concluding Sentence):

*In what ways did both Persia and Athens prepare for the second stage of the Persian Wars?*