

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# The Persian Empire

"Like a Persian"

Let's take it back to the sixth century BC,  
When the Persians mastered the Middle East.  
Before wars were fought digitally,  
They said, "Send in the cavalry," that's literally.  
In the desert land, you could get sand in your sandwich,  
An empire was born and spread by the sword.  
The Persians were the ancestors of modern Iranians,  
And they had the greatest army, always training them  
To take on the neighboring states of Mesopotamia,  
They reached the Himalayas and conquered the rest of Arabia.  
Persian secret weapon was the special forces,  
"The Immortals," warriors who would ride into war  
On impressive horses and leave a mess of corpses,  
In their wake led by Cyrus the Great.  
He freed Hebrews from Babylon,  
Not Hannah Montana; Cyrus was the nicest.

Like a Persian:  
Tough since the very first times,  
Smart since the very first rhymes.  
We're the army comin' and you can hardly summon  
The strength to stand up, we're Persian.

Cambyes inherited the kingdom in 529 BC,  
And he was quite pleased.  
He wanted to extend the empire's reach,

But he spent a little too much time overseas.  
Conquered Egypt, but his leadership was not,  
As strategic as his father's.  
He left his brother running things for too long and lost his allegiance,  
Maybe his brother was a fake, but either way.  
The new king of Persia was Darius the Great,  
He knew how to collect coins and build up trade.  
But try as he might, Darius couldn't increase  
The empire's size by invading Greece.  
Greco-Persian Wars began in 490,  
Three hundred Spartans stopped em at Thermopylae.  
A Greek traitor's hand showed 'em the place to land,  
But this was the home of the Marathon Man.  
And Greeks fought with hoplites (that's not right!),  
And a storm at sea destroyed a third of the fleet.  
Even Xerxes the First couldn't conquer Greece,  
'Cause they were too strong, and had bomb philosophies.

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