Date Chart

BRONZE AGE
Ca. 1220 B.C. Minos, king of Crete; Theseus, king of Athens
Sack of Troy by Agamemnon of Mycenae

DARK AGE
Ca. 1050 B.C. Emigration of Ionians to Asia Minor

RENAISSANCE
Ca. 850 B.C. Formation of city states (Sparta, Corinth, etc.)
776 B.C. First Olympic Games
Ca. 750–500 B.C. Trade and colonization
Ca. 725 B.C. Composition of Iliad and Odyssey by Homer (Ionia)
Ca. 700 B.C. Composition of Works and Days by Hesiod (Boeotia)
Ca. 657–625 B.C. Cypselus, tyrant of Corinth
Ca. 594 B.C. Solon’s reforms in Athens

PERSIAN INVASIONS
546 B.C. Defeat of Croesus of Lydia and Greeks in Asia Minor
by Cyrus of Persia
507 B.C. Foundation of democracy in Athens by Cleisthenes
490 B.C. Expedition sent against Athens by Darius of Persia; battle of Marathon
480 B.C. Invasion of Greece by Xerxes: Thermopylae (480), Salamis (480), Plataea (479)
Simonides, poet

IMPERIAL ATHENS
478 B.C. Foundation of Delian League, which grows into Athenian Empire
472 B.C. Aeschylus’s Persians
461–429 B.C. Pericles dominant in Athens: radical democracy and empire
War between Athens and Sparta
446 B.C. Thirty Years Peace with Sparta
Parthenon and other buildings
Herodotus, History

PELOPONNESIAN WAR
431 B.C. Outbreak of war between Athens and the Peloponnesian League
430–429 B.C. Plague at Athens; death of Pericles
425 B.C. Aristophanes’ Acharnians
421 B.C. Temporary peace between Athens and Sparta
415 B.C. Athenian expedition to Sicily
413 B.C. Sicilian expedition defeated; war between Athens and Sparta
404 B.C. Surrender of Athens
Thucydides, Histories