

Today in Math History...

-28 September 490 B.C.



Greeks defeat Persians. In one of history's great battles, the Greeks defeated the Persians at Marathon. A Greek soldier was dispatched to notify Athens of the victory, running the entire distance and providing the name for the modern *“marathon”* race.

Legend has it that the Greek soldier, Pheidippides, delivered the momentous message “Niki!” (“Victory”), then collapsed and died!

The current marathon distance (26 mi., 385 yds.) was set for the 1908 London Olympics so that the course could start at Windsor Castle and end in front of the Royal Box.