

PERSIA PERFECT!

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____ Period _____

Directions: Three Persian successor states are competing for the approval of the Achaemenids, the original Persian empire. You and your group members are the four Achaemenid judges, and you will be hearing from three contestants. It is your job to decide which of the three is the most Persia Perfect. **Each judge will have different qualities to look for in the contestants**, so as you read together as a group, take notes in your section of the organizer for each contestant. Then, group members should share and discuss their observations with each other. With the organizers complete, the group must then discuss to decide overall which successor state is the winner of Persia Perfect!

	Seleucus (Seleucids)	Mithradates (Parthians)	Shapur (Sasanians)
<p>Cyrus the Great: “I’m looking for an empire that shows tolerance toward diverse subjects, and one that shows a real connection to our roots as pastoral nomads.”</p> 			
<p>Cambyses II: “I want an empire that wins, ok? I want to see huge conquests and expansion. Also, I want them to really show me their Persian pride.”</p> 			

Darius I: “The most important thing to me is that you



have a stable and organized empire. How are you consolidating your power? What systems and policies do you have to keep things running smoothly?”

Zarathustra: “In my view, a good ruler must follow the



Zoroastrian teachings or good thoughts, words, and deeds, and to rule in a way that would be pleasing to

Ahura Mazda. Live in harmony with others, Persian or not.”

THE BIG WINNER!

Now that you and your fellow judges have considered all the factors, which of the successor states do you think is “Persia Perfect” and why? Explain your choice below.

How well did your group work today? What did you do well? What could be improved for the future?