



Study Questions

A modern writer on Thucydides asked the question, 'What is wrong with Thucydides that he writes like this?' What is striking about Thucydides' style of writing and how can that style be explained?

What does Thucydides convey through speeches which he could not convey in any other way?

How significant is rhetoric to the narrative and the style of Thucydides?

How different are Nicias and Alcibiades?

Who is right about Sicily?

What impression does Thucydides give of Athenian democracy and decision-making in book 6?

Why does Thucydides give so much narrative space to the story of Harmodius and Aristogeiton?

Why does Thucydides give so much space to the Sicilian Expedition in his narrative?

What does Thucydides' narrative tell us about the Greeks' attitude to religion?

Thucydides insists that he has striven very hard to find the facts and record them accurately. Does that mean we can trust his account?

Why does the Athenians' expedition to Sicily fail?



Thucydides claims that his work is 'a possession for all time'. How can this be so?

Thucydides is quick to distance himself from Herodotus and his work. How different are the two historians?