

Classical Greece – Alexander and the Hellenistic Empire

Alexander's Childhood and Rise to Power

Phillip II

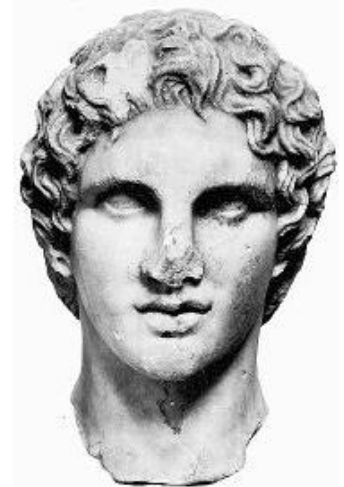
- Alexander's Father
- King of Macedonia
 - o Loved everything about Greece
- Phillip Conquers Greece (338 B.C.E.)
 - o Through Alliances, Bribes, and War
 - o Leaves Sparta alone

Alexander's Education

- Grew up learning Greek Culture
 - o Educated by Aristotle
- Proved early on to be good Military Commander
 - o Won his first war at age of 16

Alexander's Rise to Power

- Phillip married Macedonian woman and had a son
- Phillip Assassinated in 336 B.C.E.
- Olympia (Alexander's mother) able to outmaneuver others and Alexander is placed on throne
- First act of power was to consolidate power at home, Greece, and in the Balkans



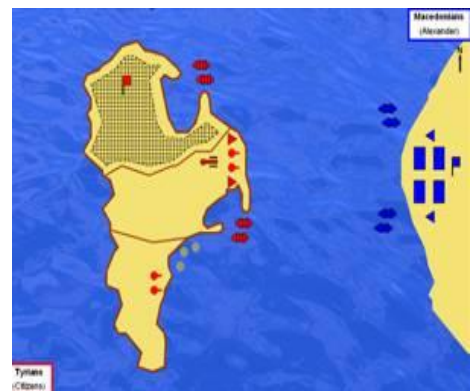
Building the Hellenistic Empire

Empire Building: Asia Minor

- o In 334 B.C.E. Alexander crosses the Hellespont into Asia Minor
 - Only took about 35,000 Greek Soldiers with him
- o Fought local Persian Army (And Greeks)
- Attacked coastal cities to make it hard for Darius III's Navy
- Undid Gordian Knot

Empire Building: Syria

- Alexander continues strategy of trying to destroy ports
- Finally meets Darius III's army at Battle of Issus
 - o Alexander Tricks Darius
 - o Main body of army holds Darius' Army
 - o Alexander's cavalry comes around on the left in direct attack on Darius
 - o Darius runs leaving wife, children, and treasure behind
- Siege of Tyre
 - o Suppose to be impossible to take over
 - o Alexander Tried and Failed, then tried again and won
 - o Punished population for not surrendering
 - o 2000 Crucified
 - o All males of military age killed
 - o Everyone else sold into slavery



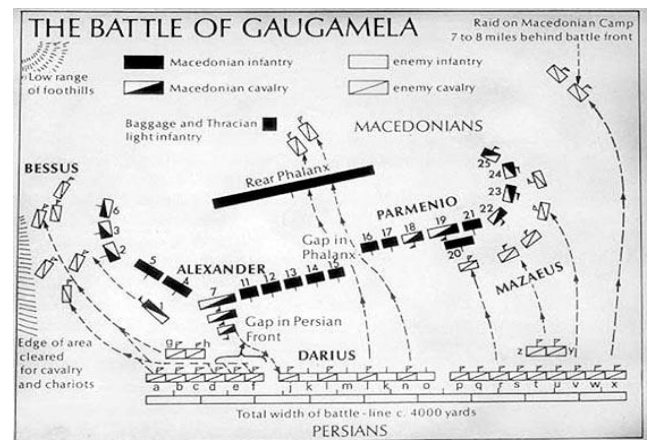
- Attack on Hebrew People
 - o Most cities open gates (including Jerusalem)
 - o Gaza does not
 - Again Alexander makes an example and slaughters everyone

Empire Building: Egypt

- Alexander Walks into Egypt and is hailed as a liberator
- Founds city of Alexandria
 - o Hellenistic Cultural center in Egypt
 - Great Library – Center of Scholarship
 - Great Lighthouse – Architectural Wonder
- Upon death of Alexander Egypt falls under control of Ptolemy
 - o Dynasty rules under 30 B.C.E.
 - Cleopatra last of Dynasty

Empire Building: Persia

- Alexander Heads into Persia and meets Darius at Gaugamela
 - o Alexander again tricks Darius
 - This time attacks Darius' left
 - Alexander makes direct attack on Darius and again makes him run away
 - o Darius again runs away
 - o This time leaving behind an Empire
- Captures Persian Capital of Persepolis
 - o Him and Army stay for 5 months
- Still needed to make himself legitimate king
 - o Meant killing Darius
 - Darius is killed by bodyguard 330 B.C.E.
 - Alexander now considered true king of Persia



Empire Building: India

- Army Reaches Hyphasis River and Mutinies
 - o Too long since they were home
 - o Too far away from home
 - o Don't want to face anymore Indian Armies
- Alexander tries to convince army to go further but they don't want to
 - o Forced to head home
 - Alexander heads back to Persia to plan new attacks into Arabia and India 324 B.C.E.
 - June 10th or 11th, 323 B.C.E. Alexander dies in Babylon
 - Poison or Disease
 - Body placed in Alexandria and becomes sacred site for Greeks and Romans

Alexander's Legacy

- At height of power Alexander's Empire was the known world
 - o Egypt, Greece, Persia
- Alexander Left no true Heir to the throne
- Empire is split up between Alexander's Generals
 - o Empire fought over by descendants for next 300 years
- Spread of Greek Culture
 - o Everywhere Armies went they took culture with them

