

Alexander the Great

Conquest and Culture

Alexander, son of Philip II

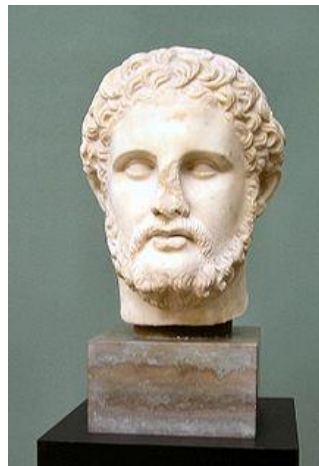
Son of Philip II (359-336) B.C.

Philip built an efficient army and turned Macedonia into the strongest power of the Greek world.

338 B.C. Macedonian army crushes Greek army near Thebes;

Philip now consolidated control over the Greek peninsula.

Philip insisted that the Greek states end their rivalries and cooperate with him in a war against Persia.



Alexander as King

Philip II assassinated;

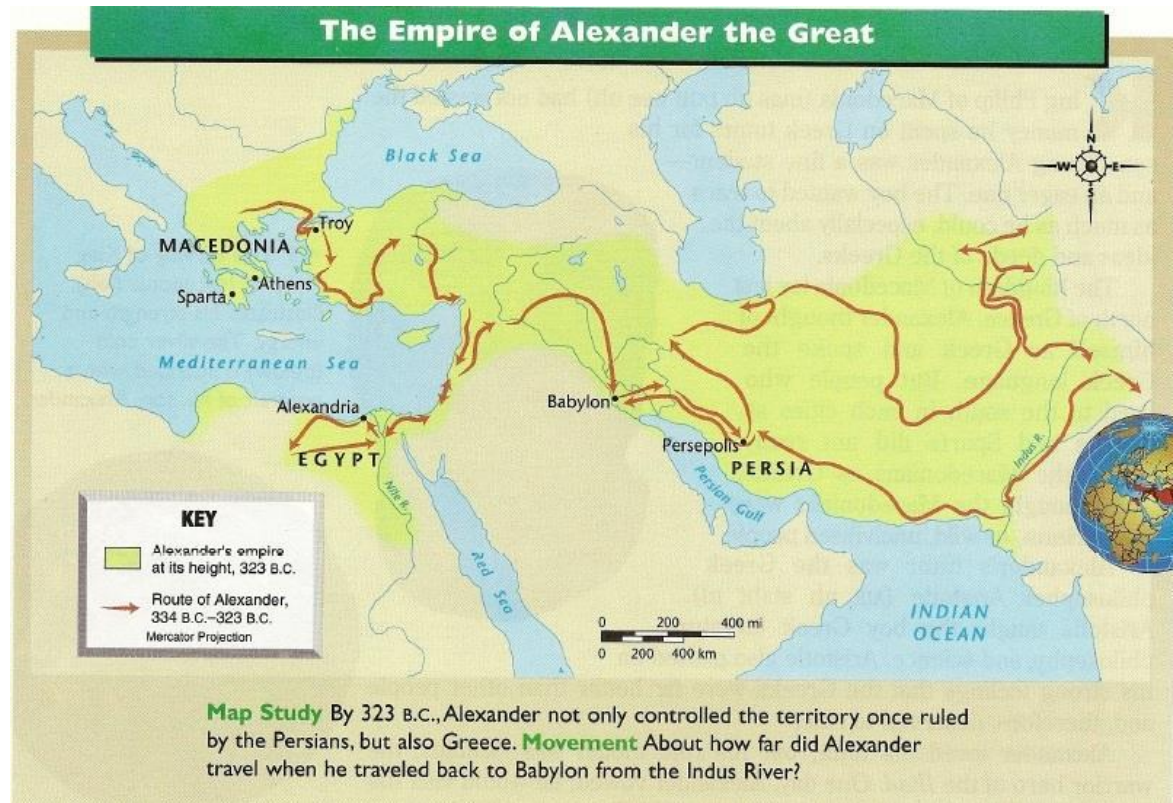
Alexander only 20 when he becomes king;

Had been prepared to rule by his father ;

Experienced in military campaigns;

Asserts his authority and suppresses rebellion in Greece;

Turns to his dream – conquest of the Persian Empire;



Conquests

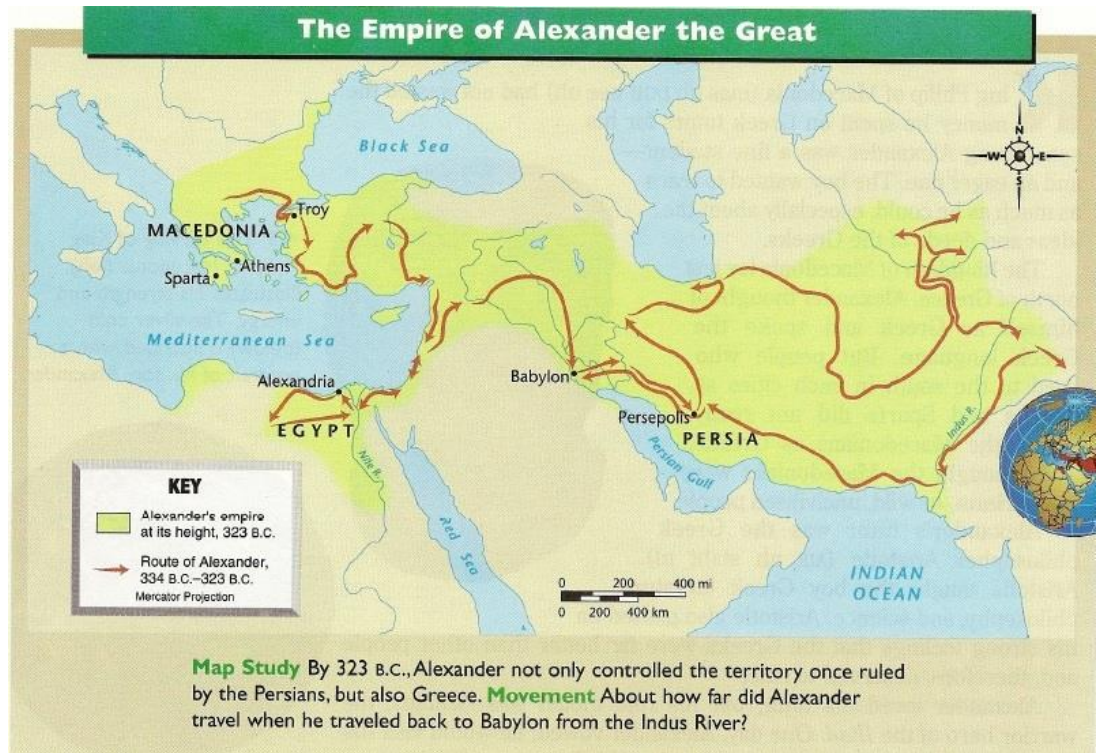
Alexander enters Asia Minor with an army of 37,000 men; half Macedonians, the rest Greeks;

Cavalry 5,000

Major victory at Granicus River in 334 B.C.

333 B.C. Victory at the Battle of Issus – despite Persian troops under Darius III greatly outnumbered Alexander's;

Turns South – conquers Syria, Palestine and Egypt by winter of 332 B.C.; Pharaoh; founds Alexandria;



Conquests

331 B.C. invaded territory of ancient Mesopotamian kingdoms;

Decisive victory over Persians at Battle of Gaugamela, northwest of Babylon;

Advanced to Persian capitals of Susa and Persepolis; confiscated vast wealth of Persian capitals;

Continues East as far as modern Pakistan;

326 B.C. Battle of Hydaspes river in northwestern India – wins brutally fought battle;

Determined to advance farther east but men mutiny and refuse to go on;

Turns back across arid lands of southern Persia



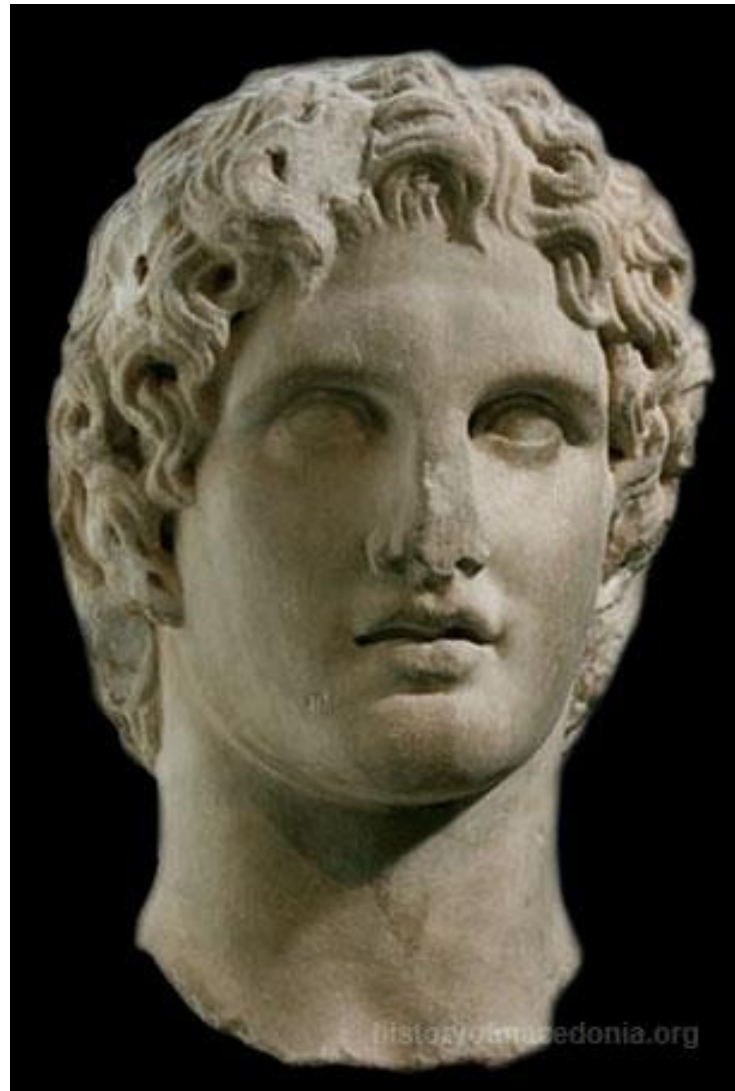
Across southern Persia –
oppressive heat and lack of water;

Reaches Babylon;

Plans more campaigns but dies
June 323 B.C.

wounds, fever, alcoholism;

Incredible personal bravery;



Legacy:

Admirers:

Military ability

Size of his empire

Love of Greek culture

Intellectually capable

Visionary: Attempted to fuse
Macedonians, Greeks and
Persians into a new ruling
class; intermarriage