

WHO WAS ALEXANDER THE GREAT?

Alexander was a prince, the son of the king of Macedonia (Philip II). He was born in Macedonia in July 356 BC. Macedonia was not a Greek city-state. It was a country in the north of Greece. One of Alexander's teachers was the Greek philosopher Aristotle, so Alexander spoke Greek, he knew Greek history and he believed in the Greek gods.

But Alexander was also trained to be a ruler, a warrior and a leader of men. He was taught that his job was to expand the Macedonian Empire, and to rule at all times with a firm hand.

Alexander's father had conquered most of the Greek city-states before Alexander came to power. The Greeks hated Alexander's father and he was assassinated.

When Alexander became king, he conquered other cultures in the Mediterranean rather easily, including the Persian Empire, Egypt and reached the Indus River. Alexander never lost a battle. Before his death, he had built over 70 cities, but Alexander died young, He was only 33 years old. His generals divided up the territory in different kingdoms: the Hellenistic monarchies.

Activities: Read the sentences. What do they refer to?

1. A very large kingdom in the north of Greece:
2. The most famous person in Greek history in the 4th century:
3. The kingdoms into which the empire was divided:
4. A polis with its own government, laws, army and money:
5. The name of some cities founded by Alexander the Great:
6. The name of the teacher of Alexander the Great:

Translate and study the following words:

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|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| - Greece: | - laws: | - wrestling: | - throwing the |
| - Greek: | - Aristocracy: | - long jump: | discus: |
| - city-state: | - Athens: | - throwing the | - a wreath of |
| - Democratic | -Olympic | javelin and | leaves: |
| government: | Games: | discus: | - winner: |