

Alexander's Empire

Phillip II Builds Macedonian Power

- Macedonia had rough terrain and a cold climate
- Most Macedonian nobles thought they were Greeks
- Greeks looked down on the Macedonians they had no philosophers, sculptors or writers

Philip's Army

- Phillip transformed the rugged peasants under his command into a well-trained professional army
- Troops were organized into phalanxes of 16 men across and 16 deep, each one armed with an 18ft. pike.
- The phalanx was used to break through enemy lines and then the fast moving cavalry would crush the disorganized opponents.

Conquest of Greece

- the Macedonians defeated the Greeks at the battle of Chaeronea (Kair uh NEE uh)
- after the defeat of Greece by Macedonia the country remains under the control of a succession of foreign powers.
- Phillip is assassinated and his son Alexander the Great takes over

Alexander Defeats Persia

- kept a copy of the Iliad under his pillow
- Alexander destroys the city of Thebes and takes the survivors into slavery

Invasion of Persia

- Alexander smashes the Persian defenses
- Darius III the Persian king raises an army of 50,000 to 75,000 men.
- The Persians are defeated and Darius III retreats
- Alexander takes control over Anatolia

Conquering the Persian Empire

- Darius tries to negotiate a peace settlement and offers Alexander all of the land west of the Euphrates River instead Alexander decides to conquer all of the Persian Empire
- Alexander then marches into Egypt which at this time is also Persian territory- the Egyptians welcome him and he establishes the city of Alexandria.
- Alexander then moves East to confront Darius III in a small village called Gaugamela (GAW guh MEE luh) in Mesopotamia
- Again Alexander launches a massive phalanx attack followed by a cavalry charge and Darius III flees
- This time Alexander takes all of Persia

Alexander's Other Conquests

- Alexander was more interested in expanding his empire rather than governing it and so he continues east fighting his way through the mountains of Central Asia

Alexander in India

- although Alexander's men defeat a powerful Indian army, after marching 11,000 miles and fighting for 11 years the morale is low
- eventually Alexander agrees to turn back.
- Alexander returns to Babylon and makes plans to unify his empire
- Unfortunately he becomes seriously ill with a fever and dies at the age of 32.

Alexander's Legacy

- Alexander's generals fight among themselves for control of the empire
- Eventually Antigonos becomes king of Macedonia, Ptolemy takes control of Egypt and Seleucus takes most of the Persian Empire.
- These empires are governed with complete control over their subjects
- Alexander adopts Persian dress and customs and marries a Persian woman.
- He includes Persians and people from other lands into his army
- Greek settlers throughout the empire also adopt new ways
- A new blend of Greek and Eastern cultures emerge
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