

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

LO – I understand Alexander the Great's impact on the Greek Empire

What was **Alexander the Great's** impact on the Greek Empire?

We will...

- find out why Alexander the Great was a significant figure
- analyse the historical impact of Alexander the Great



# Who was Alexander the Great?

One of the most famous historical figures from the time of the Ancient Greek empire is Alexander the Great.

Have a look at the historical sources that show images of Alexander the Great. What clues might they give us about Alexander the Great?

**Resource 3a**  
**Alexander the Great: Sourcework**

What might each of these historical sources tell you about Alexander the Great?

**Source 1: A statue**  
  
Alexander the Great monument from Thessaloniki, Greece (AD 1973)

**Source 2: A medallion**  
  
Painted enamel medallion from France (AD 1541)

**Source 3: A watercolour painting**  
  
A painting from an illustrated manuscript from Afghanistan (AD 1425)

**Source 3: An Egyptian cartouche**  
  
A limestone cartouche with Alexander's name written on it, from Ancient Egypt. (323 BC)

What other questions do these sources raise about Alexander the Great?

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Ancient Greece Lesson 3

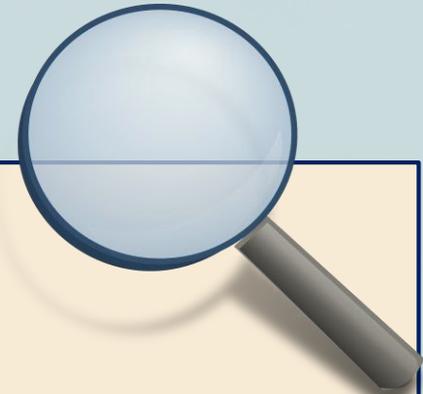
# Alexander the Great: Sourcework

## Source 1: A statue

Alexander the Great  
monument from  
Thessaloniki, Greece  
(AD 1973)



# Alexander the Great: Sourcework



## Source 2: A medallion

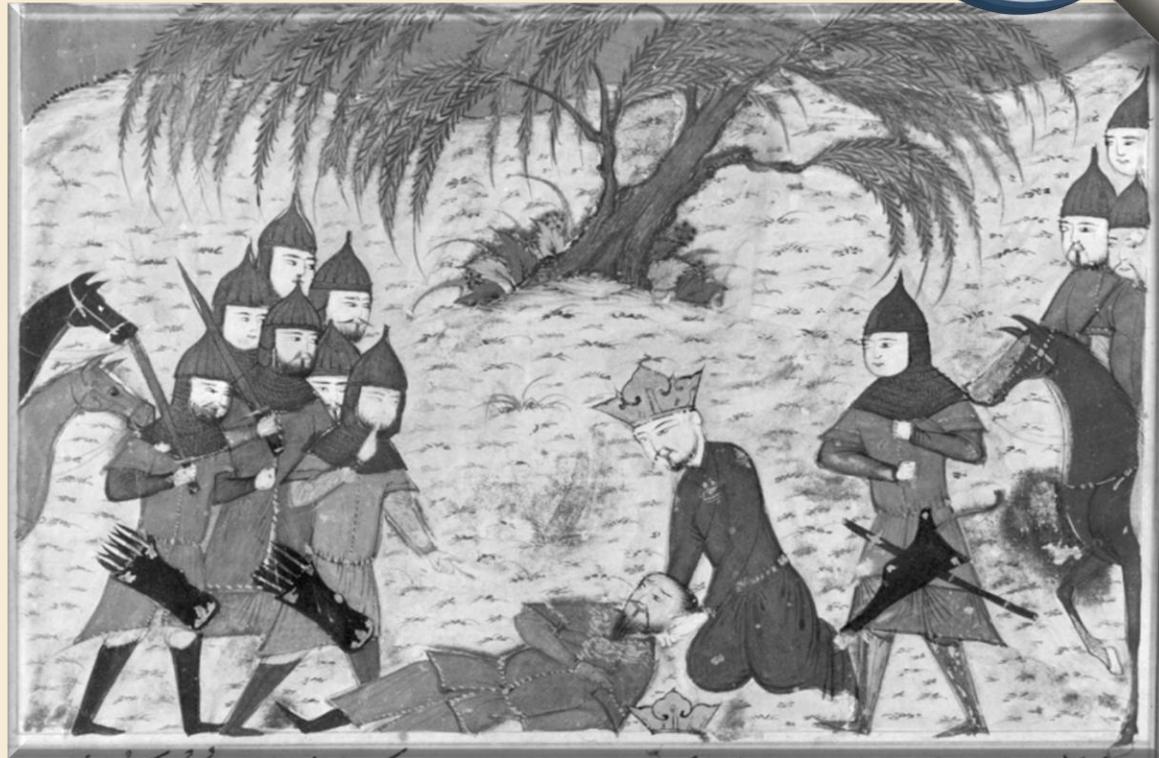
Painted enamel medallion  
from France  
(AD 1541)



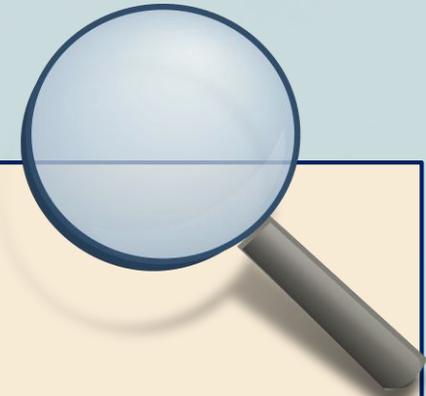
# Alexander the Great: Sourcework

## Source 3: A watercolour painting

A painting from an illustrated manuscript from Afghanistan (AD 1425)



# Alexander the Great: Sourcework



## Source 4: An Egyptian cartouche

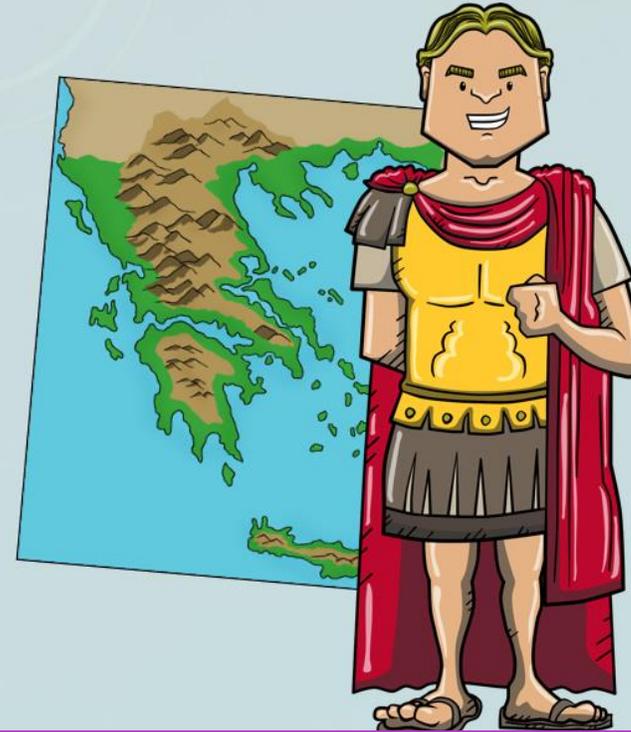
A limestone cartouche with  
Alexander's name written on it, from  
Ancient Egypt.  
(323 BC)



# Why so great?

What do you notice about the dates and places from this source collection?

Alexander the Great must have had such an impact on world history that he has been commemorated by many different people over the years from countries around the world!



## Something to think about...

Imagine that you leave behind a legacy of being called 'the great' and you were commemorated by artists and historians for thousands of years to come, in all different countries.

**What do you think you might need to do in order to achieve such a legacy?**



# Alexander's Story: Growing Up

Alexander was the son of a Greek king called Philip II. Philip had started to **build up an empire by uniting some of the separate city-states** to the north of Greece. This empire was called Macedonia, and when Alexander grew up he inherited control of it. It was still separate from the other Greek city-states.

Although the city-states in Greece shared the same language, they had their own laws and cultures. Uniting the city-states into one empire **made them stronger**.

When he was younger, Alexander had been taught by a famous philosopher and teacher called Aristotle. Aristotle had given **Alexander a fondness for Greek culture** – in fact, historians think that Alexander saw it as his mission to spread Greek culture as widely as possible.



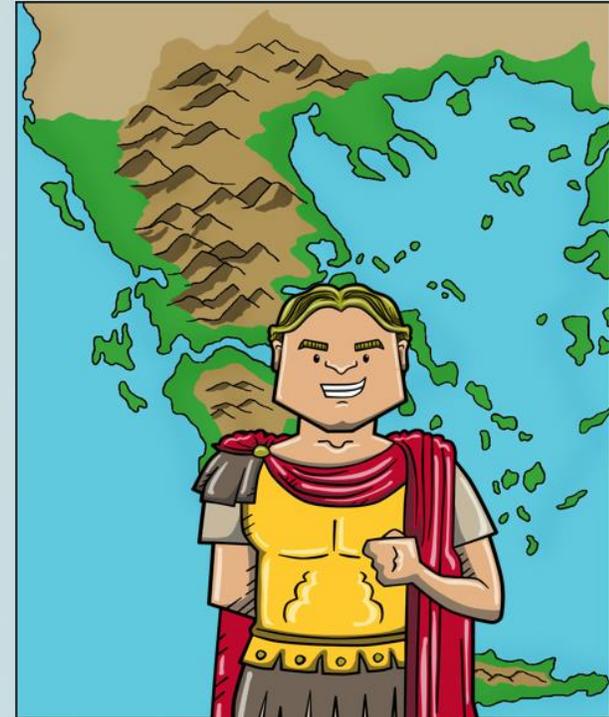


# Alexander's Story: Taking Control

Alexander took control as king of Macedonia at the age 19, when his father died in 336 BC.

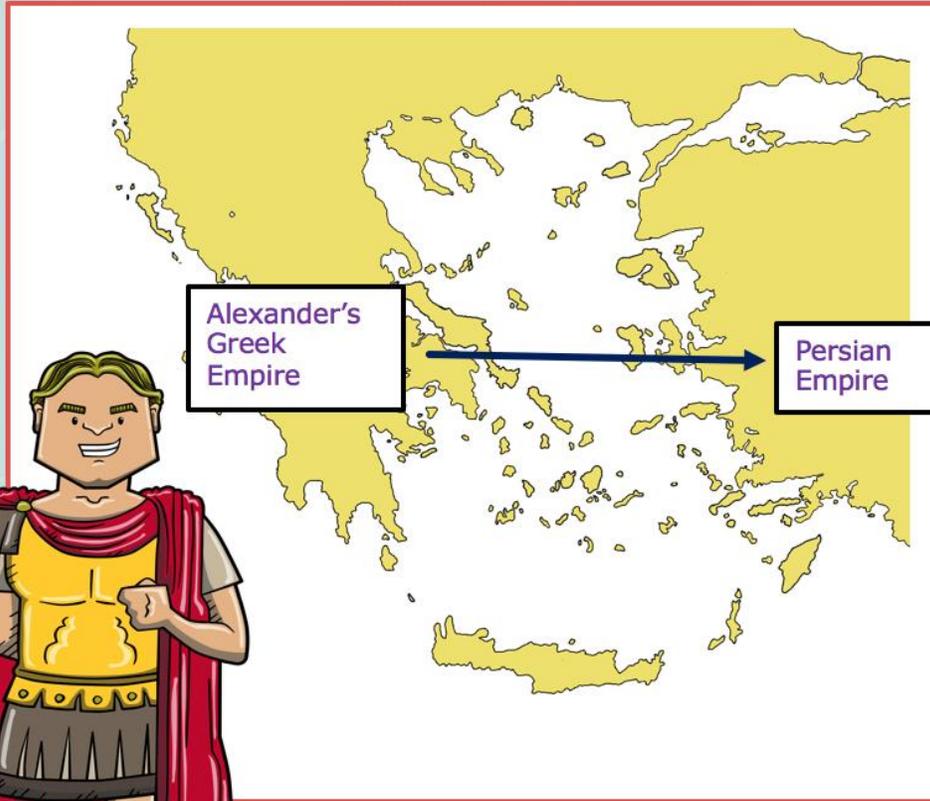
Historians think that Alexander had the kind of personality to make a powerful leader. It seems that he was **decisive** (good at making decisions), **ambitious** (good at making big plans) and **ruthless** (willing to do whatever it takes to make his plans work). Some historians say that Alexander believed he was the son of a Greek god called Zeus and that he went into battles fearlessly, believing he could never be killed!

Very soon after he became king, **Alexander conquered the rest of the Greek city states** too. Now he had united Macedonia with the rest of Greece. He had a **powerful army** and he dealt harshly with any city-states that made an attempt to rebel against his rule.





# Alexander's Story: Extending the Empire



After gaining **control of Greece** by the age of 21, Alexander invaded other countries near by.

He soon invaded **North Africa and Asia**, conquering more land for his Greek Empire with his powerful army.

In 334 BC, one of his most famous victories took place. For a long time, the Persian Empire had been enemies with the Greeks. After a decisive battle (the Battle of Gaugamela), Alexander's forces killed King Darius III of Persia and **took control of the Persian Empire**.

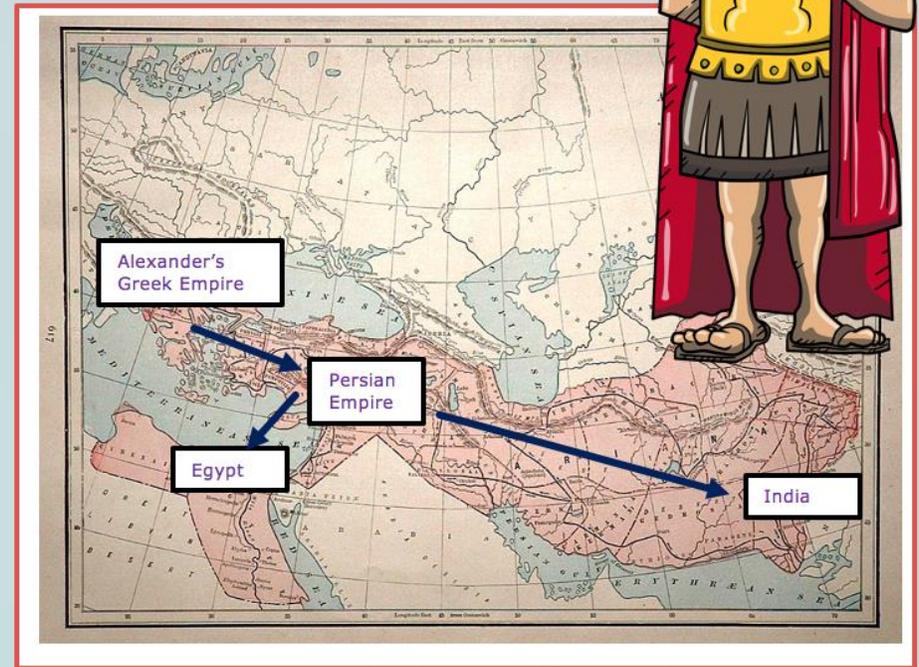


# Alexander's Story: Conquer the World

Alexander's ambitions did not stop there. In 332BC, he **conquered Egypt** in North Africa. He named an Egyptian city 'Alexandria' after himself. Among his conquests, Alexander began to gain a reputation as a mighty ruler. Some people called him 'king of kings' and others said that he had descended from the gods.

A few years later, Alexander spread his campaign even further **across Asia to the Indus river** (which is in modern day Pakistan and India). He engaged in battles with Indian kings and his empire reached as far as the Himalayan mountains.

He **conquered many places** and spread Greek culture across thousands of miles. Alexander seemed to particularly love **naming cities after himself**. In all he named 70 cities after himself, and even one after his horse Bucephalus!





## Alexander's Story: End of Life



By 323BC, Alexander was head of a large empire spanning across much of the known world. During Alexander's attempts to conquer all of India, Alexander's soldiers grew weary and the army decided to retreat to Persia for a rest. Historians think that he had plans to conquer more places, but was never able to see them through because he **died in mysterious circumstances aged only 33.**

In his 13-year reign, Alexander had created the largest empire in human history! After his sudden death, **the Greek Empire broke up into different kingdoms**, but the influence of the Greek culture that he had spread still remained strong in many of the places.

# Mapping Alexander's Impact

Your task is to create a map to show how Alexander the Great united and expanded the Greek Empire.

On your sheet, there are four stages of the empire's growth to record.

**Resource 3c**  
**Alexander the Great: Conquest Mapping**

The worksheet includes a map of the Mediterranean region and surrounding areas, with labels for the Aegean Sea, Black Sea, Persian Empire, and various city-states. A cartoon illustration of Alexander the Great in a yellow tunic and red cape stands next to the map. A green pencil is positioned over the bottom right of the worksheet.

**Alexander's Empire: Stage 1**  
Alexander unites the Macedonian and Greek city-states. Colour this area RED.  
Bonus Task: Can you find the names of two Greek city-states?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**Alexander's Empire: Stage 2**  
Alexander conquers the Persian Empire. Colour this area BLUE.  
Bonus Task: Find the name of the city where Alexander defeated the Persian King Darius.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Alexander's Empire: Stage 3**  
Alexander conquers Egypt. Colour this area GREEN.  
Bonus Task: Find the name of the city that Alexander founded in Egypt.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Alexander's Empire: Stage 4**  
Alexander extends his empire east towards India. Colour this area YELLOW.  
Bonus Task: Circle the names of all of the seas that border Alexander's empire.

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# Spot Check



**3-2-1! Tell your partner:**

- **3 places** that Alexander conquered
- **2 significant people** in Alexander's upbringing
- **1 reason** why Alexander is known as 'the Great'.

# Something to think about...

Alexander's legacy has fascinated people through the centuries. There are many questions for historians to think about and discuss about his life and impact.

Roll a dice and read the statement that corresponds with the number you land on. You then have 30 seconds to discuss what you think with your partner!



1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>What might have happened if Alexander had not died aged 33?</b>	<b>Do you think Alexander was more of a hero or a villain?</b>	<b>Why is Alexander called 'great' even though he caused a lot of people to die?</b>	<b>What might have happened to the separate Greek city-states without Alexander?</b>	<b>Can you think of other famous conquerors from history?</b>	<b>Do you think it would be possible today for one ruler to conquer so many other countries? Why/why not?</b>