

4



CAUSE AND EFFECT

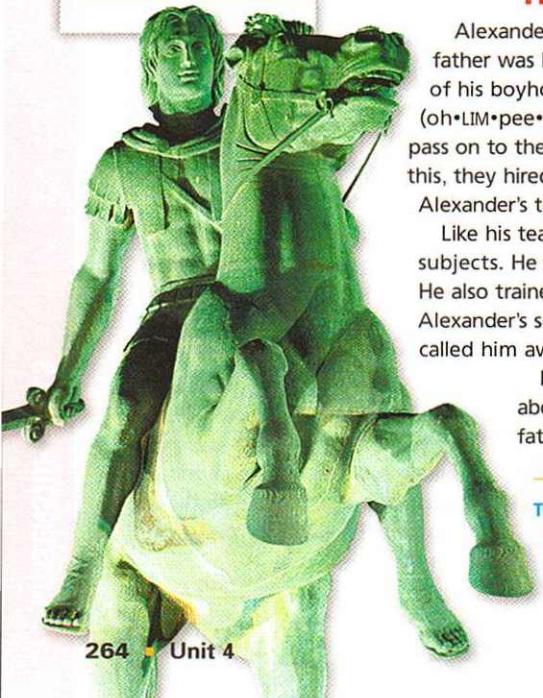
Read to learn about the effects that were caused by the actions of Alexander the Great.

BIG IDEA

Alexander the Great built the first empire to begin in Europe and spread Greek civilization to parts of Asia.

VOCABULARY

- diffuse
- expedition
- legacy
- scholar



Alexander's Great Empire

3000 B.C.

2000 B.C.

1000 B.C.

B.C./A.D.

400 B.C.–300 B.C.

For many years after the Peloponnesian War, the Greeks fought small battles with one another. Then in 338 B.C. the Greek city-states came under the control of Macedonia (ma•suh•DOH•nee•uh), a kingdom to their north. A Macedonian leader named Alexander went on to build a huge empire, the first great empire that began in Europe. It covered parts of eastern Europe as well as much of southwestern Asia. Alexander was a leader who respected Greek culture. His actions helped diffuse, or spread, Greek culture across the empire he founded.

The Making of an Emperor

Alexander was born in 356 B.C. in Macedonia. His father was Philip II, a Macedonian who had spent part of his boyhood in Greek lands. His mother, Olympias (oh•LIM•pee•uhs), was Greek. Both parents wanted to pass on to their son their love of Greek culture. To do this, they hired the Greek philosopher Aristotle to be Alexander's teacher.

Like his teacher, Alexander was interested in many subjects. He studied literature, philosophy, and politics. He also trained in sports, physical fitness, and warfare. Alexander's schooling ended at age 16, when his father called him away to fight in the army.

From Aristotle, Alexander had learned about other countries and peoples. From his father, he learned to be a fearless warrior.

This bronze statue of Alexander the Great on horseback shows the young leader charging into battle with a sword in his hand. A legend says that Alexander slept with a dagger and a copy of Homer's *Iliad* under his pillow.



This mosaic is a Roman copy of a Greek painting. It was found in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii and shows Alexander (left) charging into battle against King Darius III and the Persians.

In 338 B.C. 18-year-old Alexander commanded the cavalry, or soldiers who fought on horseback, in Philip's army. The Battle of Chaeronea (*kair•uh•NEE•uh*) brought most of the Greek peninsula under Macedonian control. Philip next prepared to invade the Persian Empire in Asia. Before he could do so, he was killed by one of his bodyguards. In 336 B.C. Philip's rule passed to Alexander, then 20 years old.

After Philip's death some of the Greek city-states under Macedonian rule rebelled. In 335 B.C. Alexander's army attacked the rebelling Greek city of Thebes and destroyed it. About 30,000 people in the city were sold into slavery. Alexander's action against Thebes discouraged other Greek city-states from rebelling.

REVIEW Which Greek philosopher was Alexander's teacher? Aristotle

The Building of an Empire

With the Greek city-states under his control, Alexander turned to completing his father's plan for attacking the Persian Empire. In 334 B.C. Alexander led an army of more than 35,000 soldiers from southern Europe to Asia Minor. An early victory over the Persians at the Granicus (*gruh•NY•kuhs*) River gave Alexander more wealth and glory. It also led the way to Alexander's conquest of much of southwestern Asia.

One by one, Alexander conquered the cities along the coast of Asia Minor. Then Alexander and his army marched north to the city of Gordium (*GAWR•dee•uhm*), in present-day Turkey. A famous legend tells about Alexander's adventures in Gordium.



Alexander the Great may have worn this iron-and-gold vest.

King Gordius had tied a difficult knot to his chariot, stating that whoever untied it would rule all of Asia. When Alexander arrived, he cut the Gordian knot with his sword and was crowned king of the city.

By 333 B.C. Alexander and his army had reached the coast of Syria. From there they marched south into Phoenicia to capture its port cities. Alexander had difficulty taking the port of Tyre because it was on an island about one-half mile (800 m) offshore. A legend says that Alexander ordered workers to build a causeway, or land bridge, out to the island. This changed the island into a peninsula, which it remains today. After seven months of fighting, the people of Tyre surrendered in 332 B.C.

Alexander next went to Egypt, which was under Persian control. The Egyptians

greeted him warmly because they were thankful to be free from Persian rule. They crowned Alexander as their pharaoh.

From Egypt, Alexander and his army made a long march into the Persian Empire. At Gaugamela (gaw•guh•MEE•luh) Alexander defeated the much larger Persian army and forced the emperor, Darius III, to flee. The victory at Gaugamela ended more than 200 years of Persian rule in southwestern Asia.

Alexander next captured the Persian cities of Babylon and Persepolis (per•SEH•puh•luhs). By 330 B.C. Alexander and his army moved north toward the Caspian Sea to find Darius. The once-mighty Persian emperor had lost so much power that he could not fight. It is said that he was killed by members of his own court. With the death of Darius, Alexander became the most powerful ruler in southwestern Asia. He began to be called Alexander the Great.

REVIEW What early victory led to Alexander's conquests in Asia?  **CAUSE AND EFFECT** a victory over the Persians at Granicus

Alexander's rule brought Greek art styles to southwestern Asia. He built a carved-stone city at Petra.



Portrait of Alexander and his mother, Olympias

The End of the Empire

Alexander the Great ruled a wide area, but he wanted still more lands. Beyond Persia lay the Indus Valley. Alexander led his army east from Persia into Bactria, now part of northern Afghanistan, and then across the Hindu Kush mountains. While in Bactria in 327 B.C., Alexander married the Bactrian princess Roxane (rahks•AN).

In 326 B.C. Alexander and his army were on the move again. They reached the upper Indus River, and Alexander planned to push on from there to the Ganges River. However, his weary soldiers refused to follow him. Disappointed, Alexander ordered his army to return home.

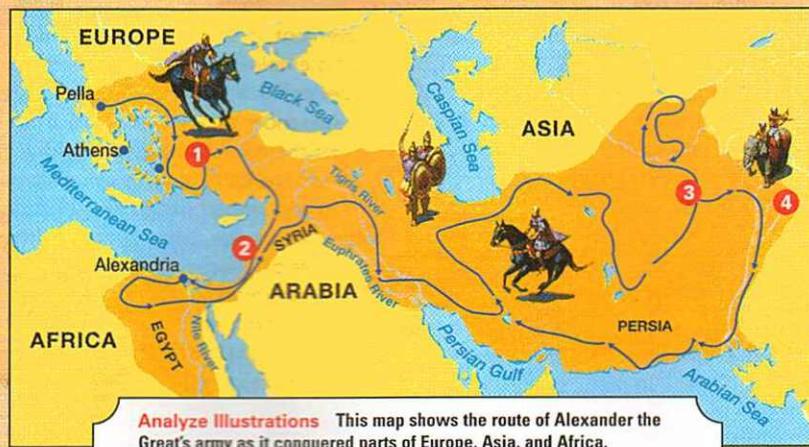




1 Alexander cutting the Gordian knot



2 Alexander's army building a causeway to Tyre



Analyze Illustrations This map shows the route of Alexander the Great's army as it conquered parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

❖ Where did Alexander's army battle warriors on elephants?

3 Alexander marrying the Bactrian princess Roxane



4 Alexander's army defeating warriors on elephants in India



THE MARCH OF
ALEXANDER THE GREAT

By the time he reached Babylon, Alexander was already planning new **expeditions**. He wanted to lead these journeys of exploration deeper into northern Africa and then into the Arabian Peninsula. However, in 323 B.C. Alexander became seriously ill with a fever. He died shortly before his thirty-third birthday.

A legend says that before Alexander's death, a soldier asked, "To whom will rule of the great empire go?" Alexander is said to have answered, "To the strongest!"

No leader proved strong enough to replace Alexander the Great. His empire quickly split into many parts, the largest of which were Egypt, Macedonia, and Syria. These three kingdoms were often at war with one another. Even so, they continued to build upon Alexander's legacy. A **legacy** is something lasting left by someone who has died.

REVIEW What happened to Alexander's empire after his death? It split into many parts.



Euclid

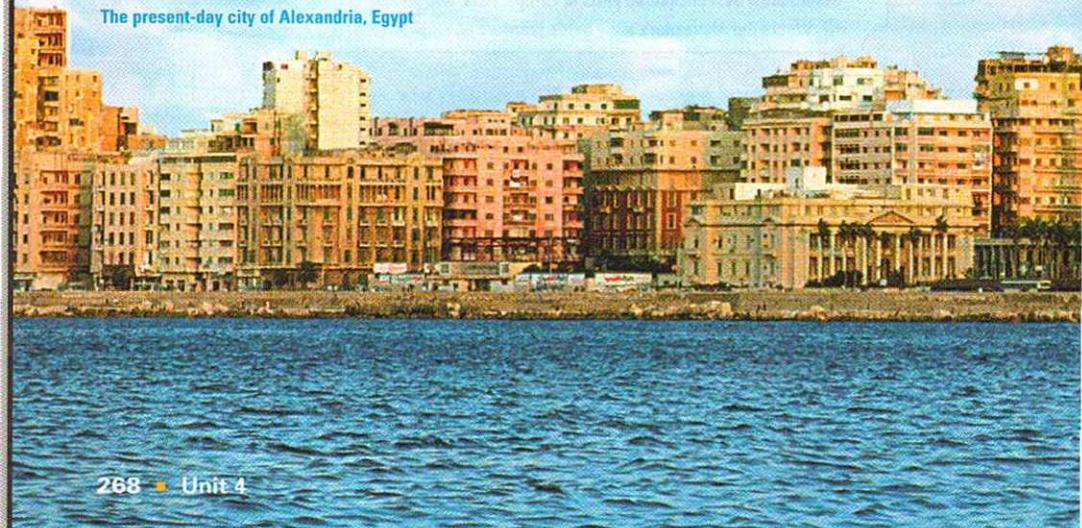
Alexander's Legacy

Alexander the Great and his army came into contact with many different cultures. Many of the conquered peoples learned to speak and write in Greek and to follow Greek customs. For this reason, the period of Alexander's rule and several centuries after his death are known as the Hellenistic, or "Greek-like," Age. Like the Golden Age, the Hellenistic Age was a time of achievement in Greek civilization.

As his empire spread across eastern Europe, northern Africa, and southwestern Asia, Alexander the Great built new cities. Many of them were named Alexandria in his honor. The cities became centers of learning and helped spread Greek culture. In time, Alexandria, Egypt, equaled Athens as a center of Greek culture.

The huge library at Alexandria, Egypt, contained more than 500,000 scrolls of papyrus. The goal of its librarians was to collect every text in the world! Connected

The present-day city of Alexandria, Egypt



to the library was a building known as the Museum. There **scholars**, or seekers of knowledge, wrote books and exchanged ideas. Today museums are places that preserve history and offer learning to all people.

Hellenistic scholars worked out new ideas in mathematics. Euclid (yoo•kluhd) of Alexandria, Egypt, did important work in geometry, the study of lines and angles. Archimedes (ar•kuh•MEE•deez) of Syracuse, on the island of Sicily, used mathematics to build many useful machines.

Hellenistic scientists also made use of mathematics as they began to think about the universe. Aristarchus (air•uh•STAR•kuhs) of Samos, an island in the Aegean Sea, used mathematics to suggest that all the planets, including Earth, revolve around the sun. Eratosthenes (air•uh•TAHS•thuh•neez), of Cyrene (sy•REE•nee), in what is now Libya in northern Africa, used mathematics to estimate the distance around Earth.

By 146 B.C. another group of people, the Romans, had gained control of much of the Mediterranean region, including lands held by the Greeks. Yet the knowledge that the



This illustration shows scholars studying at the library of Alexandria.

Greeks had spread to other lands was not lost or forgotten. The Romans borrowed from the art, architecture, philosophy, religion, and literature of the Greeks to build their own civilization. For many years after the Romans took control, Alexandria, Egypt, remained a Greek center for learning.

REVIEW What name is given to the age of Greek achievements started by Alexander the Great? **the Hellenistic Age**

LESSON 4 REVIEW

Summary Time Line

400 B.C.

• 356 B.C.
Alexander is born

350 B.C.

• 334 B.C.
Alexander conquers the Persians at the Granicus River

300 B.C.

• 323 B.C.
Alexander dies



CAUSE AND EFFECT What were some of the effects of Alexander's death?

- 1 **BIG IDEA** How did Alexander the Great's actions bring about the Hellenistic Age of Greek civilization?
- 2 **VOCABULARY** Use **legacy** and **scholar** in a sentence about the Hellenistic Age.
- 3 **TIME LINE** In what year was Alexander the Great born?

- 4 **CULTURE** What city grew to be an important center of learning during the Hellenistic Age?
- 5 **CRITICAL THINKING—Analyze** Why do you think the work of Hellenistic scholars was important to later civilizations?



PERFORMANCE—Write a Report Use the library or the Internet to learn more about the legends of Alexander the Great or about the Greek achievements in the Hellenistic Age. Then write a report to share with classmates.