

Alexander the Great Name: _____ Prd: ____ Score: ____ /15

Directions: Δώστε έμφαση στην απάντηση στο κείμενο στο αριστερό.

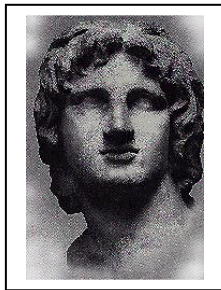
The long, bloody war between Athens & Sparta left the **city-states** of Greece *without strength*. Even Sparta was *too weak* to control Greece for long. Other city-states *rose up against* Sparta. Then in 371 B.C., **Sparta was defeated by Thebes**. It was never again a great power.

The real winner of the wars among the Greeks was an outsider. King Philip II of Macedonia ~ a land to the north ~ defeated the weakened cities of Greece. By 338 B.C., Philip was the supreme ruler of Greece.

Two years later, Philip gave a great feast for his daughter's wedding. Many Greeks had come to honor him. There was music, dancing, games & lots of food. Just as Philip was about to watch some plays, an assassin pulled out a dagger...& stabbed Philip to death before guards could stop him.

The people in the theater started to panic! Then a handsome young man of 20 spoke from the stage to them. He told them to stay calm. "Nothing has changed," he said, "except the name of the king." *The people cheered!!!* Soldiers crowded around him...for this young man was Philip's son, **Alexander** ~ the **NEXT** king of Macedonia! In a few years, he would defeat & rule Persia, the largest empire in the world. He would be called *Alexander the Great!*

What was this young king like? He had already shown that he was a good soldier. At 18 he had helped his father defeat Greek armies & had fought bravely. Yet no man admired the Greeks more than Alexander. The Greeks had given the world its greatest poets, writers, & thinkers. He even slept with a book of Greek poetry under his pillow. *(Imagine that!)* His teacher was the *best* thinker of all Greece ~ **Aristotle!** From him, Alexander learned Greek ideas of right & wrong, & politics.

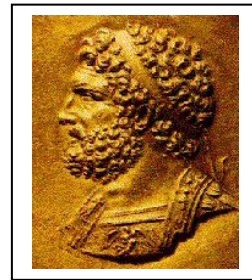


Sparta was *finally conquered* by (Athens / city-states / Thebes ← circle 1.)

Drawing conclusions: King Philip could *defeat* the cities of Greece *so easily* because ____.

- a. he was the supreme ruler c. he was an outsider
b. cities were weakened d. he had weapons

Stating the obvious: *Why didn't* Philip rule *for long* after he conquered Greece?



(Alexander / Phillip's people / the guards ← circle 1) stepped up & took control *after* the death of Philip II.

Synthesizing information: Which of these were **strong characteristics of Alexander?**

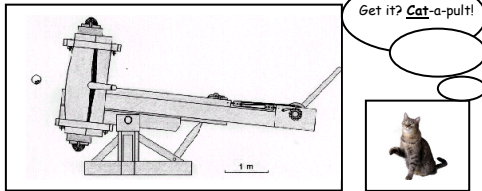
- a. had studied great Greeks & their ideas d. all the above
b. good soldier e. only b & c
c. fought bravely f. none of the above

Alexander had been *educated* by (Socrates / Plato / Aristotle ← circle 1.)

Alexander knew what he wanted to do. Once the great empire of Persia had tried to defeat the Greeks...*now* Alexander would lead the Macedonians & Greeks *against* Persia!! He was sure he would win. Then he would set up new Greek cities all over the Persian Empire. He would make almost the entire world Greek... & he, Alexander, would rule it!

In the spring of 334 B.C., Alexander led his army of 40,000 men into Asia. He was *only* 22 years old! His army carried heavy weapons of war. There were:

- ◆ **towers on wheels** to attack high walls
- ◆ **battering rams** to break down walls
- ◆ large **catapults** or slings to throw big rocks
- ◆ small **catapults** that throw several spears at once

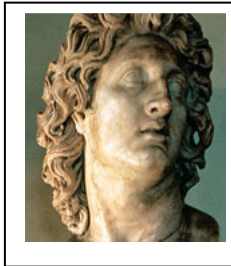


The Persians were once again led by a king, named **Darius**. But the King Darius of Alexander's time was *not* as great a warrior as the earlier King Darius. Alexander's army met Darius' army in Asia Minor. Alexander's mounted soldiers broke the Persian lines, & Darius ran away...but Darius' mother, wife, & two daughters were taken prisoners!

Soon after, Darius wrote to Alexander. He asked Alexander to return his family to him. He offered Alexander friendship in return. Alexander's answer was very tough. He said Darius would have to ask him in person for his family. And Darius would have to treat him as "lord of all Asia." If not, Alexander wrote, "Stand your ground & fight for it. Do not run away, for I will chase you any place you go!"

Alexander did chase the Persian king & finally found him ~ *dead!* He had been murdered by one of his own men! Alexander had Darius buried in a royal tomb, but he showed no mercy to Darius' murderer!

What was Alexander's grand plan for Persia?



- 1) _____

- 2) _____

What made Alexander's invasion of Asia so unique?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. He was Macedonian. | c. He was only 22. |
| b. He was Philip II's only son. | d. He carried heavy war weapons. |

Describe the weapons &/or tactics that helped Alexander conquer the Persian Empire: 1) _____

- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Darius was able to escape...however, what happened to some members of his family?

In exchange for his family,

Darius offered Alexander, his (freedom / kingdom / friendship / ← circle 1.)



Making inferences: How did Alexander show respect to the dead king Darius?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. He showed him no mercy. | c. He chased him all over Asia. |
| b. He buried him in a royal tomb. | d. He offered him his friendship. |

Alexander had won the largest empire in the world, but could he hold it by force alone? He knew it would be impossible. He had to win the friendship of the Persians to keep peace in his empire. Soon Alexander began to treat Persians as equals of Greeks & Macedonians. He took many Persians into his army & his government. Alexander married a daughter of Darius & often wore Persian clothes. He had 10,000 of his soldiers marry Persian women.

Many of Alexander's officers became angry with him. They thought he was being too friendly with the Persians. They refused to fight for him anymore & asked to go home. One of them told him:

"This, "Alexander, is what hurts us: You have made Persians your kinsmen (relatives) & they are allowed to kiss you. But no Macedonian has this right!"

Alexander answered quickly. "But all of you are my kinsmen," he said, "and from now on I will call you so."

Later Alexander gave a feast. Thousands of Macedonians, Greeks & Persians drank wine from the *same* bowls.

It had taken Alexander 11 years to win his great empire. It stretched from Greece in the west into India in the east. He had fought hard & had many wounds. He had often gone without food or water. In June 323 B.C., he was in the city of Babylon. He was planning to explore the coast of Arabia, but he suddenly became sick. A few days later, Alexander the Great was dead. The man who had ruled "the world" was not yet 33 years old!

Alexander the Great *left behind him about 70 new Greek cities* in the old Persian Empire. In these cities, *Greek learning was preserved*.

One of these, *Alexandria* in Egypt, *became the leading center of trade & learning* in the ancient world. But later Alexandria came under Roman rule, & soon the city of Rome surpassed Alexandria in power as well as wealth, making it *THE* greatest city in the world!.

How was Alexander able to hold on to the LARGEST empire in the world?

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| a. by force alone! | e. all the above |
| b. allowed Persians to serve in his army & government | f. b & c only |
| c. treated Persians as equals | g. a & d only |
| d. married Darius' daughter | h. b, c, & d only |

Alexander's vast empire ↓



BONUS: Applying math skills: If Alexander took power at 20 years of age, how many total years did he reign? _____ (#) years



Drawing conclusions: What made "Alexander the Great" so great? _____

The *city of (Alexandria / Egypt / Rome* ← circle 1) eventually took over & *surpassed* even Alexander's city in wealth & power!