

L5 - Alexander and the Hellenistic Era p. 97

Macedonians Invade Greece

Macedonia was a kingdom to the north of Greece. The Greeks viewed them as they did most people...as barbarians.

- Philip II:**
- 1 King of Macedonia - great admirer of Greek culture
 - 2 had a powerful army - wanted to unite Macedonia and Greece
 - 3 defeated Greece at the Battle of Chaeronea in 338 BC.
 - 4 would use Greece to help in conquering Persia
 - 5 assassinated - his son would take over

Alexander the Great 20 year old son of Philip of Macedonia

- 1 motivated by desire for glory and to avenge when the Persians burned Athens in 480 BC.
- 2 334 BC - Macedonia and Greece had an army of 37,000 and a cavalry of 5,000 when they began the assault on the Persian Empire.
- 3 they won many decisive battles and never lost a single battle. See map p. 98
- 4 established many cities, many were named after Alexander - the most famous and greatest city was Alexandria in Egypt
- 5 in India, monsoon rains made traveling miserable and the men refused to go on
- 6 returned home, but Alexander died in 323 BC at the age of 32

Legacy of Alexander

- 1 brave, inspiring, well-respected general
- 2 admired the legendary Achilles - he carried a copy of the Iliad with him under his pillow (he also kept a dagger there)
- 3 extended Greek and Macedonian culture and thought throughout the Persian Empire art, architecture, etc. was spread / blended with Persian

Hellenistic Era p. 99

Hellenistic means to "imitate Greeks." Greek culture was spread/blended throughout Alexander's conquered lands far into southwest Asia and north Africa. The influence is still there.

Alexander's Empire was split among his top generals when he died. There were four divisions:

- 1 Macedonia
- 2 Syria
- 3 Pergamum
- 4 Egypt

These would later be conquered by the Romans and become part of their Empire. Hellenistic kings continued to encourage Greek colonists to move and settle into the new areas. This encouraged the spread of Greek ways and also made it more long lasting.

Hellenistic Arts and Literature

Library in Alexandria - was the largest in the world - many scholars came to study there.

Greek architecture: buildings in the Greek style rose up in many new cities and old ones as well

Sculpture: 1000's of statues were erected - the Hellenistic style moved to a more realistic form than the Greek's idealistic form.

Literature: Hellenistic literature was very popular. Authors were subsidized from public money. Unfortunately, not much of this literature survived.

Theater: Athens remained the center for Greek drama and theater

Advances in Hellenistic Science, Math and Technology p. 100

Aristarchus: theory: sun-centered universe, with the earth rotating around the sun
Prevailing view: earth-centered (geo-centric)

Eratosthenes: the earth is round. He also calculated the circumference within 185 miles!

Euclid: principles of plane geometry

Archimedes: discovered specific gravity by displacing water in his tub... "Eureka! I've found it!"

Philosophy

Epicureanism: (Epicurus) said that people should be free to follow their own interests and to make happiness their goal

Stoicism: (Zeno) taught that people could only find happiness by living in the will of god. By knowing this, they could bear whatever life offered. They should make a priority of serving the public

This Hellenistic Era was important in unifying this large area with ideas and values. When the Romans rise up a few years later, it will also make it easier for them to take over.