

## Alexander the Great – Ancient Greece

Born: 356 B.C. in Pella, Macedonia

Died: 323 BC, Babylon



### Alexander's Early Life

The ancient kingdom of northern Greece was called Macedonia. This powerful empire was ruled by Alexander's father, King Philip II. In 356 BCE, in the Pella region of Macedonia, King Philip's wife Queen Olympia gave birth to a son and named him Alexander.

In 343 BCE, when Alexander was thirteen years old, his father hired the famous philosopher Aristotle to tutor him at the Temple of the Nymphs at Meiza. Aristotle was a master teacher and in his classes Alexander and his friends learned about science and politics. At the age of sixteen Alexander completed his education and became a soldier.

At nineteen years old, Alexander became King

### Alexander's Campaigns and Conquests

But before his conquest of the Persian Empire, Alexander got news that the Greek city-state of Thebes had forced out his troops. He was concerned that there would be a revolt, so he marched his huge army of over 3000 cavalry soldiers to the tip of the Greek peninsula. He destroyed Thebes and this caused fear among the city-states. Even Athens pledged their loyalty to him. At the age of 22, in 334 BCE, he left for his Asiatic campaign. He and his armies faced and quickly defeated Persian King Darius III's army near the Grancius River. Even though Alexander's troops were outnumbered, he created formations and strategies that defeated the Persians. In November he captured King Darius and declared himself the King of Persia. Next it was Alexander's goal to conquer Egypt. He easily achieved this goal and in 331 he created the city of Alexandria, named after him, of course, which became an important Greek cultural and commerce centre.

Next he set his sights on eastern Iran, where he formed colonies under Macedonian rule. India was next in 328 BCE. He defeated King Porus' armies in the north of India.

### The Death of Alexander

At the age of 32, Alexander became ill and died in Babylon, Persia, now part of Iraq.

### Facts about Alexander the Great

- Alexander was born in 356 BC in Pella, the capital of the Kingdom of Macedon
- He was taught by Aristotle
- He tamed a wild horse named Bucephalus when he was twelve. It was his main horse until it died of old age. Alexander named a city in India after his horse.
- Never lost a battle 15 years of conquests
- In 334 BC, he invaded the Achaemenid Empire (Persian Empire)
- He actually named over 70 cities after himself
- Alexander died in Babylon in 323 BC, of unknown causes

