

Alexander the Great

In just 13 years, from the moment he became king of Macedonia to when he died, Alexander won dozens of battles and over 20 sieges. He was one of the greatest generals the world has ever known. He also found time to found new cities on his travels.

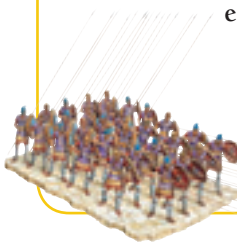
Alexander's campaigns

The following pictures and captions tell the story of Alexander's rule. Number them in the correct order, starting with the earliest event. Use the Alexander facts to help you.

a. The Greek city of Thebes rebelled against Alexander. Alexander swiftly ransacked the city and burnt it to the ground. After this there was no more Greek rebellion and Alexander was in control.

d. Alexander and Darius III of Persia met in battle at Issus. Darius made a mistake in choosing to fight on a narrow plain. This meant his vast army had to stand one behind the other, which led to huge casualties. Alexander was victorious, but Darius escaped.

b. Alexander was planning to invade Arabia and then the coast of North Africa, but a fever struck him down. He continued to order his men from his sickbed, but on June 10, 323 BCE he died. He was just 32 years old.



g. Alexander and Darius met again in battle at Gaugamela to decide the fate of the Persian empire. Alexander found a way through the Persian army's defenses to the king himself. Again Darius fled. The empire was now Alexander's.

c. Philip of Macedonia was murdered, leaving 20-year-old Alexander to lead the country. The first thing Alexander had to do was win over the loyalty of the army.



e. Alexander marched on to Egypt, a jewel in the Persian Empire. The Egyptians hated the Persians and welcomed Alexander warmly. He became king or pharaoh and started to build the great city of Alexandria.



f. In order to defeat the Persian fleet Alexander decided to take control of Mediterranean ports. If the fleet could not land to take on food, they would have to surrender. The people of the port of Tyre tried to resist, but after seven months Alexander's forces captured the city.



h. Alexander turned his attention to unknown lands, heading into India. However, Alexander's soldiers refused to continue. Eventually Alexander gave in to his men and started to lead them back.

Alexander facts

- Alexander was born in Macedonia, in 356 BCE. His father was Philip, the king.
- After Philip's murder in 336 BCE, Alexander became king.
- In 335 BCE Alexander crushed the Greek city of Thebes.
- Alexander defeated Darius at the Battle of Issus in 333 BCE.
- Along the Mediterranean coast, Alexander won the siege of Tyre in 332 BCE. Later in the same year he was recognized as king of Egypt.
- He defeated Darius at the battle of Gaugamela in 331 BCE.
- Alexander started his invasion of India in 327 BCE.
- He died, possibly of malaria, in 323 BCE.

Activity Answers

Alexander the Great

Alexander's campaign

- a ●
- b ●
- c ●
- d ●
- e ●
- f ●
- g ●
- h ●