

Lesson 30

Alexander the Great and His Empire

1. What roles did Athens and Sparta play in the Peloponnesian War? (2)
2. Explain how the Peloponnesian War weakened Greece and contributed to the expansion of Macedonia. (4)
3. Explain the ways Alexander was well trained to be a leader. (4)
4. How did Alexander plan to build his empire? (2)
5. Write at least three examples of how Alexander spread Greek ideas and culture throughout his vast empire. (3)
6. Write at least three examples of how Alexander used religion to unite his empire. (3)
7. Write three examples of how Alexander adopted the ways of other cultures to show respect for the people he had conquered. (3)
8. Explain what happened to Alexander's empire after he died. (4)

1. Quarreling between Athens and Sparta led to the Peloponnesian War. Other city-states were also drawn into the war as allies of either Athens or Sparta. Sparta won the war and became the most powerful city-state in Greece for a time.
2. When the Greeks were at war, they were not aware that Macedonia was getting stronger. King Philip had been unifying his country and creating a well-trained army. Philip was able to conquer the Greeks because the Peloponnesian War had left them weak and divided.
3. Alexander was well trained to be a leader because, as a youth, he had been tutored by the Greek philosopher Aristotle. Aristotle had taught Alexander public speaking, science, philosophy, and an appreciation of Greek culture.
4. Alexander planned to create an empire by using a strategy of terror and kindness. He would destroy the towns and cities that resisted him and sell their people into slavery. He would help rebuild the towns and cities that surrendered.
5. Students' answers will vary. Possible answers include: Alexander deeply admired Greek culture and hoped that Greek culture would blend with the varied cultures of the people he had conquered. He built Greek-style cities, including Alexandria. Greeks settled in these cities, bringing with them Greek laws, art, and literature. He also required soldiers and officials to speak only Greek.
6. Students' answers will vary. Possible answers include: Alexander used religion to inspire loyalty among his followers and the people he had conquered. He honored Egyptian and Persian gods. He also encouraged the idea that he was a god.

7. Students' answers will vary. Possible answers include:
Alexander adopted some of the practices of other cultures to show respect for the customs of the people he had conquered. In Persia, he adopted the Persian system of government and borrowed Persian customs. He encouraged marriage between Macedonians and Persians. He himself married the daughter of Darius, the Persian king.
8. Students' answers will vary. Possible answers include:
After Alexander's death, his empire crumbled, Settlers left the cities he had constructed, and the cities fell into ruin. His generals fought each other for control of the empire. The empire was eventually divided into three separate kingdoms.