Alexander’s Empire

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the Golden Age of Greece and the fall of Athens.
In this section, you will learn about Alexander the Great and his empire.

AS YOU READ

Use the diagram below to take notes on Alexander’s Invasions.

Philip Builds Macedonian Power
(pages 142–143)

Who were the Macedonians?

In 359 B.C., Philip II became king of Macedonia, a kingdom located just to the north of Greece. He was a strong leader and trained his troops to be tough fighters. Philip prepared his army to invade Greece.

The Athenian orator Demosthenes tried to warn the Greeks. He told them about Philip’s plans. But they united too late to save themselves. The Macedonians won. Greek independence was now over.

Philip planned to invade Persia next. He never got the chance. He was killed. His son Alexander became king at age 20. He became known as Alexander the Great.

1. How did Greek independence end?

Alexander Defeats Persia
(pages 143–144)

How did Alexander defeat Persia?

Alexander was a brilliant general, just like his father. He was prepared to carry out his father’s dream of world conquest. In 334 B.C., Alexander invaded Persia. After Alexander’s first victory, the king of Persia, Darius III, raised a huge army to face him. Alexander then used a surprise attack. Darius III had to retreat.
Alexander then moved south to enter Egypt. He was crowned pharaoh and founded a city that he named for himself—Alexandria. He then turned back to Persia and won another great battle. It ended all Persian resistance. The empire was his.

2. What two kingdoms did Alexander defeat?

Alexandria’s Other Conquests
(pages 144–145)

How far east did Alexander push?

Alexander pushed east, taking his army as far as India. He moved deep into that country. After many years of marching and fighting, however, his soldiers wanted to return home. Alexander agreed and turned back. On the way home, he began to make plans for how to govern his new empire. Then he suddenly fell ill and died. He was not yet 33 years old.

Three of Alexander’s generals divided his empire. One ruled Macedonia and Greece. Another took control of Egypt. The third became ruler of the lands that used to be in the Persian Empire. Alexander’s empire was not long lasting. Yet it had important effects. After Alexander, the people of Greece and Persia and all the lands between mixed together and shared ideas and culture.

3. How did Alexander’s power come to an end?