

# Slide 2

## Macedonia

- Macedonians were culturally and ethnically related to the Greeks
  - Actually looked upon as sort of "barbarian cousins" by the Greeks of Athens, Sparta, etc.
- King Philip II of Macedonia
  - Expanded his territory north to the Danube River and south into the Greek peninsula
  - Conquered all city-states except Sparta by 338 B.C.E.
  - Killed while planning to attack Persia (336 B.C.E.)

# Slide 3

# Alexander the Great

- Tutored by the philosopher Aristotle
- Precarious position because his mother was not Macedonian (making Alexander half Macedonian), and his father took a Macedonian as a new wife
- Wanted to conquer Persia like his father
- Wanted to spread Greek culture throughout the world




## Alexander the Great

- Philip was killed by companions of Alexander
- $\bullet\,$  Alexander came to the throne at age 20 (336 B.C.E.



# Slide 5

### Alexander the Great

- First put down local revolts, including destroying Thebes
  Invasion of Persia and beyond
  3,5,000 troops
  Granicus (334 B.C.E.)
  Issus (333 B.C.E.)
   Arbela (331 B.C.E.)
   City-states along the Mediterranean
  Phoenician Tyre
  Egypt
  Founded Alexandria
  India
  Reached Indus River
  Set up capital in Babylon (located in modern-day Iraq) in 324 B.C.E.
  Died of a fever in 323 B.C.E. at age 33
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# Slide 6




# Alexander's Empire

- Fell apart after Alexander's death
- Generals fought for control of empire
- Empire divided
  - **Egypt** Ptolemy
  - Most of Asian empire Seleucus
  - Macedonia and Greece Antigonus
- New dynasties ruled for hundreds of years until conquered by Rome

# Slide 8

# Alexander's Impact on World History

- Spread Greek culture beyond the Greeks
  - "Pan-Hellenism"
  - Founded numerous cities
  - Married a daughter of Darius

  - Encouraged his soldiers to take Persian wives
     Worshiped foreign gods and goddesses
     Recognized as foreign incarnations of Greek gods

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     Encouraged trade throughout his empire

     Settled Greeks throughout his empire

     Greek culture became "Hellenistic" as it spread and mingled with other cultures

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## Alexandria, Egypt

- City in Egypt founded by, and named after, Alexander the Great
- Ptolemy came to rule Egypt after Alexander's
- Ptolemies built a university in Alexandria -"Library of Alexandria"
  - Included 700,000 volumes written on papyrus
  - Center of research and scholarship

## Slide 11

#### Hellenistic Science

- Many practical, useful inventions
- Euclid (lived circa 300 B.C.E.)
  - Greek who lived and worked in Alexandria, Egypt
     "Father of Geometry"

  - Theorems in plane geometry ("Euclidean geometry")
- Archimedes (circa 287 B.C.E.-circa 212 B.C.E.)

  - Greek who lived and worked in Sicily
     Principle of specific gravity
  - Law of floating bodies
  - Used levers, pulleys, and screws to build things such as catapults

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## Hellenistic Science

- Eratosthenes (circa 276 B.C.E.-circa 195 B.C.E.)
- Greek born in modern-day Libya
   Geographer and librarian of Alexandria, Egypt
   Closely determined the earth's diameter
- Measured earth's distance from the sun with 99% accuracy
- Used lines of longitude and latitude on a map

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   Believed earth is round

   One could sail India by sailing west

   Aristarchus of Samos (310 B.C.E.-circa 230 B.C.E.)

   Heliocentric model first to advocate that the earth revolves around the sun
- Hipparchus (circa 190 B.C.E.-120 B.C.E.)
   Invented plane and spherical trigonometry
   Predicted eclipses of the moon and sun


## Hellenistic Art and Architecture

- Architecture
  - Built many impressive public buildings
     Baths, libraries, palaces, theaters
- Pharos lighthouse of Alexandria 400 feet high

- More lifelike showed more expression
   Action, grief, motion, pain
- The Death of Laocoon,
  Winged Victory of
  Samothrace, Venus de Milo



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# Hellenistic Philosophy

- Cynics (Cynicism)

   Diogenes (412-323 B.C.E.)

   Hatred of power and worldly possessions

- Stoics (Stoicism)
   Zeno of Citium (334-262 B.C.E.)
   Acceptance, courage, patience
   Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius (121-180 C.E.) was a Stoic philosopher (wrote Confessions)
   Stoic belief in human brotherhood influenced Christianity

- Epicureans (Epicureanism)
   Epicurus (341-270 B.C.E.)
   No life after death
   Pleasure and pain measure what is good and bad
   Life is to be enjoyed, particularly by searching for knowledge

# Slide 15

# Hellenistic Literature

- Few Hellenistic works had enduring value
- Preserved classical Greek heritage
  - Spread throughout Alexander's former empire
  - Particularly at Alexandria, Egypt
  - Middle East kept and preserved Greek heritage during the fall of Rome and Europe's Dark Ages
    - Europeans rediscovered this Greek heritage during the Crusades


## Hellenistic Culture in the Roman World

- Greek cities of southern Italy piqued Roman interest in Greek culture
  - Many southern Italian, Sicilian, and other Mediterranean cities which came under Roman control had been founded by Greeks
- Romans spread Greek culture throughout their own empire
  - Much Roman art generally copied Greek art

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#### **Hellenistic Civilization Declines**

- Endured for approximately 300 years
- Wealth and power in the hands of a few
- Reliance on slavery
  - Free persons could not find work
  - Slave labor cheaper (in the short-term) than investments in new inventions and technologies
  - Slave revolts
- Continuous warfare among city-states
- Easy target for Roman conquest

# Slide 18

# **Review Questions**

- Under what circumstances did Alexander the Great come to the Macedonian throne?
- 2. Name at least three modern-day countries which were conquered by Alexander the Great.
- 3. What does the term *Hellenistic* mean?
- 4. Describe the work of a Hellenistic scientist or mathematician.
- 5. Describe a Hellenistic philosophy.
- 6. What caused the fall of Hellenistic society?
- 7. Imagine that you are a Babylonian living during the time of Alexander. How might you view Alexander's conquests? Would you consider him "great"?
