Alexander the Great
Phillip II (Alexander’s Father)

- King of Macedonia
- Phillip Conquers Greece (338 B.C.E.)
  - Through Alliances, Bribes, and War
  - Leaves Sparta alone
Childhood

• Grew up learning Greek Culture
  – Educated by Aristotle

• Proved early on to be good Military Commander
  – Won his first war at age of 16
Rise to Power

• Phillip Assassinated in 336 B.C.E.
  – Alexander put on throne
  – Has to consolidate power
    • Kill Rivals
    • Re-establish self in Balkans and Greece
Quest for Empire (Asia Minor)

• In 334 B.C.E. Alexander crosses the Hellespont into Asia Minor (Turkey)
  – Had to fight Persians and Greeks
Quest for Empire

• Attack on Hebrew
  – Most cities open gates (including Jerusalem)
    • Scared of what happened after Tyre
  – Gaza does not
    • Again Alexander makes an example and slaughters everyone
Quest for Empire (Egypt)

- Alexander Walks into Egypt and is hailed as a liberator
- Founds city of Alexandria
  - Hellenistic Cultural center in Egypt
Quest for Empire (Persia)

- Alexander Heads into Persia and meets Darius at Gaugamela
  - Darius again runs away
  - This time leaving behind an Empire
Impact of Gaugamela

• Captures Persian Capital of Persepolis
  – Him and Army stay for 5 months
• Still needed to make himself legitimate king
  – Meant killing Darius
Critical Thinking

• Even once Darius Abdicated why would it be crucial for Alexander to kill him?
• Is it better to include conquered in government, army, etc... or exclude?
The Chase is On

• Alexander chases Darius is east
  – Darius is killed by bodyguard 330 B.C.E.
  – Alexander now considered true king of Persia
Quest for Empire (India)

• Moved into India 327 B.C.E.
• Alexander faced new type of army
  – Fierce fighters
  – War Elephants
All Comes Apart 325 B.C.E.

• Army Reaches Hyphasis River and Mutinies
  – Too long since they were home
  – Too far away from home
  – Don’t want to face anymore Indian Armies
Death of Alexander

- June 10\textsuperscript{th} or 11\textsuperscript{th}, 323 B.C.E. Alexander dies in Babylon
  - Poison or Disease
  - Body placed in Alexandria and becomes sacred site for Greeks and Romans
Alexander’s Empire

• At height of power Alexander’s Empire was the known world
  – Egypt, Greece, Persia
Empire After Death

• Alexander Left no true Heir to the throne
• Empire is split up between Alexander’s Generals
  – Civil War
    • Due to lack of strong successor
  – Empire fought over by descendants for next 300 years