

READING A CHRONOLOGY

Alexander the Great

In this issue, you read about the conqueror of half of the ancient world known as Alexander the Great. Check out this chronology of some significant events of Alexander's life, then use it to answer the questions below.

CHRONOLOGY

356 B.C.

Alexander is born in Pella, Macedonia. He is the son of King Philip II.

343 B.C.

Aristotle, one of Greece's great philosophers, is hired to tutor Alexander.

336 B.C.

Alexander's father, Philip, is assassinated, and Alexander becomes King of Macedonia.

334 B.C.

Continuing his father's drive to defeat the Persian Empire, Alexander heads into Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) and faces the Persian army at the Battle of the Granicus. It is Alexander's first major victory against the Persians.

333 B.C.

Alexander and his men defeat the forces of Persian King Darius III at the Battle of Issus. Alexander now controls most of Asia Minor.

332 B.C.

Reaching Egypt, Alexander is hailed as a conqueror by the people, until then ruled by the Persians. Alexander founds the city of Alexandria.

331 B.C.

Alexander and his forces defeat Darius in the Battle of Gaugamela. This decisive battle spells the end of the Persian Empire.

330 B.C.

Darius dies, and Alexander proclaims himself "Lord of Asia."

328 B.C.

Alexander kills one of his top generals, Cleitus, in a drunken rage after the man insults him.

327 B.C.

Alexander marries Roxana, a princess of the Asian region of Bactria. He begins his march to conquer India.

326 B.C.

Alexander's troops win the Battle of Hydaspes in India. But his men refuse to keep fighting, and his long campaign comes to an end.

323 B.C.

Alexander dies in Babylon.

QUESTIONS

1. How old was Alexander when he became King of Macedonia?
2. How long had Alexander been King when he first led his troops against Persia?
3. What important events happened in 332 B.C.?
4. Where and when was Alexander's decisive victory against the Persians?
5. What finally stopped Alexander in his conquests? How many years did he live after that?