

# The Conquests of Alexander the Great

## ► Gathering the Facts

1. Turn to pages 32–33 of the Atlas. Read the introduction and look at map B, “How Big Was Alexander’s Empire?” Use the information to complete the sentences below.
  - a. Alexander the Great was king of \_\_\_\_\_. He conquered Greece and then the \_\_\_\_\_ Empire. Following Alexander’s conquests, the cultures of the conquered lands were influenced by \_\_\_\_\_ culture.
  - b. Alexander’s empire was about as large as the \_\_\_\_\_. It included land on three continents: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. His empire stretched from Greece to \_\_\_\_\_.

## ★ People and Culture

2. Look at picture A and read its caption. Then read the history question, “How do you show your culture?” Use the information to answer the following questions.
  - a. Alexander adopted the culture of what group? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What type of character is Alexander shown as in the picture?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What may be some ways of determining that Alexander is shown as a Persian in the picture?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What does the picture indicate about Alexander’s influence on Persian culture?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - e. What are some examples of things that make up a culture?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**► Places, Regions, and Landscapes**

3. Look at map C, "The Persian Empire." Use the information to fill in the blanks below.

- a. How many different major culture groups were within the Persian Empire? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. List the rivers that were completely or partially within the Persian Empire.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- c. List all the seas that bordered the Persian Empire.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**★ History Through Maps**

4. Look at map D, "Alexander Conquers Persia." Use the map to follow Alexander's conquest route. Number the places below in sequential order, with 1 being the first place Alexander traveled through and 14 being the last. Some of the places will have more than one number because Alexander passed through them more than once. Also circle the places where major battles occurred.

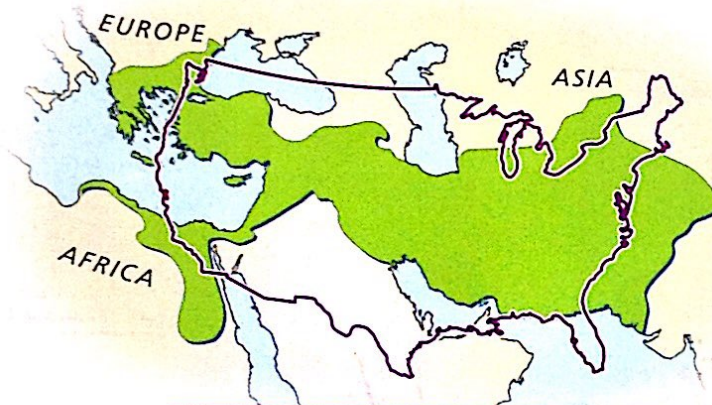
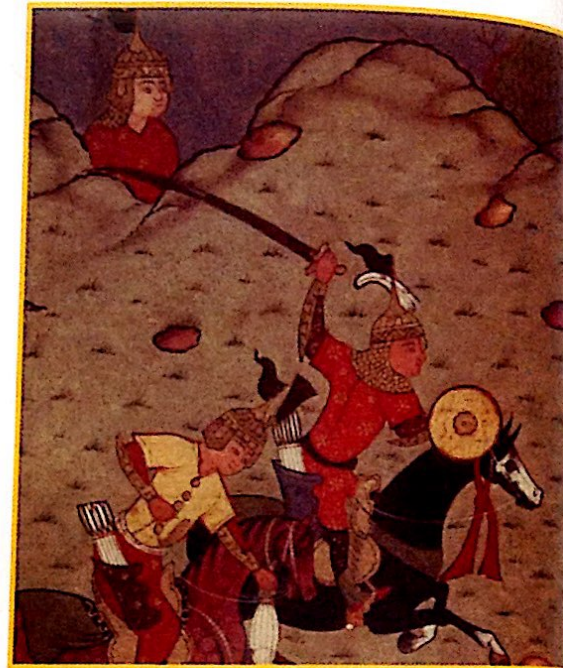
- |               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| a. Sargela    | _____ |
| b. Nineveh    | _____ |
| c. Pella      | _____ |
| d. Babylon    | _____ |
| e. Granicus   | _____ |
| f. Persepolis | _____ |
| g. Issus      | _____ |
| h. Gaugamela  | _____ |
| i. Bucephala  | _____ |
| j. Thrace     | _____ |
| k. Gedrosia   | _____ |
| l. Alexandria | _____ |

# The Conquests of Alexander the Great

Alexander the Great, king of ancient Macedonia, built an empire that stretched from Greece to India.

- Years of fighting had weakened the Greek city-states. Macedonia, a kingdom in northern Greece, conquered the entire region.
- Then Alexander turned to the east and conquered the Persian Empire.
- When Alexander died, his generals divided his empire into separate kingdoms.
- Alexander's conquests led to the mixing of Greek culture with the cultures of conquered lands.

**A** Alexander encouraged cultural exchange between Greeks and Persians and adopted many Persian customs himself. This illustration shows Alexander as a great Persian hero.



## How Big Was Alexander's Empire?

**B** Alexander's vast empire included land on Europe, Africa, and Asia.

## How do you show your culture?

Culture is what makes a group of people unique, or different from other groups. The religion we follow, the language we speak, even what we eat or drink, can all be part of our culture.

## Alexander Conquers Persia

336–323 B.C.

■ Alexander's Empire, 323 B.C.

➔ Route of conquest

— Persian road

★ Major battle

⊙ Capital

PERSIA Culture region

☐ Desert area

0 300 600 miles  
0 300 600 kilometers





**C**

Before Alexander's invasion, the Persian Empire was the largest empire in the region. Compare this map with map D. How much of Alexander's empire had been ruled by the Persians?

### The Persian Empire

338 B.C.

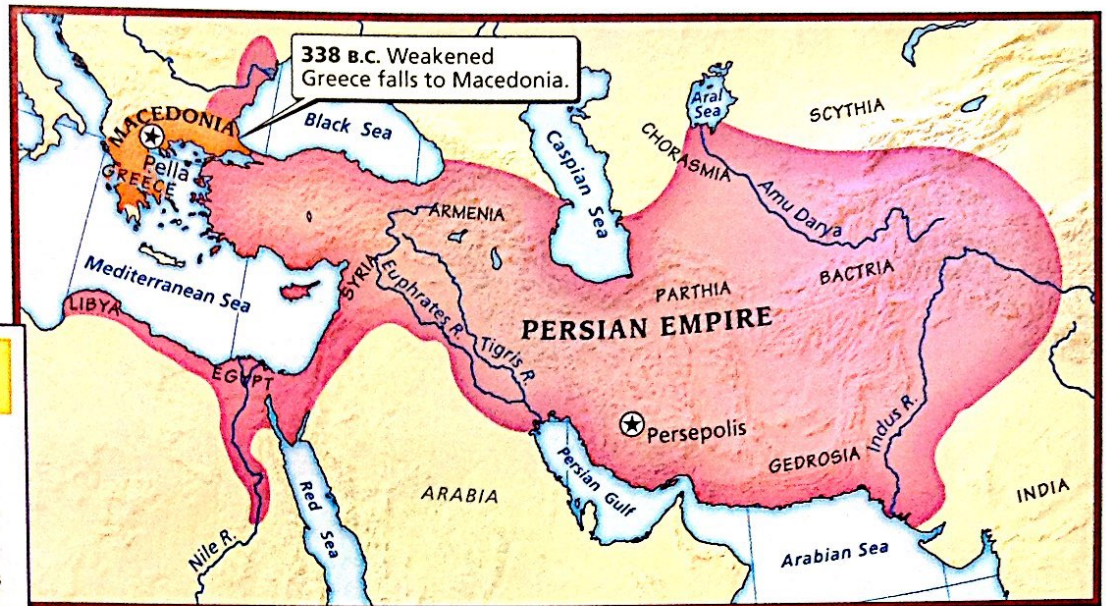
Persian Empire

Macedonia

Capital

SYRIA Culture group

0 400 800 miles  
0 400 800 kilometers



**D** To build his empire, Alexander led his armies through scorching deserts and across steep mountains. In some areas, Alexander moved his troops along roads the Persians had built.

Area shown in maps C and D

