Alexander the Great

Ruler of the World
Why “the Great”?

- In ten years, Alexander of Macedonia created the largest empire in the world up to that time.
- Alexander spread Greek culture, ensuring cultural diffusion and the survival of the qualities of classical Greece.
Alexander’s Empire

Alexander’s Empire 336–323 B.C.

- MACEDONIA
- ASIA MINOR
- EGYPT
- INDIA

- Extent of empire
- Alexander’s routes of conquest
- Major battles

Locations:
- Granicus
- Sardis
- Issus
- Gaugamela
- Alexandria
- Tyre
- Babylon
- Susa
- Persepolis
- Alexandria Eschate
Alexander’s origins

- Born in Pella, Macedonia
- Taught by the Greek philosopher, Aristotle
- His father, King Philip II, was king of Macedonia, and had conquered the Greek city states during his 27 year reign
In 338 B.C.E., King Philip II of Macedonia attacked and conquered the Greeks, but he was assassinated soon after this (possibly arranged by his wife).
King Alexander of Macedonia

Alexander was only 20 years old when he became king.

The well-educated Alexander was just as ambitious as he was brilliant at military strategy.

Once he cemented his power, he began to expand his empire.
Olympia
Alexander’s mother

Philip
Alexander’s father
Expanding the Empire

334-332 BC Alexander & his army defeat the Persians
Alexander set his sights on the Persian Empire and began his attack by *conquering Egypt*; Egyptians viewed Alexander as a *liberator*, freeing them from the Persians.
In 331 B.C., Alexander attacked and defeated the mighty Persian army led by King Darius III. Alexander destroyed the Persian capital of Persepolis.
Major cities in Asia Minor and along the Phoenician coast surrendered to Alexander between 332-331 BC.

Alexander proceeded to Egypt, & established the city of Alexandria. *He was made pharaoh.
Expanding the Empire

Middle East

From 330-327 BC

Alexander conquered regions of the Middle East to Afghanistan
Expanding the Empire

Alexander in India

- Alexander fights his way across the deserts of Central Asia to India
- Alexander conquers Indus Valley area in 326 B.C.
Alexander blended Greek and Persian cultures.

Historians call this era the “Hellenistic period.” (The word “Hellenistic” comes from the word Hellazein, which means “to speak Greek or identify with the Greeks.”)

He spread Greek influence throughout all the conquered lands.
Legacy

His Empire becomes 3 Kingdoms - Macedonia, Egypt, Persia
Legacy

Phalanx: A formation of infantry carrying overlapping shields and long spears, developed by Philip II and perfected by Alexander the Great.
Securing a legacy

Alexander made Babylonia the capital of his Empire

He married one of Darius’ daughters and “encouraged” 10,000 of his soldiers to take Persian wives

He died the following year at 33 before he could produce an heir and his kingdom was divided among 3 of his generals
When Alexander died without an heir, his empire was divided among his top generals, who fought each other. Alexander's empire was the largest of the Classical Era, but it was short-lived (only 13 years) and was never fully unified.
The Gordian Knot: the legend behind the ancient knot was that the man who could untie it was destined to rule the entire world.

Alexander simply slashed the knot with his sword and unraveled it.
The mystery of Alexander’s death

- Alexander died of a fever at 33... but why?
- Plutarch reports that he was had been plagued by several bad “omens”
- Some others from the time claimed Alexander was poisoned
- Alexander probably died of typhoid fever (which, along with malaria, was common in ancient Babylon).
So what’s important to understand?

Alexander the Great is important because of his creation of one of the largest empires in ancient history & for his military tactics.
Why was Alexander so successful?

- Great Military Leader
  - Master of strategy and tactics

- He was fearless
  - Led his men into battle
  - Willing to risk his own life
  - While in India, Alexander was the first to leap over a city wall in order to inspire his troops.
Your frame should look like this...

Key Topic
Alexander the Great is about...

Creating an empire & spreading Greek culture

Main Ideas

Early Life

Expanding the Empire

Legacy

Essential Details

taught by Aristotle

Defeats Persians 334-332 BC

Blended Greek & Persians cultures

Military trained

Establish City of Alexandria in Egypt 331 BC

Empire becomes 3 kingdoms (Macedon, Egypt, Persia)

King at Age 20

Conquered parts of Middle East 329-327 BC

Perfected Phalanx Formation

Father was King Phillip II of Macedon

Conquered regions of India 326 BC

The Gordian Knot... slashed with his sword

So What? (What's important to understand about this?)

A. T. G. is important because of his creation of one of the largest empires in Ancient History & his military tactics.
Alexander the Great movie clip...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQfBinQwPGs
Day 2: Mapping Alexander’s Route...

- Use the map on the following site...
- Click play and pause it periodically to add to your maps.


http://www.phschool.com/atschool/california/webcodes/mapmaster/emapsw_ch16_p0464.swf
Your map should look like this...

Stop in Babylon