

Alexander the Great: A Hero or a Villain?

Directions: Using the following lyrics from “Alexander the Great” written by the heavy metal band Iron Maiden, answer the questions that follow.

My son ask for thyself another
Kingdom for that which I leave
Is too small for thee
(king Philip of Macedonia - 339 b.c.)

Near to the east
In a part of Ancient Greece
In an ancient land called Macedonia
Was born a son
To Philip of Macedon
The legend his name was Alexander

At the age of nineteen
He became the Macedon king
And he swore to free all of Asia minor
By the Aegean sea
In 334 b.c.
He utterly beat the armies of Persia

His name struck fear into hearts of men
Alexander the great
Became a legend amongst mortal men

King Darius the third
Defeated fled Persia
Then Egypt fell to the Macedonian king as well
And he founded the city called Alexandria

By the Tigris river
He met king Darius again
And crushed him again at the battle of Arbela
Entering Babylon
And many treasures he found
Took Persepolis the capital of Persia

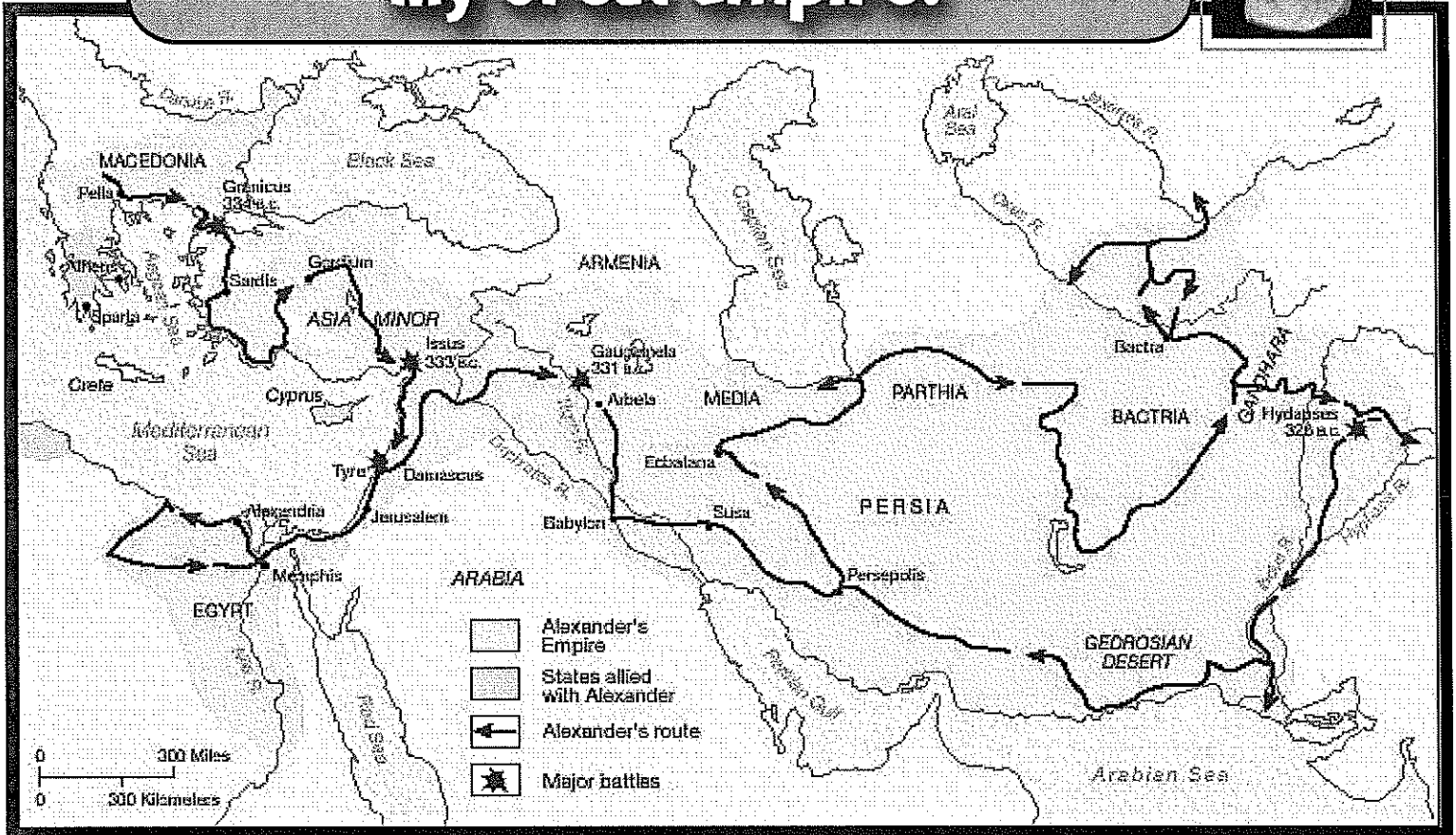
He would become the master of Asia
Hellenistic culture he spread far and wide
Their culture was a western way of life
He paved the way for Christianity

Questions:

1. Who was the father of Alexander the Great?
2. Where was Alexander born?
3. At the age of 19, what did Alexander become?
4. Which Persian leader did Alexander defeat?
5. Which places did Alexander conquer?
6. When Alexander conquered a place, what culture spread?



My Great Empire!



1. Alexander the Great was from Macedonia. What cultures did he come into contact with when building his empire?

2. Name three bodies of water that bordered Alexander's empire.

3. Why would it be difficult to rule Alexander's empire?

4. How would you describe the type of culture that flourished in Alexander's empire?

You be the judge: Was Alexander a Hero or a Villain?

Directions: Read the following secondary source documents on Alexander the Great to determine if he was a hero or a villain.

Document #1:

"...When he came to Thebes...the city...was sacked and razed. Alexander's hope being that so severe an example might terrify the rest of Greece into obedience...thirty thousand, were publicly sold for slaves, and it is computed that upwards of six thousand were put to the sword."

-Plutarch, Greek Historian, 90 A.D.

1. According to this document, what did Alexander the Great do?

2. How does this document depict (describe) Alexander the Great?

Document #2:

"Alexander, by founding more than seventy cities among the barbarian tribes...suppressed their savage and uncivilized customs...Those whom Alexander conquered were more fortunate than those who escaped...(He desired to give) all the races in the world...one rule and one form of government, making all mankind a single people."

-Plutarch, Greek Historian, 90 A.D.

1. According to this document, what did Alexander the Great do?

2. How does this document depict (describe) Alexander the Great?

Document 3:

For I myself believe that there was at that time no race of mankind, no city, no individual (to whom) the name Alexander had not reached. And so I cannot suppose that a man quite beyond all other men was born without some divine influence”

-Arrian, philosopher A.D. 171

1. Looking at the first sentence, what does this quote reveal about Alexander the Great and his actions?

2. Looking at the second sentence, how does this philosopher explain how Alexander the Great was able to become so powerful?

Document 4:

“He was...very heroic in courage...He was very clever in recognizing what was necessary to be done, when others were still in a state of uncertainty...In...ruling an army, he was exceedingly skillful; and very renowned for rousing the courage of his soldiers, filling them with hopes of success, and dispelling their fear in the midst of danger by his own freedom from fear. He was likewise very (dedicated to) keeping the agreements and settlements which he made.”

-Arrian, philosopher A.D. 171

1. How does Arrian describe Alexander?

2. How does this description explain how he was able to conquer vast lands?

In Memory...

of the life and times of Alexander the Great

Make your argument: Why should Alexander the Great be remembered as a hero?

What can you draw that shows the heroism of Alexander the Great?

Even though you believe he was a hero, why might others argue him to be a villain?

WANTED

Alexander the Great for Villainous Behavior!

Make your argument: Why should Alexander the Great be remembered as a villain?

What can you draw that shows the villainous side of Alexander the Great?

Even though you believe he was a villain, why might others argue him to be a hero?
