

Alexander Booklet



What do you need to know?

For the Alexander Topic you need to know:

- Something about Alexander's personality, qualities of his leadership in battle, and family background. A question can arise on any of these.
- You also need to know something of his politics and qualities as a ruler of a kingdom/empire. Again, questions can arise on these also.
- You also must know something of the background of the Persian-Greco conflicts, Macedonian Society, and Alexander's Army – none of these will appear as an independent question, but can be part of a larger question, and are vital to understanding the topic.

However, the one guarantee for Alexander are his Battles and Sieges – there are 7 to learn in some detail: (i) Siege of Thebes, (ii) Battle of Granicus, (iii) Battle of Issus, (iv) Siege of Tyre, (v) Battle of Gaugamela, (vi) Siege of Aornos Rock, (vii) Battle of Hydaspes. There has always been a question on at least one of these – with only an exception on one or two occasions.

Therefore, I have limited these notes to only what is vitally relevant besides the Battles and provided detailed notes of the Battles and Sieges.

Alexander the Great – Overview Summary of his Life

Upon the death of his father in 336 B.C., Alexander quickly assumed control of Macedonia – however, he did not have the support of all the Greeks or the Balkans peoples – the Thracians and Illyrians – as his father had done. Many saw the young Alexander in a weak position and decided that Philip's death was the opportune moment to strive for independence.

Alexander quickly dealt with these challenges to his authority, campaigning north in Thrace and Illyria before quickly moving south to deal with an uprising from Thebes. He showed his ability as a general, moving south quicker than any had expected and quelling the Theban uprising with brutal authority, sacking the city of Thebes and enslaving its women and children. From then on, other cities like Athens quickly re-pledged their loyalties to him.

Granicus



CROSSING THE GRANICUS

Rather than remaining in Greece, Alexander decided that a united Greek campaign – as planned by his father – was preferable. In 334 B.C., he moved into Asia Minor to meet the advance force led by his father's general Parmenion, having already been sent by Philip to secure the Hellespont. Alexander left his general Antipater in Macedonia with a force to keep the Greeks in line and crossed the Hellespont himself combining with Parmenion to create a force of roughly 31,000 infantry and 5,100 cavalry.

The Persian Satraps of Asia Minor led by a man called Memnon had gathered their men at the River Granicus – roughly 20,000 Greek infantry and 20,000 cavalry. It ought to be remembered that not all Greeks – in fact most of them – would not have seen Alexander, a Macedonian King, as any different from the Persians. Alexander's strategy at Granicus was to immediately attack the Persian cavalry front lined on the opposing riverbank. His superior

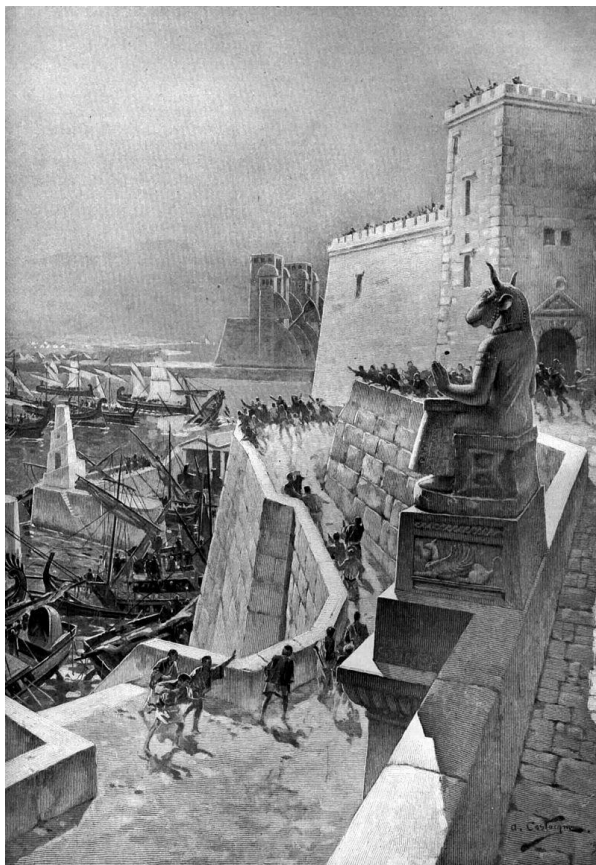
cavalry proved effective in forcing a crossing. The Greek infantry who were not killed in the battle were enslaved.

With this victory Alexander could move south liberating the Ionian Greek cities along the coast and seize control of Sardis, the capital of Lycia. Alexander's plan at this point was to capture the major ports along the coast, thus making the large Persian fleet ineffective – he did not want to risk an open naval battle.

Alexander moved through Asia Minor, conquering two fortified ports, Miletus and Halicarnassus, along the way, before moving into the interior of Asia Minor and Gordium, the principal city of Phrygia, came to the temple of Zeus and the Gordian knot which held a cart to the altar of Zeus. It had been tied there by Gordium's mythological founder and it was said whoever untied the knot would rule all Asia – Alexander, it is said, cut the knot with his sword.

With stage of his campaign complete Alexander had conquered Asia within less than a year – something unprecedented by previous generations of Greeks.

Issus



The Siege of Tyre

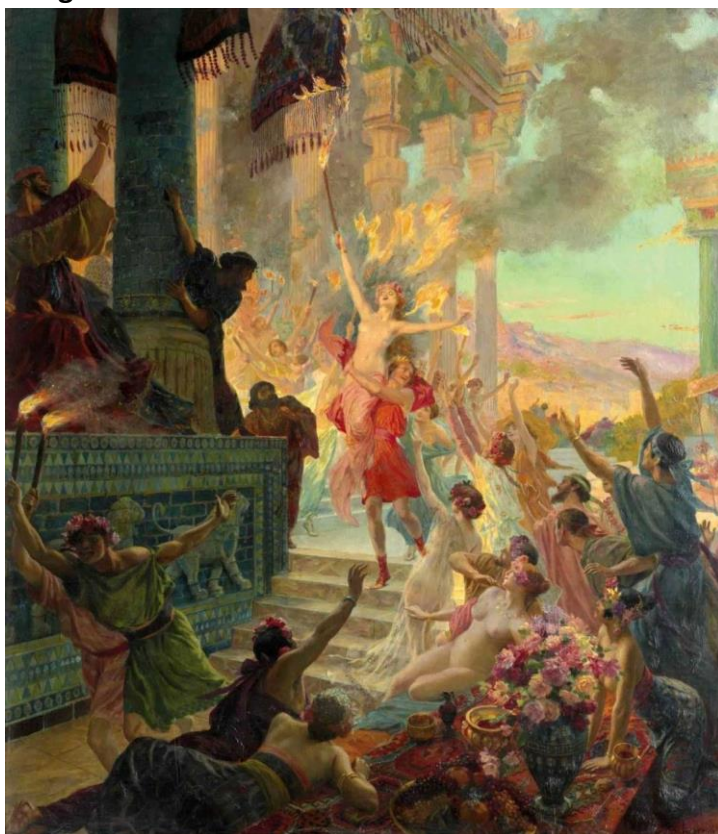
In 333 B.C. Alexander had journeyed south, stopping some time at Tarsus, before moving along the coast through Syria. The Persian King Darius was moving north through the inland searching for Alexander at the same time as Alexander was moving along the coast. They most likely missed each other by only a few miles in the mountains. However, when Alexander

discovered that Darius was behind him, he turned north and met Darius who was coming south from Issus. They met at the river Pinarus. The tight location between mountain and sea did not favour Darius' larger numbers; what is more he lined all his cavalry on his right flank along the coast, leaving his left flank exposed. Alexander took advantage of this and charged through the Persian left flank with his Companion Cavalry, quickly putting Darius and the Persians to flight before turning quickly around and attacking the Persian cavalry on the coast from the rear.

From here Alexander continued south, taking the impenetrable island city of Tyre along the way by building a mole across the sea in order to reach the city – in doing so he also gained a surprisingly large fleet from Sidon and Cyprus. With the capture of Gaza in 332 B.C. Alexander had successfully taken all the major ports and the Persian fleet was made redundant.

He spent a year travelling through Egypt, where he was hailed as a liberator and Pharaoh, where he founded Alexandria – the first of 50 or so cities he would found on his campaign – and he journeyed to the temple of Ammon in Siwah (deep in the desert) where he was proclaimed as a son of Ammon (Zeus).

Gaugamela



Burning of Persepolis

By 331 B.C. Alexander had once more turned east to face another force gathered by Darius. They met near the Tigris on a wide open plain suited to cavalry and chariots. Darius' army – mostly made of cavalry – lined with the cavalry and chariots in front and the infantry behind. Alexander adopted a unique strategy. His phalanx pikemen were put into two lines, the front line was placed at an angle to draw the enemy to attack, the second line was there to deal

with any Persian forces that might break through the Macedonian lines. The cavalry of his right flank, with light infantry in support, pushed far to the right; the Persians fearing they would be flanked by this moved much of the cavalry to pursue them. The chariots were dealt with easily enough. The Macedonians allowed them to run through their lines and to be picked off by light infantry. Then the main forces joined. The rest of the Persian attacked Parmenion's Thessalian cavalry on the Macedonian left. Meanwhile a gap had been created in the centre of the Persian infantry line – all Persian cavalry engaged on the right and left. Here Alexander pressed forward with his own Companion cavalry and the infantry piercing to the heart of the Persian line, straight at Darius. Darius once more fled. Alexander turned to attack the Persians who had pinned down Parmenion's men and a decisive victory was won.

With the victory at Gaugamela and the second flight of Darius, Alexander moved south taking Babylon, Susa, and then moving into Persia itself; where he burned the country and sacked the capital city, Persepolis – supposedly a revenge for the burning of the Acropolis in Athens during the Persian Wars.

Despite burning their country, from this point Alexander changed some of his customs Persian and adopted an inclusive policy towards the Persians. He wore Persian clothes and brought Persian nobles into his court. It would have been impossible for him to control the vast Empire without supporting the system that already existed. An inclusive and tolerant policy towards the Persians was key to ensure this.

Darius had fled east only to be taken by the Satrap of Bactria, Bessus, and executed. Alexander first pursued Darius and then – finding the king dead – pursued Bessus avenging himself on the Satrap, who had turned traitor against his own king. This shows an honourable quality to Alexander's character.

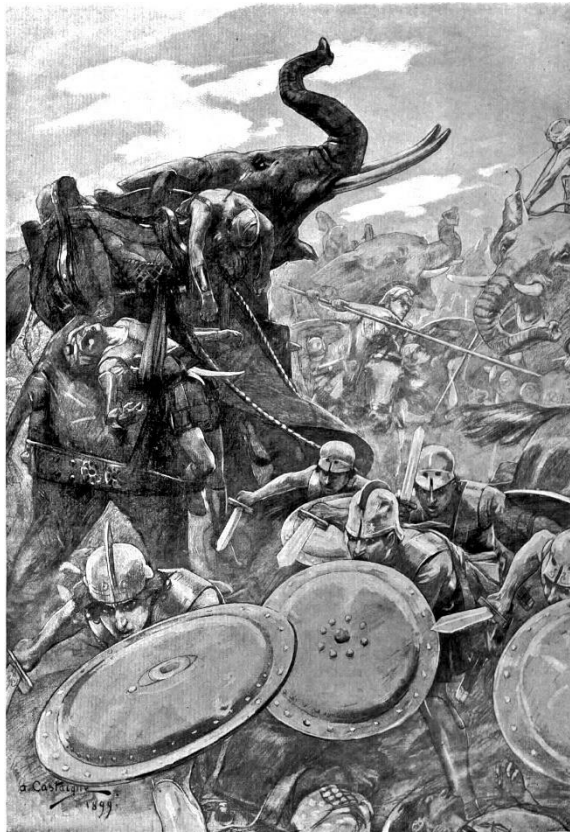


Murder of Cleitus the Black

However, as Alexander journeyed east, travelling through Bactria and Sogdiana, there were some incidences that do not show a positive side to his character. In 330 B.C., he executed Philotas, the son of Parmenion, highly circumstantial evidence that the man had been connected to a conspiracy; he even had the faithful general Parmenion assassinated to avoid retribution from the old general. Then in 328 B.C. he murdered his friend Cleitus the Black – who had saved his life at Granicus – in a drunken brawl. Cleitus had insulted the king and verbally attacked Alexander for showing more favour to foreigners than to Macedonians. Alexander grew angry in his drunken state and stabbed his friend with a spear.

Hydaspes

Despite these incidences Alexander continued east, pushing through Bactria, Sogdiana, and on to India. Along the way he took many well-defended forts from regional chieftains and kings – and won the hand of Roxane the daughter of a Bactrian princess. His greatest achievement at this time was the taking of the Rock of Aornos, a fortified mountain, as he journeyed into India. In doing so he secured his lines and could journey into India.



Hydaspes

In India he had to make crossings of many rivers and to fight formidable tribes and kingdoms. Perhaps the most difficult of these crossings was on the Hydaspes, in 326 B.C., where he faced the Indian King, Porus. Unable to attack directly across the river because of Porus' elephants on the other banks, Alexander secretly crossed further downstream, leaving some of his men behind so the Indians would not suspect his army had moved to another crossing. Once across his army lined up to face Porus' army, which had elephants lined along the front of his infantry line and cavalry on the flanks. Alexander's cavalry easily won against the Indian cavalry and

pushed them back against the elephants and infantry line. The ensuing confusion saw many of the elephants trample their own men. Alexander also used his light infantry to pepper the elephants with missiles, who would then retreat and avoid their charge. When the elephants were hemmed back in this way, Alexander's army surrounded the Indians from behind while his infantry phalanx, in a packed formation, advanced and cut through the enemy.

Porus himself was found after the battle; Alexander asked him how he would be liked to be treated. Porus responded "Like a King". And so Porus was allowed to retain his crown and rule for Alexander of many of his newly acquired Indian territories.

Alexander's Journey Home and Death



The Desert

However, Alexander's own men were tired from constant fighting and travelling east into unknown territories; and it was they who forced Alexander to turn home. Alexander himself was highly reluctant, wishing to conquer the known world, and so pouted in his tent for several days. Eventually he yielded.

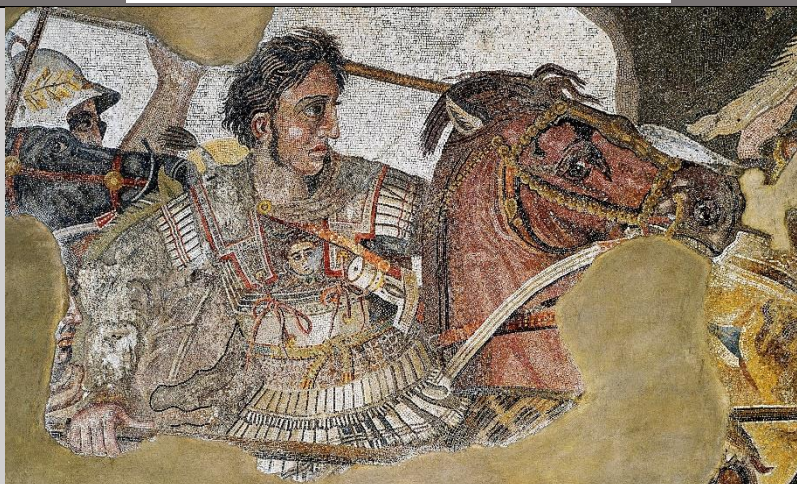
The return journey was perhaps even more dangerous and wearisome. Alexander journeyed south along the Indus river and came to the sea. Here he split his forces, Nearchus taking to the sea, and the rest of the army being led by Alexander himself. As Nearchus took a fleet through the Persian Gulf, Alexander led his army across the formidable Gedrosian desert. He probably lost more men on this foolhardy route than in all his battles combined. Thousands died.

Alexander returned to Susa and Babylon in 324 B.C. There he made Babylon his new capital and began to solidify his empire and even planned more campaigns west. Aside from a mutiny by his men at Opis – again because of his orientalism policy – Alexander succeeded in bridging the cultural gap between his new Persian subjects and the Macedonian and Greek ones who had followed him so far east.

But, to the dismay of many, Alexander took ill after two nights of heavy drinking. Lying ill for several days many of his generals took to his side fearing the worst. After roughly 14 days of illness Alexander died, leaving an infant son as an heir.

Subsequently his empire was fractured by his generals creating the Successor Kingdoms and the Hellenistic Period began.

Alexander the Great - Timeline



July 356 BCE	Born at Pella , Macedonia, to King Philip II and Olympias.
338 BCE August	Battle of Chaeronea (see Philip)
336 BCE	Alexander became ruler of Macedonia after Philip's assassination – Alexander secured the throne against rivals.
335 BCE	Alexander campaigned in the Balkans re-securing the territories his father had conquered.
335 BCE	Thebes rebelled from the League of Corinth . Alexander swiftly moved south, defeated the Theban army outside their walls, and sacked the city – enslaving their people.
334 BCE	Alexander crossed into Asia, leaving Antipater in Macedon , and joining Parmenion . He won the Battle of Granicus against the Persian forces led by a Greek named Memnon .
334 – 332 BCE	Alexander conquered much of Asia Minor, taking cities such as Miletus , Halicarnassus , before travelling inland to Phrygia and Gordium .
333 BCE	Alexander travelled south through Cilicia and Tarsus , where he fell ill. Soon after, he journeyed south again and faced Darius III – King of Persia – between the mountains and the sea at the Battle of Issus . His Companion Cavalry smashed through the Persian lines and Darius fled.
332 BCE	Alexander moved south along the Levantine coast, many cities surrendering to him. The island Phoenician city of Tyre resisted. Alexander built a mole to cross the ocean to it, gathered a fleet from Cyprus and Sidon, and captured the city. He then travelled south and took the last fortified harbour of Gaza from the Persians.
331 BCE	Alexander visited Egypt – where he is proclaimed Pharaoh –, he founded Alexandria , and he visited the oracle in the desert at Siwah , who proclaimed him son of Ammon (Zeus).
331 BCE	Alexander returned north and crossed the Euphrates , facing Darius again at the Battle of Gaugamela . Alexander outmanoeuvred Darius' huge army on the battlefield, Darius fled once more, and Alexander won a decisive victory .

330 BCE	Sacked and burned Persepolis the capital of Persia; tried and executed Philotas , son of Parmenion, who had apparently withheld information about a plot on Alexander's life. He assassinated Parmenion too, to ensure that the old general does not challenge the trial. Darius was killed by the Satrap of Bactria, Bessus ; Alexander pursued Bessus and had him brutally killed for betraying his king.
329 BCE	Crossed Hindu Kush; travelled into Bactria and crossed the Oxus river and then on to Samarkand.
328 BCE	Murdered Cleitus the Black (a member of his bodyguard) – who had once saved his life on the battlefield. He murdered him in a drunken rage for an insult.
327 BCE	Married Roxane ; began march to India .
326 BCE	Won Battle of Hydaspes against the Indian King Porus . Porus was subsequently made an ally of Alexander and the ruler of that region of India.
326 BCE	Alexander was forced to turn back by his troops who refused to journey further into India fearing further hardships.
326-324 BCE	Alexander journeyed home via the coast of the Persian Gulf. His admiral Nearchus travelled by sea, Alexander travelled by land across the Gedrosian Desert losing a huge part of his army. He reached Susa in 324 BCE .
324 BCE	Married Stateira and Parysatis at Susa. His troops mutinied at Opis because Alexander had tried to integrate the Persians into his army – and because he had pursued a policy of orientalism : adopting some Persian dress and customs. Hephaestion – Alexander's closest friend – died.
June 11, 323 BCE	Alexander died at Babylon in the palace of Nebuchadnezzar II, after several days of sickness, with an infant son as heir. His general would then divide up his Empire between them creating what are known as the Hellenistic or Successor Kingdoms .

The Campaigns of Alexander



Profile of People from Alexander's Childhood



Mother: Olympias

Basic Info:

Birth: 375 B.C

Death: 316 B.C.

Country: Epirus

Family: Daughter of Neoptolemus I of Epirus; descendent of Achilles

Spouse: 4th wife of Philip II of Macedon from 357 B.C.

Children: Alexander the Great, Cleopatra of Macedon

Important Facts.

Member of orgiastic snake worshipping cult of **Dionysus**.

Allegedly met Philip II while both initiated into mysteries concerned with the Cabeiri, earth-gods, at Samothrace.

Married Philip II in **357 B.C.** as part of Alliance between Philip and her father.

356 B.C. gave birth to Alexander.

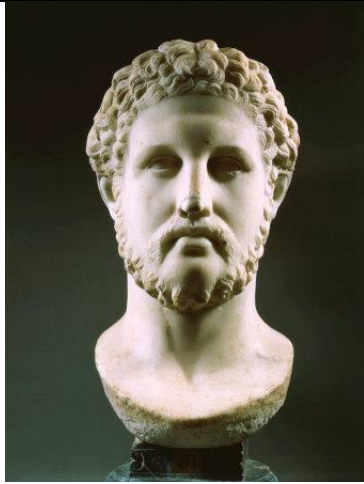
Apparently, her marriage to Philip was very volatile – especially because of her supposed mysticism and snake-worshipping.

Gave birth to Cleopatra in **355/4 B.C.**

Apparently had Cleopatra/Eurydice (Philip's 7th wife) murdered to secure Alexander's place on the throne upon the death of her husband

Continued to correspond with Alexander while he was on his campaigns.

Was involved in the wars of Alexander's successors, but was eventually captured and executed in 316 B.C.



Father: Philip II

Basic Info:

Birth: 382 B.C

Death: 336 B.C.

Country: Macedon

Family: Argead dynasty – descendants of Heracles; Third son of Amyntas III

Spouse: Audata, Phila, Nicesipolis, Philinna, **Olympias**, Meda of Odessa, Cleopatra/Eurydice.

Children: Alexander the Great, Cleopatra of Macedon, Arrhidaeus

Important Facts.

369-365 B.C.: Philip was an exile in **Thebes** where he was able to witness Greek politics and military tactics, being a student of Epaminondas and lover of Pelopidas (famous Theban generals)

364 B.C.: Philip returned to Macedonia now regent for his nephew, Amyntas IV, after the death of his brother Perdiccas III. Philip succeeds to gaining the throne for himself in 659 BCE.

Philip reformed the Macedonian Army to use *sarissa*, phalanx, guards (light infantry), and Companion shock cavalry tactics.

359 – 340 B.C.: Philip re-conquered Macedonia; conquered Thrace and Paionia (Bulgaria), parts of Illyria (Balkans), Thessaly (North Greece), and the Hellespont.

357 B.C.: married Olympias and formed alliance with Epirus (Albania)

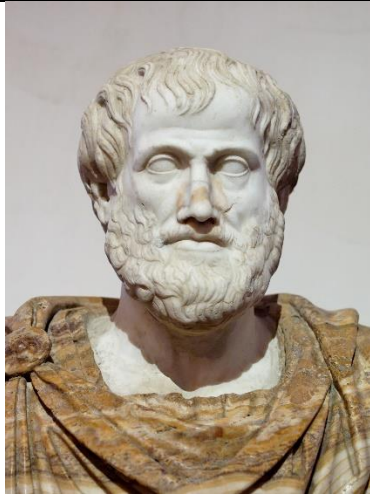
356 B.C.: Alexander was born.

338 B.C.: Defeated combined forces of Thebes and Athens at the Battle of Chaeronea; Alexander led right wing and defeated Theban Sacred Band (elite group of soldiers)

337 B.C.: He formed the **League of Corinth** and alliance of all Greek cities (except Sparta) to invade Persia (Alexander would use same league).

336 B.C.: Sent Parmenion across the Hellespont as advanced force to invade Asia Minor.

336 B.C.: Philip was assassinated at Aegae, the ancient capital of Macedon. The court had gathered to celebrate the marriage of Philip's daughter Cleopatra to Alexander I of Epirus.



Teacher: Aristotle

Basic Info:

Birth: 384 B.C

Death: 322 B.C.

Country: Stagira, Chalcidice
(near Macedon)

Profession: Philosopher.

Important Facts.

Aged 17/18 Aristotle joined Plato's Academy in Athens. He remained a pupil there until 347 B.C.

In 343 B.C. Philip II of Macedon requested Aristotle tutor Alexander. Aristotle came to Macedon and established a library in the Lyceum where he tutored Alexander and others.

Aristotle's philosophy covers a variety of topics from Ethics, the Politics, and natural Philosophy

Aristotle returned to Athens in 335 B.C. (a year after Philip's death) and established his own school, the Lyceum.

Aristotle later fell out of favour with Alexander – partly because of the Callisthenes conspiracy but also because of Alexander's closer relationship with the Persians.

Aristotle fled to Euboea in 322 B.C. having been accused of impiety and died there.

Read about Aristotle's relationship with Alexander

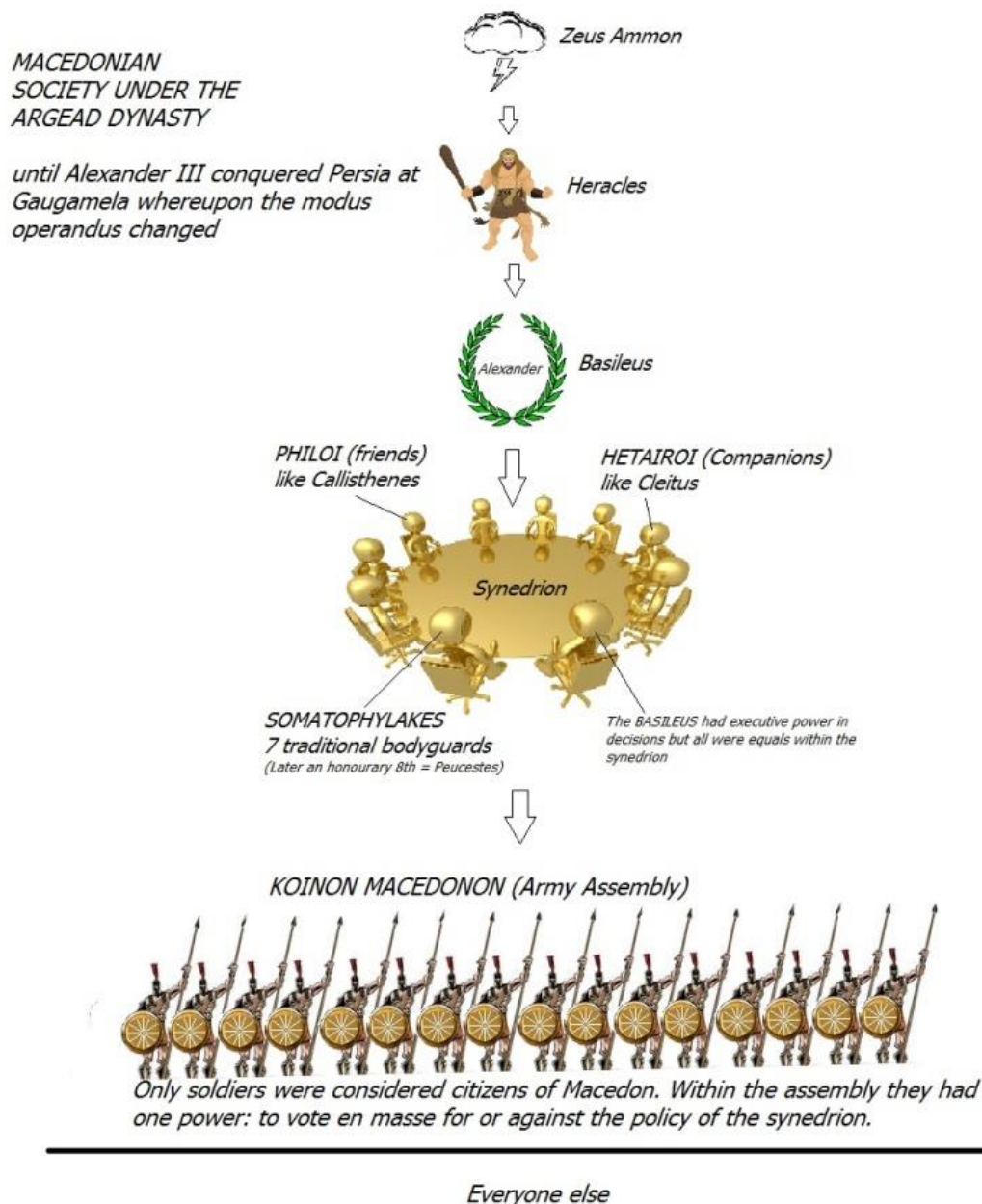
Macedonian Society

Macedonian Society was somewhat different to the rest of Greek *Poleis*. They were perhaps closer to the kind of warrior society we associate with the Greeks of the *Iliad*. Philip II of Macedon is often credited with *Hellenising* his fellow countrymen having spent time in Thebes. The Macedonians were also a vassal kingdom of Persia during the Greco-Persian Wars of the early 5th century B.C. This, their “primitive” monarchic system, and their harsh accent often meant that other Greek cities didn’t consider their northern neighbours truly Greek – even if the royal family claimed to be Greek. This caused some tension between Greeks and Macedonians during Philip and Alexander’s rule.

Below is a table summarising the main question of *How Greek were the Macedonians? Is there much difference?*

Where?	A Large region North of Mainland Greece.
What did they believe?	The same Gods and Heroes as the rest of Greece: Zeus, Hera, Apollo, Athena, Heracles, Jason, Achilles, etc.
Where did their people come from?	It is unclear whether the Macedonians claimed a similar origin as the rest of the Greeks; however, their royal family claimed ancestry from Argos – one of the oldest Greek cities just North of Sparta.
What did they Speak?	Greek with a harsh accent; similar to Hiberno-English or Scots-English.
What did they wear?	Similar clothing to other Greeks: Chiton/Tunic, cloak – no Trousers, only barbarians wore trousers. However, they also wore a cap called a <i>Kausia</i> .
How did they Build?	The Architecture was similar to the rest of Greece. Agora, Temples, columned buildings etc.
How did they fight?	Before Philip they would have fought like all other Greeks: Heavy Infantry called Hoplites , making a shield wall, called a Phalanx , with their 1m diameter shields
How did they Rule themselves?	They Ruled themselves by a single Monarchy and a ruling council.

Below is a diagram showing the political and social class system of Macedonian society. Note that Macedonia was **not** an absolute monarchy. This is vital to the question of whether Alexander would abuse his power; was he justified in executing his Companions, Bodyguard, or other noblemen who would be considered his peers.



Macedonian Army

The Macedonian Army before Philip II was much the same as the rest of the Greek armies. However, King Philip recreated the army and started a revolution in Greek warfare. Other Greeks like, Jason of Pherea from Thessaly had shown the importance of cavalry and the Theban army had innovated on the uses of Hoplite warfare earlier in the 3rd century B.C. However, it was Philip who combined these innovations and added some of his own to create the most powerfully and most advanced army of the Ancient World up to this point.

Below is an outline of the main Soldier Types of Alexander's army.

Heavy Infantry

Hoplite



Armour: bronze or leather corselet (body armour); bronze grieves (shin guards); Corinthian Helmet covering face, cheeks, and neck.

Shield: 1 diameter, called a *Hoplōn* or *Apsis*.

Weapons: short sword or *Xiphos*, long 2.4m spear.

Formation: Phalanx: close/compact line, overlapping shields.

These would have been the traditional fighters of early Macedonia.

They fought in a Phalanx; their shields would overlap the man to their left. This meant that the most vulnerable fighters were on the far right, where one column of fighters didn't have a man protecting them with their shield.

After Philip, Hoplites would have been used as support troops for the main phalanx of *sarissa* pikemen.

There were about 5,000 in Alexander's army from all the Greek cities in the *Corinthian League*.

Greek Hoplites were also hired as mercenaries (foreign soldiers fighting for money) by the Persians.

Sarissa Pikemen (Foot Companions)



Vergina



length: 51 cm
weight: 1235 gram
diameter: 3,6 cm



length: 44,5 cm
weight: 1070 gram
diameter: 3,4 cm



length: 17 cm
weight: 500 gram
diameter: 2,5 - 3,5 cm



Armour: bronze or leather corselet;
bronze grieves; Corinthian Helmet/bronze
Phrygian Cap/ or *Kausia* Cap.

These were the backbone of the
Macedonian army after the *sarissa* was
introduced by Philip.

Shield: *Apsis* smaller than the Hoplite's
Hoplōn and strapped to their arm.

The main infantry line of pikes could hold
the enemy line at a distance and thrust their
pikes at anyone who got too close.

Weapons: 4-6m long pike called a *sarissa* –
pointed at both ends and can be
separated. A short sword called a *kopis*.

There would be about 1,500 men per
battalion or *taxeis*.

Formation: Phalanx: differing from the
Hoplite Phalanx – rather than a wall of
shields it was a wall of spears. First 5 rows
with the *sarissa* pointed forward, the rows
behind holding them first at a 45° or 90°

degree angle helping to protect the phalanx from missiles.

Medium Infantry

Hypaspists or Guards



Armour: Medium: bronze Phrygian Cap; bronze grieves; leather or bronze corselet.

Shield: large *Apsis*, similar to the shield used by hoplites.

Weapons: sword and spear.

Formation: flexible phalanx on the flanks of the *sarissa* phalanx. They would be used to protect these flanks from missiles and cavalry.

The Hypaspists or guards – also known as the shield bearers – were an elite corps of infantry used to protect the main phalanx.

They could be used in a loose flexible formation – like light infantry or in a more condensed phalanx like the heavy infantry.

They would be organised into a Royal Battalion or *agema* and two ordinary battalions, *taxeis*, of about 1,000 men.

They would be more important to Alexander's army as the campaigns progressed as they could move more quickly when facing rough terrain and highly defensible forts.

Light Infantry

Peltasts



Armour: Minimal: Helmet or Phrygian Cap.

Shield: a smaller *Apsis* shield.

Weapons: Javelins for throwing at the enemy and a short knife or sword.

Formation: a loose and flexible line for hit and run tactics

The Peltasts were usually on the wings of the Heavy Infantry phalanx, *Hypaspists* and *sarissa* pikemen.

They would usually be from Thrace (Bulgarian Coast) or Illyria (Serbia/Bosnia-Herzegovina).

There were about 7,000 in Alexander's army.

They could be very effective at disrupting the infantry line or picking off soldiers on the flanks.

They would be very vulnerable to a direct charge from cavalry, but their javelins could also be more effective against the larger target that cavalry made.

Agrianian Mercenaries



Armour: Minimal: bronze helmet.

Agrianian infantry were used much the same as the Peltasts infantry.

Shield: Oblong *Apsis*.

Weapons: Javelins and sword.

Formation: a loose and flexible line for hit and run tactics.

Perhaps the only difference is that they were tougher. They were a more elite force of light infantry troops who served Alexander throughout his campaign.

There were roughly 1,000 troops in Alexander's army

They were usually used by Alexander to support the Guards or cavalry units. They could also be used for reconnaissance.

Cretan Archers



Armour: Minimal

Shield: small if any.

Weapons: bow and possibly a knife.

Formation: a loose formation usually in front of the main infantry line.

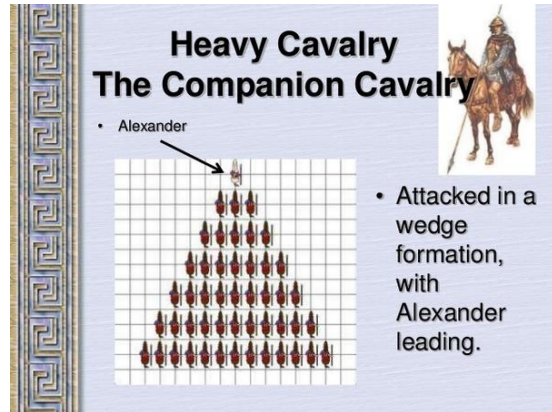
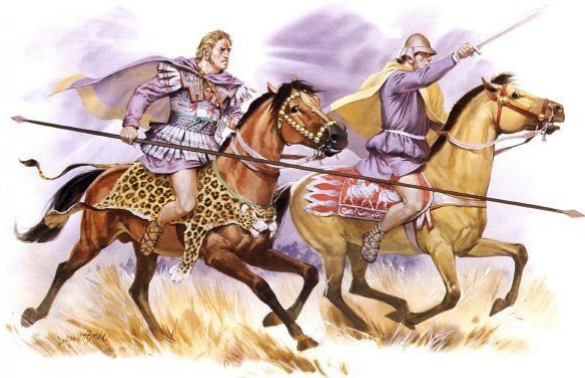
Crete was one of the only places in the Greek world – aside from Thrace or Scythia – where archery was commonly practiced.

Archers were less effective in Greek warfare because infantry would usually wear so much armour.

Archers could be effective at disrupting infantry or cavalry lines however and were occasionally used by Alexander – especially in siege warfare.

Cavalry

Companion Cavalry



Armour: Medium: Corselet of leather or bronze; bronze grieves; a Boeotian Helmet.

Shield: None.

Weapons: a lance 3.5 -4.5m long and probably held by two hands called a *xyston*. They would also carry a sword: either a *kopis* (slashing sword) or *xiphos* (cutting or thrusting sword).

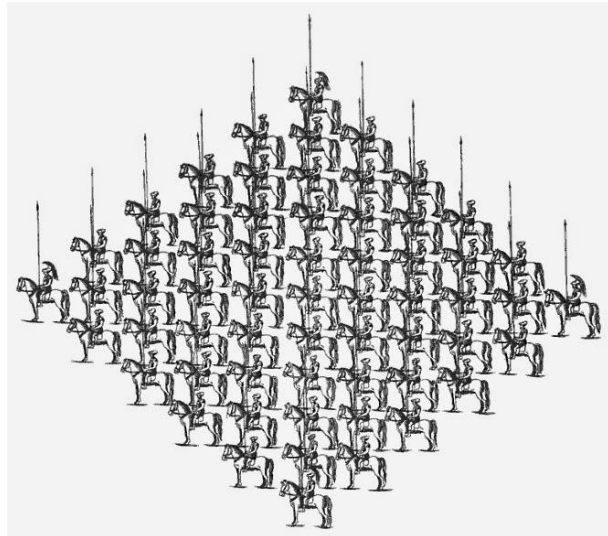
Formation: The Companions formed a wedge formation (see diagram above). This allowed all members of the squadron to see the leader and adjust their movements to match his directions.

The Companions were made up of the noblemen of Ancient Macedonia, including Alexander's bodyguard.

Originally these 1,800 troops would have been divided into 8 squadrons or *ilai*. This however did change over time.

Their main purpose in the army was to act as "Shock Cavalry". This meant speeding towards a gap in the enemy line or flanking the enemy line to attack the flank or rear. They would **not** smash into the line as Medieval knights – since without stirrups, this would mean the rider likely falling from his horse. Instead, they would ride at high speed towards the weak spot in the enemy line or at the opposing cavalry and thrust out their long *xystons* at the enemy. It took great skill and coordination to achieve this.

Thessalian/Allied Cavalry



Armour: Heavy: bronze corselet, greaves, and Boeotian helmet.

Shield: none.

Weapons: *xyston* and *kopis/xiphon*.

Formation: A Rhomboid Formation (see diagram above). Like the wedge this allowed each troop to see the leader, but it was perhaps more defensible.

The Thessalian Cavalry gained their fame from the time of the Thessalian Tyrant, Jason of Pherae. Originally, they may have used Javelins.

However, once Philip conquered Thessaly these cavalry were incorporated into his army.

There were also about 1,800 of them in Alexander's army at the beginning of his campaign.

There main purpose was to hold the Macedonian right flank, while the Companion Cavalry manoeuvred around the battlefield.

At Ecbatana, in 330 B.C. (after Gaugamela but before Hydaspes) they were disbanded and sent home. Some stayed on as Mercenaries, but from that point on Alexander would use a combination of Allied cavalry – not all that different from the original Thessalian squadrons.

Archer Cavalry



Armour: Minimal.

Shield: None.

Weapons: bow and arrows;
sword or knife.

Formation: loose.

When Alexander was in Sogdiana in around 329/328 B.C., he formed a squadron of Archer Cavalry from various Iranian peoples.

There were about 1,000 men in all.

Persians and other ancient Iranian people were highly trained at the use of the bow and arrow and horse riding.

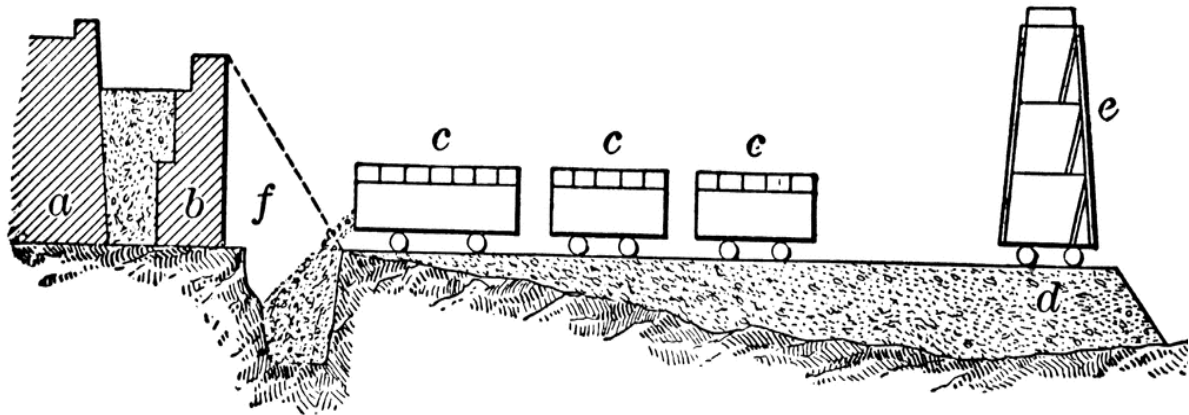
There main tactic would be to run up to the enemy units, fire their arrows, and then retreat to a safe distance, avoiding contact.

Other Cavalry: There were various other cavalry units used by Alexander throughout his campaign for example the *Promdromoi* (Scouts) and the *Sarissaphoroi* (Lancers) – who would use a shorter *sarissa*, and various allied cavalry from Paeonia, Thrace, and the Greek allies. He would also incorporate elephants into his army after the battle of Hydaspes

Alexander's tactics were often hinged on the use of cavalry: using their manoeuvrability, strength (a horse weighs about 1 ton), and speed (a horse can run on average about 48km/h; the maximum recorded is 88km/h).

Siege Engines:

Below are some examples of the types of engines used by Alexander when besieging a fort or city.



a/b/f: wall and ditch.

c: protective containers for dirt to be carried up to wall for filling in the ditch.

d: a mound/mole used to either level the ground or create a causeway, fill in ravines (see Rock of Aoronos), or to create a bridge across the ocean to an island (see Tyre).

e. mobile siege tower to protect approaching troops or engineers.



Catapult: used to hurl missiles at or over city walls.



Ballista: used to hurl large darts at enemy on the walls.

Navy:

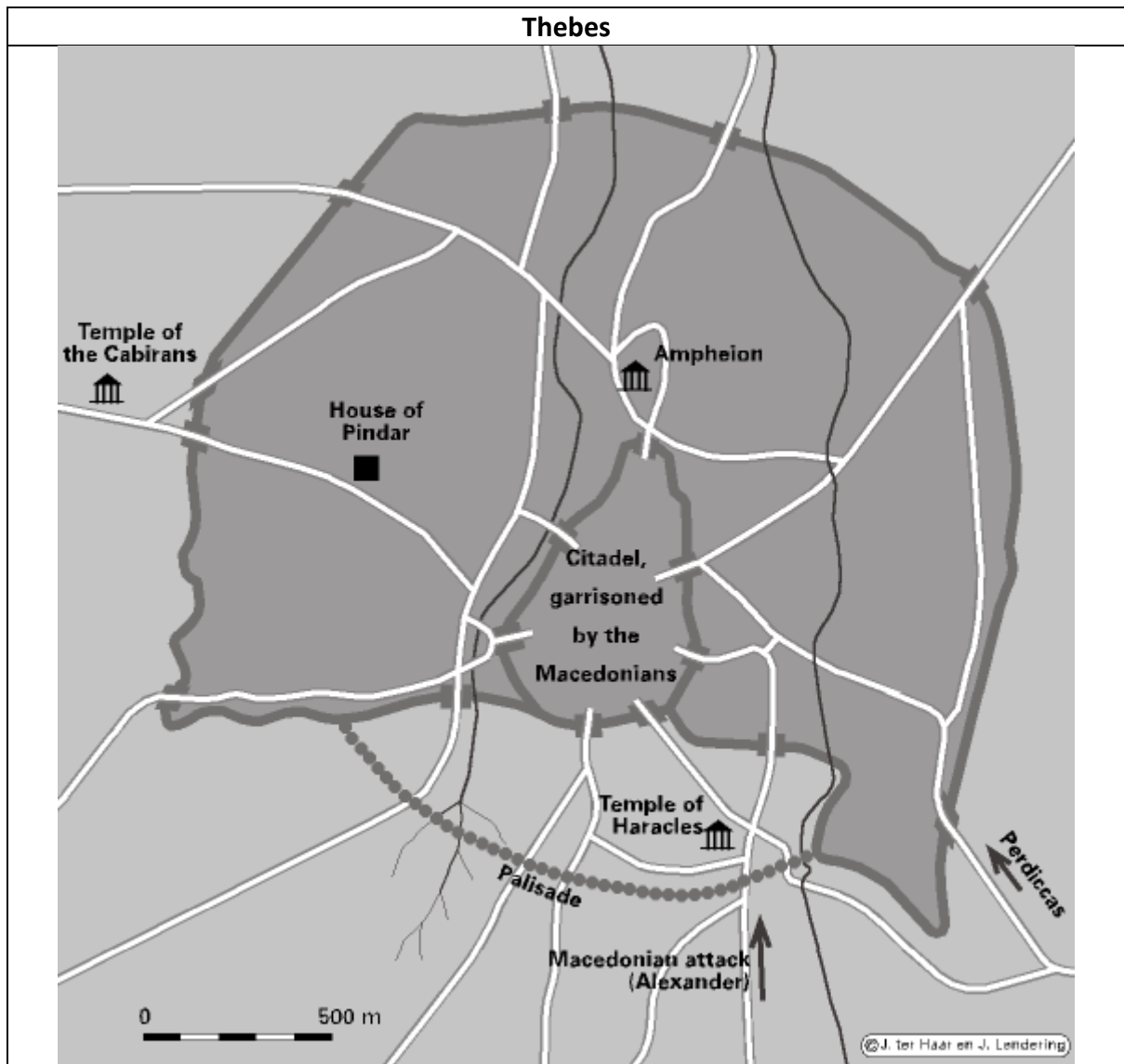
Even though Alexander didn't make use of his navy much, except for Tyre, it is useful to know how ancient navies worked.

The most common ship was called a *Trireme* – these would have three rows of rowers. Ancient Greek ships would have sails and oars. However, the sails would not be used in battle.

In battle the ships would not attempt to board the enemy, but rather use long pikes to attach the enemy on the opposing ships deck, shoot arrows or missiles from the ships (see Tyre), or most often **ram** the enemy ship with the beaked shaped ram at the front of the ship.



Alexander's Battles and Sieges



Main Factual Information:

Date: December 335 B.C.

Numbers: Macedonians: circa 30,000 inf., 3,000 cav.; Thebeans: 36,000

Leaders: Alexander vs Phoenix, Prothytes

Losses: Thebes: 6,000 killed; 30,000 captured

Lead up:

- At the Battle of Chaeronea in 338 B.C. Philip had defeated the armies of Thebes and Athens and since then had occupied Thebes. Philip II's death in 336 B.C. saw his son ascend to the throne. Many Greek *Poleis* believed Alexander a weak substitute for Philip. Furthermore, since Alexander had not kept quiet about his intentions to invade Persia, the Persian King Darius III, had been sending money to the Greek *Poleis* in an attempt to encourage them to rebel.
- In 335 B.C. Alexander was campaigning north, against the Getae and the Illyrians. News had reached Athens, and Demosthenes (Philip and Alexander's greatest opponent in the city) that Alexander had been killed at the siege of Pelium in Illyria. However, he had merely been injured.

- The Theban exiles in Athens, taking money and weapons from Darius, returned to Thebes to instigate a rebellion. Demosthenes and Athens signed a defensive treaty with the intention of opposing Macedonian power.
- The Thebans besieged the Macedonian garrison on the Cadmeia or citadel, killed two Macedonian officers, and declared their independence from Macedonia.
- Upon learning of the revolt, Alexander marched south. Alexander shocked the rebel Greek cities by marching south, through the hot-gates of Thermopylae, within two weeks – marching over 300 miles. He arrived at Onchestus, 6 miles from Thebes and on the coast. Still the Thebans denied that Alexander was alive but instead insisted that Antipater was leading the army.
- Alexander's quick march took everyone by surprise. The Athenians – though, voting to support Thebes – did not send troops directly; likewise, the Spartans sent an army to the *Isthmus of Corinth*, but did not go any further upon hearing of Alexander's arrival.

Main Stages/Obstacles of Siege:

Stage 1: Although, Alexander had arrived very quickly, he did not immediately attack; instead, camping far from the city, at Iolaeus, and making fairly lenient demands: the surrender of the two leaders of the Theban descent, Phoenix and Prothyas. However, the Thebans rejected this and instead demanded the surrender of Alexander's generals, Antipater and Philotas. Alexander did not accept these terms.

Stage 2: According to Arrian, the Thebans sent out their cavalry and light infantry to attack the Macedonian forward positions, even coming close to Alexander's main camp. However, Alexander responded with his archers and light infantry, and pushed them back into the city.

Stage 3: The following day he moved his force closer to the city so that it was facing the gates that lead towards Attica. He took up a position not far from the Cadmeia (citadel). The Thebans had set a double palisade (wooden stake walls) around this part of the walls and kept a close watch on the Macedonian garrison led by Philotas in the Cadmeia, and on Alexander's forces outside. It seems that Alexander still wanted to have a peaceful resolution as he waited, but the Thebans continued to refuse surrender.

Stage 4: According to Arrian, Perdiccas made an attack on the first palisade wall of his own accord. He made a breach in the wall and was followed by Amyntas. Alexander, trying to prevent Perdiccas and Amyntas being cut-off, ordered a full advance and sent his Cretan Archers and Agrianians through the breach; keeping his Guards as reserve. Perdiccas was wounded but his men continued to attack the Thebans as long as they retreated to the Temple of Herakles; but as soon as the Thebans turned to attack the Macedonians the Thebans had some success, killing 70 archers and their commander, Euybotas of Crete.

Stage 5: Alexander sent his Guards in as support, and soon the Thebans were forced into a retreat once more and into a full rout (disorderly retreat). The Macedonians managed to enter through the gates before the retreating Thebans could close them. At this point, the Macedonians in the Cadmeia broke out and attacked the Thebans from the other side. For a while, the Thebans held out at the Amphion, but soon they broke, and a slaughter of the city saw many men, women, and children killed.

Aftermath:

- According to Arrian, the main instigators of the slaughter of Thebans was conducted by the Plataeans and Phocians – old enemies of the Thebans. However, according to Plutarch, Alexander personally singled out the priests, those few citizens who were allies of Macedonia, and the descendants of the poet Pindar, and ordered the rest, between 20,000-30,000, to be sold into slavery.

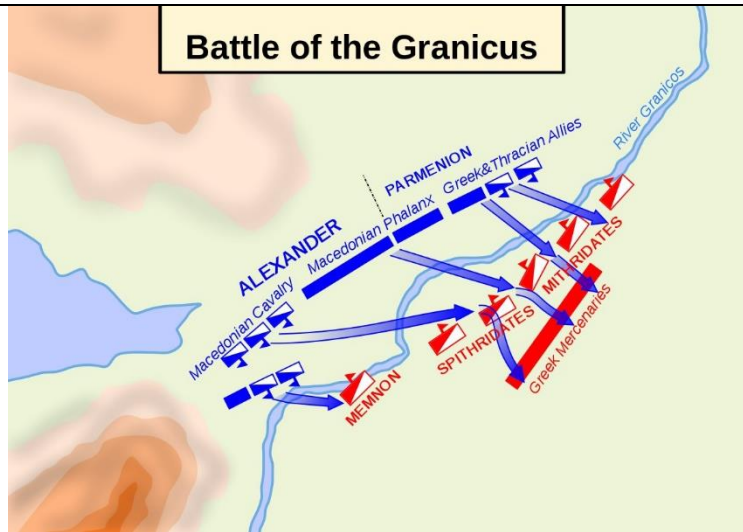
- Athens very quickly came to peace terms with Alexander after the sack of Thebes. Any resistance planned by the Greeks to Alexander's rule was suppressed.

Evidence of Alexander's Leadership, Generalship, and Personality:

- The speed of Alexander's advance south is a sign of his strategic prowess and leadership qualities.
- His restraint at immediately attacking shows he was intelligent and compassionate to some degree; as does his sparing of the woman of the house of Timocleia, a woman of noble birth, who having killed a Thracian soldier seeking to rob her, was spared by Alexander (see Plutarch chapter 12)
- However, we also see a ruthlessness to Alexander's character as he sells the Thebans into slavery and kills 6,000 in the slaughter. Even if Plutarch and Arrian say that Alexander felt distressed after the battle – promising never to do such an act again. It is interesting that he didn't do likewise to Athens.

Granicus

Battle of the Granicus



Main Factual Information:

Date: May 334 B.C.

Numbers: Macedonians: 32,000 inf. and 5,100 cav.; Persians: 20,000 Greek inf., 20,000 cav.

Leaders: Alexander (on left wing), Parmenion (on right wing; Memnon, Spithridates, Mithridates).

Losses: Macedonians: 115 killed (according to Arrian), probably closer to 300-400; many more wounded between 1,000 to 4,000. Persians: 1,000 cavalry; all Greek mercenaries except 2,000 taken as slaves.

Lead up:

- In Spring 334 B.C., Alexander left Antipater with 9,000 infantry and 1,500 cavalry in Greece to keep the Greek City-States in check while he with an army of around 30,000 infantry and 2,100 cavalry marched across the Hellespont (near modern Istanbul) and into Asia.
- The Satraps (governors) of Asia Minor (West Turkey) had gathered a force of roughly 20,000 Greek mercenaries and 20,000 cavalry. One of their commanders was Memnon of Rhodes. Memnon proposed that they employ a *Scorched-Earth* tactic; meaning they would burn the land and starve Alexander's army into submission. But the other Satraps didn't want to burn the land – which was mostly their own property – and so opted to face Alexander.
- The Persian army marched towards the Granicus River and awaited Alexander's arrival. They positioned their cavalry on the high, steep riverbanks which were almost sheer at some points. The ground around the river also had many deep pools of water. The Greek mercenaries were then placed in a solid line behind the cavalry.
- Upon arrival, Parmenion advised Alexander to make camp for the night, seek a crossing further up the river, and cross the following day. However, Alexander mocked the suggestions asking why he should fear the river Granicus having already crossed the Hellespont. It is probable that Alexander saw his advantage in asserting himself early, in attacking immediately, proving himself a worthy adversary to the Persians, and breaking their moral early.
- Alexander placed himself on the Macedonian right, leading the Companions, and facing Memnon and Spithridates. In the centre was the phalanx, and on the left Parmenion was in command.

Main Stages/Obstacles of Battle:

Stage 1: Amyntas was ordered to cross with the scout cavalry, followed closely by Ptolemy, son of Philip and the light infantry, and then Socrates with the heavier cavalry.

Stage 2: Alexander with his Companion cavalry rushed across on the right and made a direct attack on the Persian cavalry on the right and centre. Alexander and his Companions crossed the river at a line oblique (slanting) to the pull of the current in order to prevent a flanking attack from the enemy and so he could attack with the cavalry formation as solid as he could make it.

Stage 3: Alexander and his Companions engage in hand-to-hand combat: although the battle was on horseback it was fought like an infantry battle. Men and horses were not free to move about but were pushing and shoving against each other. In the midst of this hand-to-hand combat Alexander attacked Mithridates – one of the commanders – but was attacked by another Rhisaces, who cut off part of Alexander's helmet, only to be killed by Alexander in a counterattack. Both Arrian and Plutarch tell us that the commander Spithridates then raised his sword to attack Alexander – and would have killed him – but Cleitus the Black intervened and saved the king. Because of the long spears wielded by the Macedonians and their skilled training in heavy cavalry manoeuvres, they managed to force the Persians to retreat – who had at this point lost many of their leaders. The Persians fled, losing 1,000, in the fighting. Alexander did not press on to attack the retreating cavalry.

Stage 4: As the hand-to-hand cavalry fighting had been happening the Heavy infantry had been crossing the river unopposed, keeping their line intact. Now the Persian cavalry having retreated, the Macedonian infantry line and the cavalry could confront and encircle the Greek mercenaries; the phalanx attacked from the front, the cavalry on the sides. They were all slaughtered except for 2,000 who were taken as slaves.

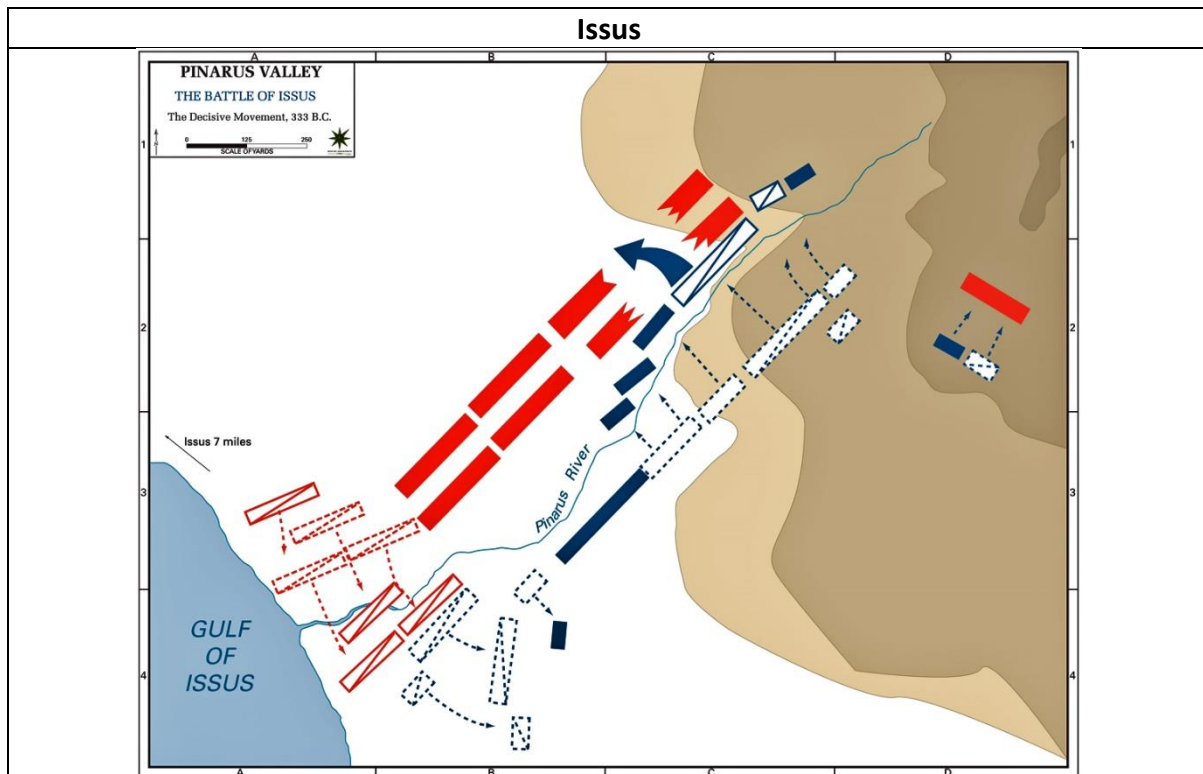
Aftermath:

- Bronze statues were erected for the 25 Companion cavalry who had died in battle.
- Alexander buried the dead with their weapons – both Persian, Greek, and Macedonian.
- The Greeks were enslaved – despite being Greek – as “they had fought on the side of foreigners against Greece”. This was a political move by Alexander to confirm his side as those who represented the “freedom” of the Greeks; even though, in many ways the Macedonians are as much oppressors of the Greeks as the Persians. But this allowed him to give the impression of a freedom fighter, and to continue “liberating” the Ionian Greek cities (Greek cities along the coast of Asia Minor under Persian control since the beginning of the 3rd century B.C.
- Alexander also sends 300 suits of Persian armour to Athens as an offer to Athens with an inscription: “Alexander, son of Philip, and the Greeks except the Spartans give these offerings taken from the foreigners who live in Asia.” This was clearly an attempt to intimidate the Greeks into continued submission back home, and to highlight his “Greekness” and his unity with the Greek cause as their leader *against* the foreign Persians.
- The victory at Granicus allowed Alexander to enter Sardis – the capital of Lydia – unopposed. He could also send Parmenion along the coast to liberate those other Greek cities, and to begin his plan to disable the Persian fleet.
- Alexander disbanding his fleet at Miletus and began a campaign to take the coastal towns such as Miletus and Halicarnassus (where he defeated Memnon again), starving the Persian fleets of safe harbour.

Evidence of Alexander's Leadership, Generalship, and Personality:

- Alexander's leadership and genius as a tactician could be called into question at Granicus. Parmenion's advice to wait and make a more secure crossing seems the better option. And some may call into question Arrian's version; however, for a Leaving Cert question, you do not need to question Arrian's version.

- We see Alexander showing some recklessness in the midst of the battle, risking his life, however, on the flip side this can be viewed as bravery and confidence.
- Perhaps, the greatest quality of his character we see, is his obstinance/head-strongness; both towards his own general's advice and in battle with the Persians. One could also say he was somewhat arrogant – particularly with his remark to the crossing of the Hellespont.
- The honour he shows his own men, and the officers of the Persian, is a positive side to Alexander's character; it shows a man who respects his enemies.
- What is more his ruthlessness can be seen in his treatment of the Greek mercenaries (many who were probably from Greek cities within the Persian empire). Enslaving them could be seen as harsh, and yet it was politically intelligent.



Main Factual Information:

Date: November 333 B.C.

Numbers: Macedonians: 35,000 inf, 6,000 cav; Persians: according to Arrian and Plutarch, 600,000 strong. Modern estimates are considerably lower (50,000-60,000)

Leaders: Macedonian: Alexander, Parmenion; Persian: Darius III

Losses: Macedonians: about 400 killed, 5,000 wounded: Persians: apparently around 100,000 killed and over 10,000 of the cavalry.

Lead up:

- Having taken Miletus and Halicarnassus by siege, Alexander journeyed along the coast of Asia Minor and then up north, and inland; here he came to Gordium, the capital of Phrygia. In Phrygia there was a legend that the founding king – who was himself originally from Macedonia (according to some) – arrived in the city on a cart, which he then tied to the altar in the temple of Zeus. It was prophesied that whoever could detach the cart from the altar would rule all of Asia (Asia Minor/Turkey). It is said that Alexander hearing the tale, cut the knot with his sword; or in other versions he took out the pin which attached the rope to the yoke of the cart.
- Alexander then journeyed south, through the Cilician Gates, where he took ill at Tarsus and rested for some days.
- Darius, meanwhile, had assembled a large army, numbering approximately 600,000 (according to Arrian) in the plains of Assyria (modern day Syria, near Damascus). He chose the plain for its level ground and space, which would allow him to take advantage of his numbers and cavalry. However, Alexander's illness and delay meant that Darius was becoming restless, and apparently many of his advisors were advising him to move to meet Alexander. One, a Macedonian deserter named Amyntas, advised against it, saying that Alexander would always come to seek Darius wherever he was and that their current location was to their best advantage. However, the ill advice of the others won out, and so Darius journeyed north via an inland route through the mountains.
- Meanwhile, Alexander had recovered from his illness and moved south along the coast. He stopped briefly in Issus, leaving some of his wounded behind, and went on again along

the coast, close to the mountains. It is likely that the Macedonians and Persian armies passed closely to each other in the mountains by night, the former journeying south, the latter north.

- When Darius arrived in Issus and found the wounded, he was glad to discover that he had out flanked Alexander and could cut off his supply line. He then began moving south along the coast, following Alexander's rout.
- Alexander, hearing news that Darius was behind him, sent some of his guards north by ship to check the situation in Issus. And upon their return, began the journey back north the way he came.

Main Stages/Obstacles of Battle:

Stage 1: Darius and his army were the first to arrive at the battle site, the river (stream) Pinarus, which flows from the mountains on Darius left, down to the sea and the flat open coast. Darius lined up his army in the following formation: All his cavalry on his right on the open, flat ground of the coast; his front-centre made up of the Greek mercenaries (30,000); flanking these were his light infantry and archers (20,000 on left; 20,000 on right); behind was a large cluster of troops both Persian (60,000) and foreign; he also had some Persian infantry across the river and in the foothills to the far left. Darius himself was in the centre surrounded by the strongest infantry.

Stage 2:

When Alexander arrived, he set up his army in the normal formation: Parmenion leading the Macedonian left flank, made up of the Allied/Thessalian cavalry, the infantry line across the centre, and Alexander on the far right with his Companion cavalry. However, he also placed a mixture of light infantry and cavalry to face the Persian infantry which had already crossed the river and were on his far right and behind his lines.

Stage 3:

Alexander began his approach slowing, stopping and starting to allow his men to rest as they approached, but as soon as they were in range of the Persian archers, she galloped. Simultaneously, several things happened. The Persian cavalry attacked across the open plain and engaged the Thessalian, the infantry lines met in the centre, and Alexander's Companion cavalry charged the Persian light infantry and archers on the Persian left.

Stage 4:

The result of these three movements are as follows: Alexander's Companions smashed through the light infantry and were easily able to outflank the Persians – this rapid flanking manoeuvre meant that Darius' own position was exposed and so he fled. However, the Thessalian cavalry and the Macedonian infantry in the centre were struggling against the Greek mercenaries and Persian cavalry. In fact, the Macedonian line broke but didn't turn in full rout. Alexander was forced to bring his Companions around and away from Darius and charge the Greek mercenaries in the rear. They were routed. The Persian cavalry resisted for as long as they could, but now that Alexander had routed the Persian left and centre, the cavalry and the right could not resist for long.

Aftermath:

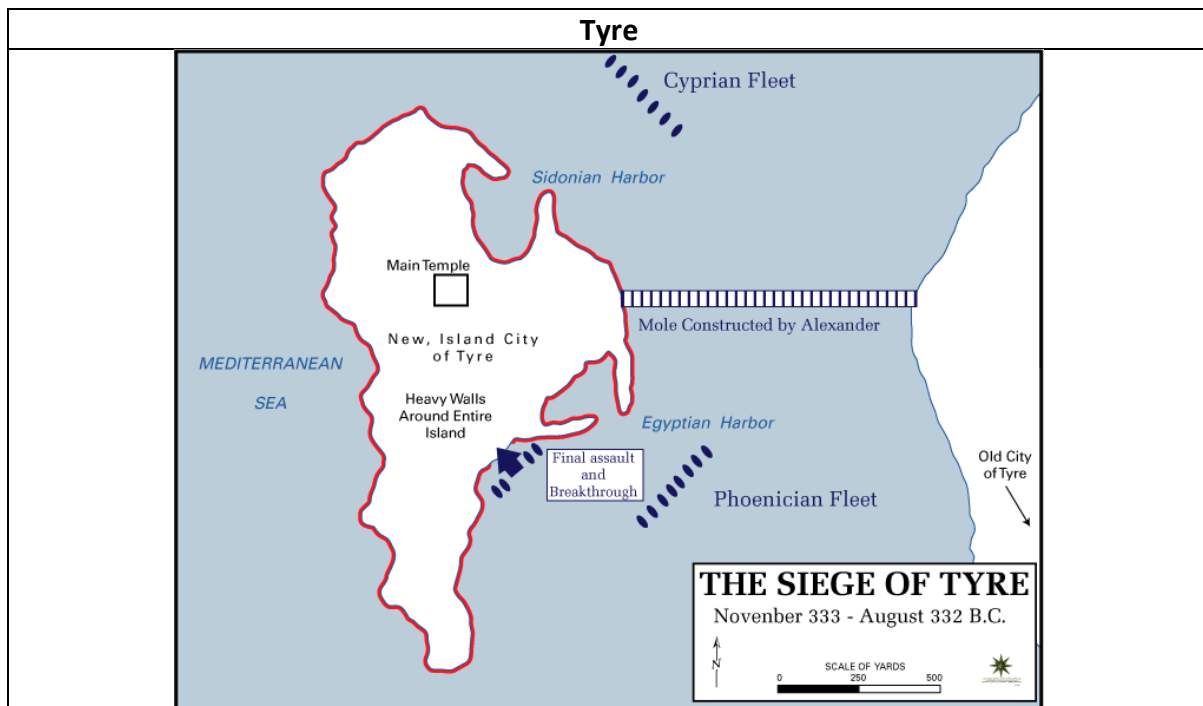
- The immediate aftermath of Issus was the capture of Darius' camp, his treasures/belongings, and members of his family: his wife, Stateira I, his daughters, Stateira II and Drypetis, and his mother, Sisygambis. Alexander would later marry Stateira II.
- The significance of the battle was that it was the first engagement between Darius and Alexander – Alexander proving the superior commander.
- It allowed Alexander to continue his campaign of subjugating the coastal cities; many more in Phoenicia (modern Lebanon) and Syria submitting to his authority.

Evidence of Alexander's Leadership and Personality:

- Alexander's overall strategy to approach in a stop-start manner proves his intelligence to give priority to resting his men. Then the pace of his charge and his leadership of the

companions to not only break the line, but to hold them from pursuing Darius while the rest of his army was still in danger shows, bravery, restraint, and intelligence.

- The most famous perhaps significant evidence for his personality was the way he treated Darius' family after the battle. Ensuring the crying women that Darius had survived commanding that they be treated as royalty.



Main Factual Information:

Date: 333-332 B.C.

Numbers: Macedonians: about the same as Issus plus 223 ships for Alexander's new fleet. Tyrians: approximately 40,000 residence in the city.

Leaders: Macedonian: Alexander; Tyrian: Azemilcus.

Losses: Macedonian: 400 killed; Tyrians: 8,000 massacred at taking of the city.

Lead up:

- In order to secure the coast and prevent the Persian fleet from being supplied, it was important for Alexander to take all the vital coastal cities. Tyre was one of the most vital of this cities in Phoenicia (Lebanon).
- Most cities in Phoenicia and Cyprus, joined Alexander after the Battle of Issus, abandoning the Persians. All except the Tyrians who decided to support neither the Persians nor Alexander; remaining independent – likely waiting to see the outcome of the war before choosing a side.
- Alexander identified the temple of Melqart on the island as Hercules and wished to make a sacrifice at the temple; however, the Tyrians refused any Persians and Macedonians entrance and refused Alexander's request, knowing that to allow him to enter would show Macedonians favouritism. They suggested Alexander make his sacrifice at the temple on the mainland. Alexander sent further envoys who were executed and thrown over the walls. Alexander decided to take the city.

Main Stages/Obstacles of Battle:

Step 1:

- The Tyrians had retreated to the island part of the city, abandoning the port on the mainland. This island lay about a kilometre from the coast and had a 45.8m (150ft) wall

surrounding it. There were two harbours, one on the north of the island (facing Cyprus) and on the south (facing Egypt). In order to overcome the obstacle of the island without a fleet of his own, Alexander decided to build a mole. For the most part the sea between the mainland and the island was shallow and muddy, its deepest depth was 18ft/5.5m. –

- The Macedonians had success initially and were able to bring their siege weapons closer to the walls; in response the Tyrians brought their warships close to the mole and prevented the Macedonian advance. To counter this the Macedonians set up towers on the wall and mounted their siege engines on them. They covered these towers with animal hides in order to prevent the fire arrows from the walls setting them alight.
- Ultimately, this initial attempt failed because the Tyrians constructed a bomb-ship: they rigged a cattle-ship with dry brushwood and various flammable material such as sulphur and pitch, built up the bulwarks and gave it two masts across its bow with a cauldron full of the flammable chemicals which when flung on the fire would increase its ferocity. The Tyrians then waited for a favourable wind and pulled the cattle-boat with two triremes and flung it at the edge of the mole – the men on board jumping overboard before the impact. The triremes stayed near the fire which had set the towers ablaze to prevent the Macedonians dowsing the flames. Then the Tyrians from the city swarmed out in their boats and destroyed the mole.

Step 2:

- In response to this Alexander ordered that a fresh mole be constructed, broader and with more towers for protection and fresh siege engines. He set out for Sidon with his Guards and Agrianians to Sidon in order to raise a fleet. Alexander managed to gather a surprisingly large fleet of 223 ships, the king of Cyprus sending his fleet of 120 ships to Alexander. He was also joined by 4,000 Greek mercenaries in Sidon.
- Alexander returned expecting a sea-battle. Alexander commanding the right and Craterus the left. Instead of offering battle as intended, the Tyrians – seeing a much larger fleet than expected – decided to blockade their harbour with their ships facing bow-on (the front facing out of the harbour) in order to repel any Macedonians ships attempting to enter the harbour. Alexander surrounded the harbours, the Cyprians under the command of Andromachus blockading the north harbour and the Phoenicians blockading the south harbour where he was stationed.

Step 3:

- When the siege new engines had been completed Alexander moved them closer to the walls on the mole and onto transport vessels and began bombarding the 150ft high wall of large blocks cemented together. The Tyrians had built up wooden towers to protect the wall from Alexander's siege engines.
- Further difficulties obstructed Alexander's approach since large blocks had been thrown into the water in front of the mole which prevented the ships getting close. Alexander tried to remove the blocks, but it proved difficult as the ship decks were unsteady and the Tyrians came out in small armoured boats and cut the anchor ropes. Alexander responded by armouring his own vessels and placing them broadside at the front of the ships protecting them. The Tyrians then sent divers to cut the anchor ropes, but Alexander responded by replacing the ropes with chains and was finally able to haul the blocks from the sea.

Step 4:

- The Tyrians decided to try and break out from the harbours, now that the mole was able to reach the walls. The Tyrians attack the Cyprians to the north with 3 quinquiremes (5 decks), 3 quadriremes (4 decks), and 7 triremes (3 decks). They sailed out slowly and quietly only raising a shout and cry when they were in sight of the Cyprian ships who were taken off guard and driven ashore. Alexander, who had retired, returned to the Phoenician fleet to the south, ordering them to be on guard for a sortie from the south

harbour and took his quinquiremes and 5 or 6 triremes moved to the north harbour. The Tyrians, seeing that it was Alexander himself attacking fled back to the city. Most of the Tyrian squadron was disabled or captured

Step 5:

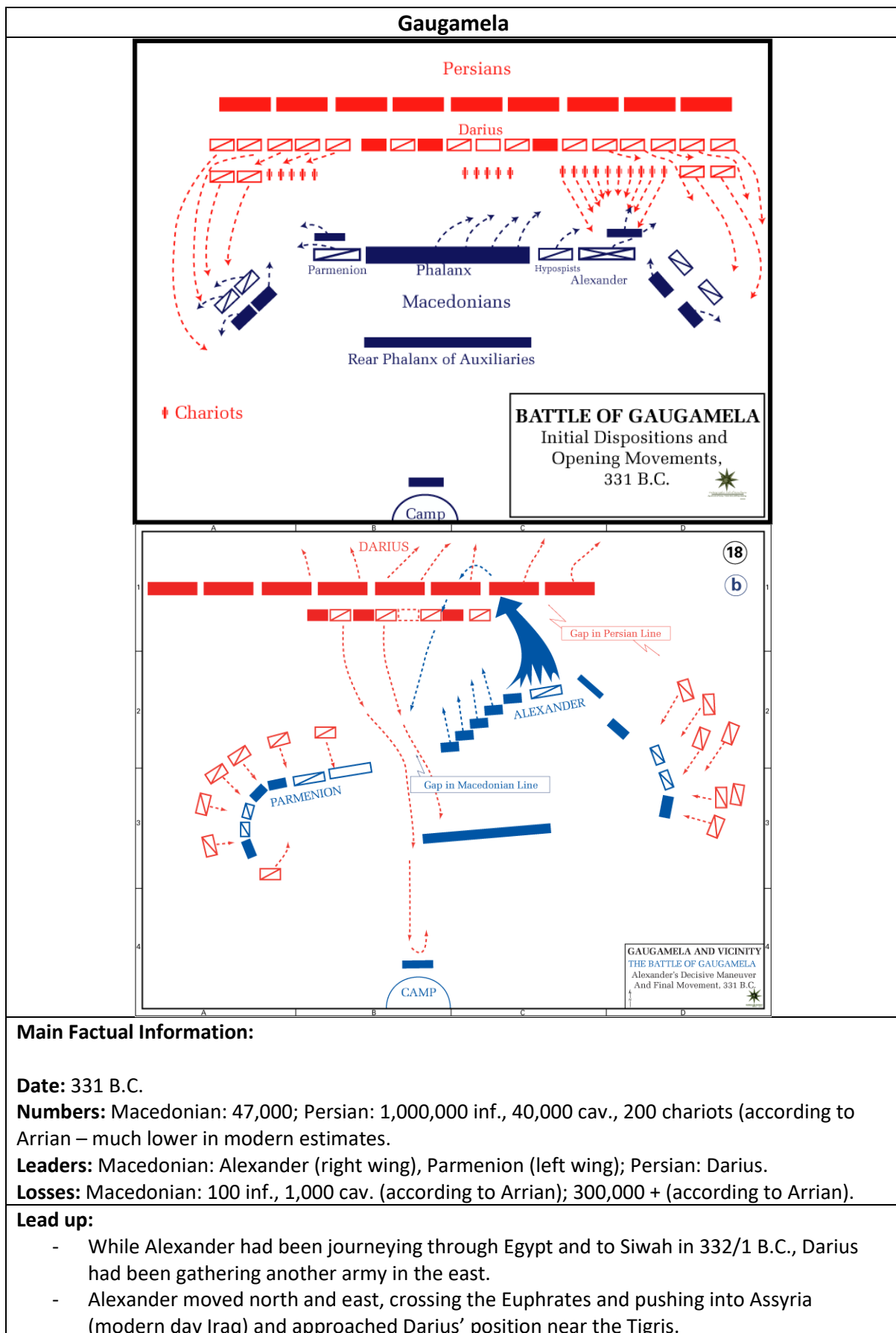
- Now that the Tyrian fleet was less of a threat Alexander began probing the walls with his siege engines for a weak spot. He found one to the south and he began to bombard it and a small breach was made. Making an initial attack to test the defences, Alexander then waited 3 days for favourable weather, bombarded the opening till it was wider. He attacked the breach with himself leading his guards. Meanwhile triremes attacked the harbours north and south and transport vessels with archers and artillery attacked the wall at various locations; the Tyrians were attacked from every point.
- Alexander succeeded in gaining ground where his guards had assaulted the wall. The Phoenician and Cyprian fleets succeeded in breaking into the harbours.
- The Tyrians abandoned the walls and retreated to the shrine of Azenor. The Macedonians proceeded to slaughter the inhabitants; partially because they were sick of the length of the siege, partially because the Tyrians had murdered their ambassadors and flung them from the walls prior to the siege.

Aftermath:

- Some Carthaginians visiting the city, the King Azemilcus and his dignitaries had fled to the shrine of Melqart. These Alexander spared.
- 8,000 Tyrians were killed in the slaughter, 30,000 (mostly women and children) were sold into slavery.
- Alexander offered sacrifice to Heracles and held a ceremonial parade of his troops in full armour and there were athletic contests. The siege engine which had made the breach of the wall was dedicated at Heracles temple.
- Because Alexander had taken the city, he could now confidently journey south his supply lines secure. When he finally took Gaza (another Persian stronghold) in a brief siege in October 332 B.C., Alexander had all the major ports along the Mediterranean coast and the Persian fleet was no longer a threat. Alexander could then journey into Egypt.

Evidence of Alexander's Leadership and Personality:

- Alexander proves highly determined and intelligent in his command of the siege of Tyre. Not only does he continue to attack despite the obstacles placed in his way and the initial setbacks, but he adapts to the circumstances and eventually succeeds in taking the highly impregnable city.
- We see a more merciless side to his character, however. Just as in the siege of Thebes, Alexander has many of the inhabitants slaughtered and sold into slavery. He could not tolerate any signs of weakness and would stamp his authority on any who believed they could deny his superiority.



- Darius had taken a position not far from the River Bumodus about 75 miles from Arbela. The surrounding country was level and flat, favouring his large amount of cavalry and chariots. Darius had his troops smooth out any ground that might obstruct his cavalry. This was to ensure that his cavalry had sufficient movement – so what had happened at Issus might not be repeated.
- Darius's army were set up with the chariots across the front, Scythian cavalry on his left flank under the command of Bessus and the other cavalry to the right under Mazaeus. Darius' infantry and archers were placed behind, himself surrounded by the elite.
- Upon hearing where the Persians were, Alexander rested his men for four days. Darius hearing Alexander's approach ordered them to take up battle stations, despite the armies still being 7 miles apart.
- When Alexander was 4 miles from the army he halted and consulted his generals. Parmenion advised sending scouts out to reconnaissance the Persian position. When they had returned Alexander exhorted his officers. Apparently, Parmenion advised a night attack, which Alexander rejected because it was dangerous and potentially disorderly and also saying he would not "steal victory like a thief".
- Darius' men stayed in battle formation all night fearing a night attack.

Main Stages/Obstacles of Battle:

Stage 1:

- On the morning of the Battle Alexander lined his troops up in the following way. Alexander led his Companion cavalry from the right, in front of these were the Agrianians and to his right again was a mixture of mercenary cavalry, Paeonian cavalry, and light infantry, archers and more Agrianians. In the centre, was the phalanx (heavy infantry: sarissa along the centre, the Guards on the flanks). These were made into two lines. The front line was to approach with some units advancing out in front, making a slanting line. This was to encourage the Persians to attack. The line behind was to repel any Persians who might break through the front line. On the left, Parmenion was to lead the Thessalians in a holding position.

Stage 2:

- The battle begun with Alexander moving the contingent of mercenary and Paeonian cavalry, supported by Agrianians at an angle to the right. Despite the fact that the Scythian cavalry had begun to engage the troops at the front of Alexander's line, he continued to move this contingent to the right till they were almost beyond the point where the Persians had levelled the ground. The Persians sent the Scythians and more cavalry besides to counter this, fearing that they would be outflanked in the rough terrain. The Scythians – despite their better armour – were no match for the mixture of cavalry and light infantry who squadron upon squadron were thrown against the Scythians.

Stage 3:

- Meanwhile the chariots attacked but were ineffective against the Agrianian javelin throwers who were in front of the Companions. The chariots would break through the line but then be caught behind by the light infantry line and surrounded. The light infantry could catch the reins and pull the drivers from the chariots.

Stage 4:

- Now the armies made a full advance. Alexander ordered Aretes to attack some Persian cavalry which were attempting to outflank him on his right. Simultaneously, Alexander formed his Companions into a wedge formation and attacked – with the support of the phalanx – Darius' position. The ferocious attack of the Companions followed closely by the phalanx and forced Darius and his infantry to flee. Meanwhile Aretes' attack on the Persian cavalry to the right was powerful enough to throw them into panic.

Stage 5:

- Despite the success on the right, Simmias on the left part of the phalanx was forced to halt because they were in difficulty. Some of the Persians and Indian cavalry even broke through their lines and attacked Alexander's camp but were faced off by the second infantry line.

Stage 6:

- Meanwhile the Persians attacked Parmenion's position on the left and surrounded them. Hearing this Alexander broke off his pursuit of Darius and turned his Companions around to support the left.
- On his way he encountered some of the Persians and Indians who were already in flight. This was a ferocious encounter as these cavalry were surrounded and were fighting for their lives. 60 of his Companions fell in this engagement, Hephaestion, Coenus and Menidas were wounded.
- By the time Alexander had had victory here, the Thessalians on the left under Parmenion had succeeded in routing the Persians surrounding them back.
- Alexander once again swung round and continued his pursuit of Darius.

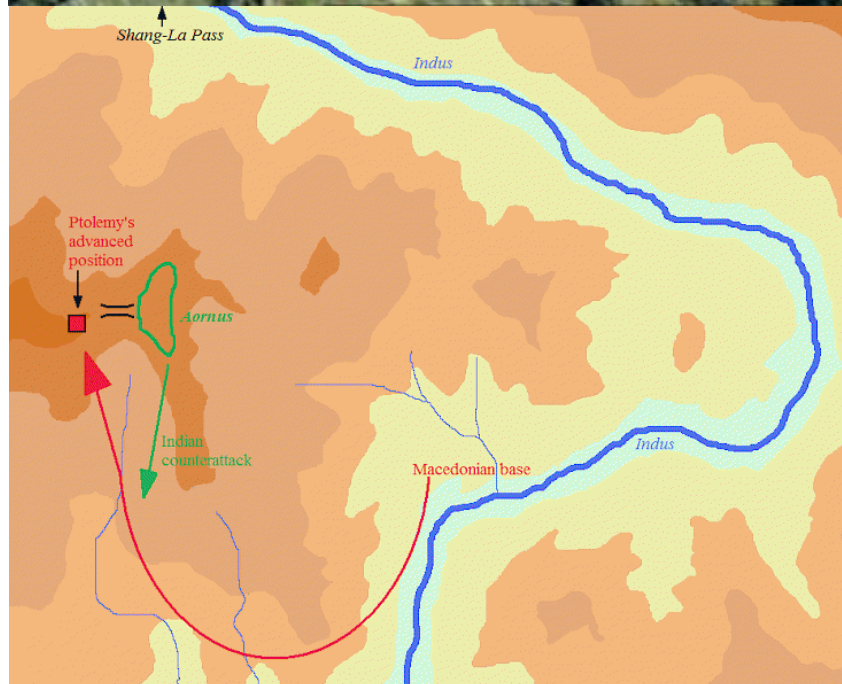
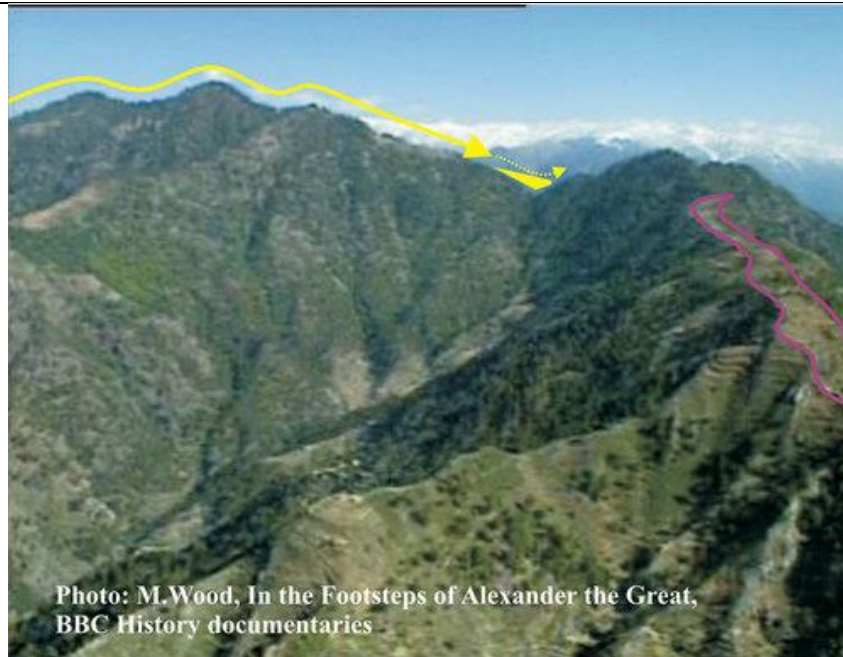
Aftermath:

- The result of the battle was the ultimate defeat of the Persians and Darius. This would allow Alexander to move into the heartland of the Persian empire, moving south to Babylon and Susa before entering Persia itself where he would sack the country and their capital city of Persepolis.
- Parmenion captured the camp and the baggage animals while Alexander pursued Darius adamantly. Alexander crossed the river Lycus, rested there until midnight and then continued his pursuit until he had covered the 75 miles to Arbela and captured Darius money and possessions which Darius had abandoned there. Darius himself – to Alexander's dismay – had fled.
- Alexander's army apparently suffered very few losses, only 100 infantry and 1,000 cavalry (half of which were apparently Alexander's Companions), while Darius' army had losses up to 300,000.

Evidence of Alexander's Leadership and Personality:

- The obvious traits of leadership we see in Alexander from Gaugamela is his intelligence; his ability to foresee the strategy that Darius would adopt and organise his men in such a way that they could counter any Persian attack. His use of the light infantry against the cavalry and in support of his flanking cavalry, his double lined phalanx, his angled approach, and the manoeuvring of his men to force a gap in the Persian line.
- We can also see a stubborn determination, as Alexander persists in his pursuit of Darius at the expense of his own Companion cavalry, many dying from wounds or exhaustion in their pursuit of Darius.
- You could also highlight his wisdom and patience in listening to Parmenion's advise to scout the area before attacking but refusing to take the risk of a night attack.

Rock of Aornus



Main Factual Information:

Date: April 326 B.C.

Numbers: Unclear

Leaders: Macedonian: Alexander; Indian: Unknown

Losses: Unknown

Lead up:

- After the death of Darius at the hands of Bessus – as Darius fled east of Persia after Gaugamela), the Satrap of Bactria (Northern Afghanistan today) Alexander had been campaigning east and north through Bactria and Sogdiana. He had conquered many local tribes and taken many forts, opening up new trade routes and founding new cities along the way.

- Then, in 326 B.C., Alexander began to campaign east and south through the Hindu Kush towards India. The Rock of Aornos was more of a plateau on top of a mountain than a fort or city. Local Indian natives - the people of Bazira the only people mentioned in Arrian – took refuge there from Alexander’s advancing army.
- The plateau/rock was about 7000 ft high and with a circumference of 25 miles. The peak of the mountain was even higher, perhaps 8721ft. The only rout to the rock was via a narrow was; the top had a good supply of water, wood, and land to cultivate.
- Alexander hearing a legend that Heracles himself had not managed to scale the mountain was determined to scale the mountain and drive the Indians from it. It also would be a vital location to hold if Alexander was to keep his supply line and new trade routes protected from any future disruption.
- Alexander selected his archers, Agrianians, Coenus’ brigade of Guards, and the lightest armoured of the phalanx. These lighter armoured troops would be better suited to mountain warfare. He also took 200 of the Companion cavalry and 100 mounted archers. He left Craterus in Embolima, a nearby city, with the rest of the army.

Main Stages/Obstacles of Battle:

Step 1:

- Alexander moved first to convenient location to survey the mountain on the first day, and then to a camp south and a little closer on the next day. Here he was approached by local tribesmen who offered to show him a rout up to the peak of the mountain – rather than the Rock/plateau.
- Alexander sent Ptolemy with the Agrianians, other light infantry, and some of the Guards with these guides to scale the mountain. Ptolemy was to seize a good position, fortify it, and signal to the rest of the army (with smoke).
- Ptolemy did so; he fortified a position unseen to the Indians with stockades and ditch.

Step 2:

- Having secured his position, Ptolemy then signalled Alexander who set out with the rest of his force the next day.
- As Alexander attempted to ascend the mountains, the Indians from the Rock, harassed him, and the passage proved so difficult geographically that Alexander was forced stop.
- The Indians then attacked Ptolemy’s camp, trying to take down the stockades. The Indians were harassed by the missiles from the soldier’s in Ptolemy’s camp and were forced to retreat in the night.
- In the night, Alexander sent a message with a trusted deserter to Ptolemy ordering him to attack the Indians the next day once he saw Alexander doing so. The next day as Alexander made an attack from below, Ptolemy joined the attack from above and they forced their way up the mountain.
- Once at the top, they attempted a joint assault on the Rock itself, but it failed.

Step 3:

- The next day, Alexander ordered each man to cut 100 stakes. He ordered them to use these to construct a mound that could bridge the gap, the ravine that divided the side of the mountain peak from the Rock/plateau occupied by the Indians. He hoped that he might bring his missiles, siege engines and archers/slingers, closer to the Rock.
- Alexander stood by and encouraged his men as the begun the construction.
- On the first day, 600ft of the mound had been built, on the second slingers could attack the Indians as the soldiers continued to work, on the third day the mound was complete. On the fourth day, some Macedonian soldiers had occupied a hill on level with the rock and Alexander extended the mound to link with this hill.

Step 4:

- The Indians saw the hopelessness of their situation, seeing the mound complete. They sent Alexander an emissary to negotiate terms. They planned to spin out the discussion so that they might scatter by night to their own tribes.
- Alexander discovered their plan and so waited till night had fallen and the Indians had begun to scatter and climbed the rock with 700 of his bodyguard and Guards. He was the first to reach the top. He then gave the signal and they attacked the retreating natives. Some Indians apparently threw themselves over the rock in terror.

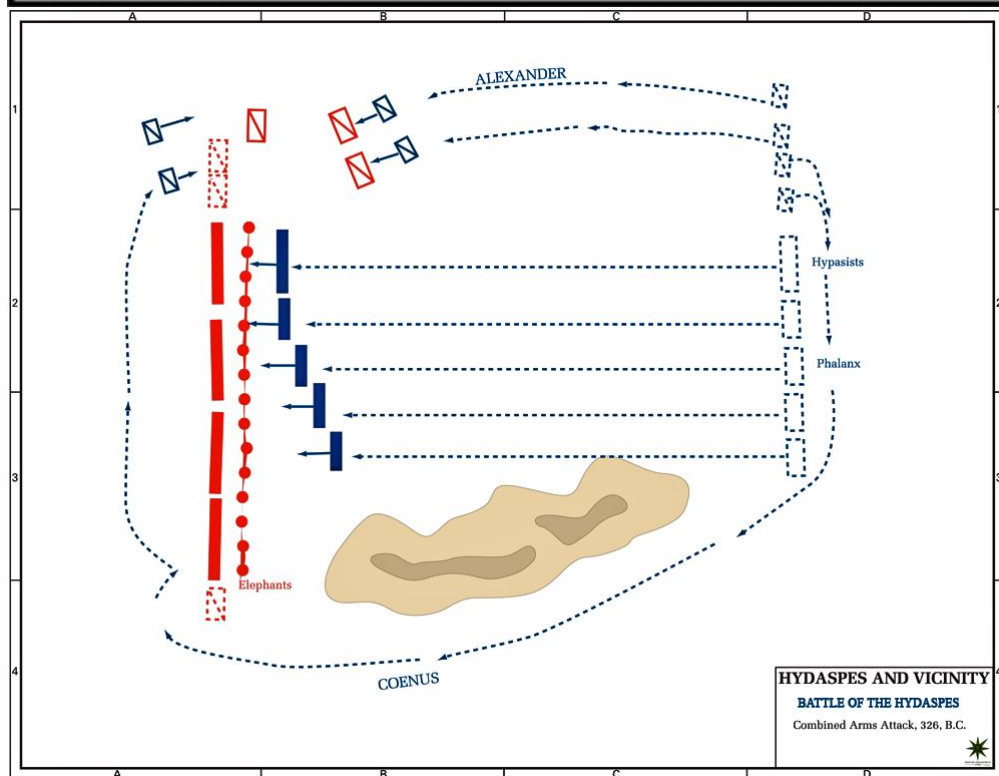
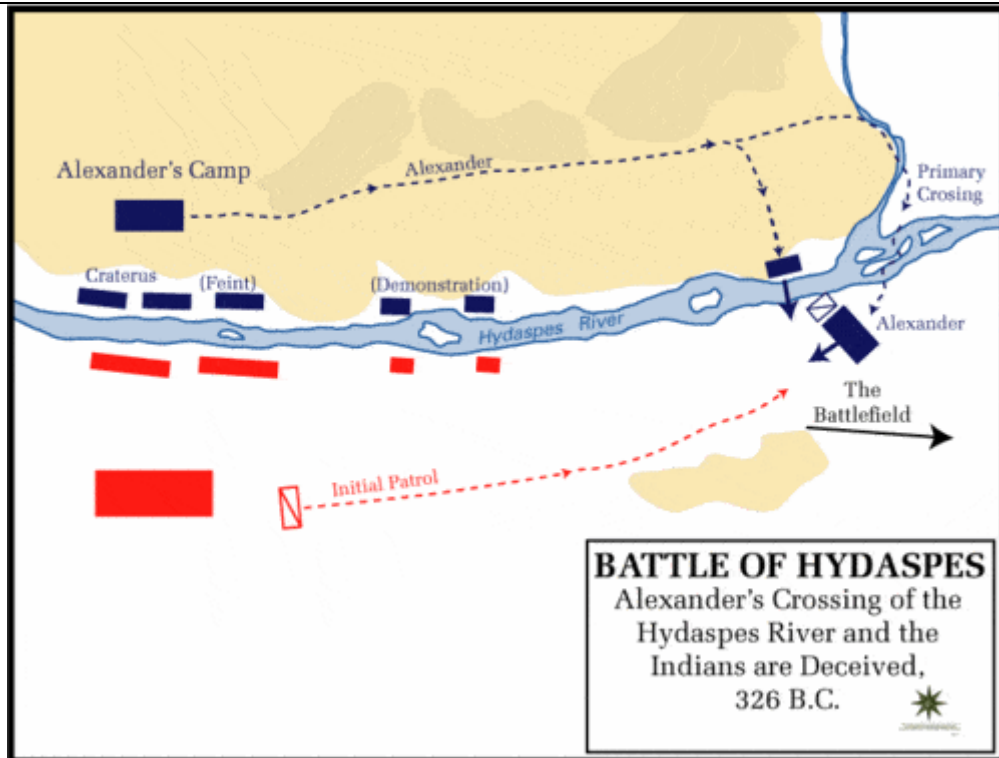
Aftermath:

- In the aftermath Alexander had scaled the “unscalable” geological fortress, which Heracles apparently could not.
- Alexander stationed a garrison there to protect the surrounding area and secure his trade routes.
- Alexander could now confidently move into India.

Evidence of Alexander’s Leadership and Personality:

- Alexander’s motivation of his men is a clear sign of his ability to encourage his men to achieve great deeds.
- The fact Alexander reached the heights first also shows how he liked to lead from the front.
- We can also see some of his ruthlessness in his treatment of the natives who he refused to allow to retreat.
- Alexander’s need to achieve greatness, his determination, is apparent from his need to outperform his ancestor, Heracles. He does not stop until the mountain is taken.
- However, the most obvious trait evident from this siege is Alexander’s intelligence and ingenuity: his strategy of Ptolemy’s advance force to secure the route and a position at the top before moving the slower, heavier infantry closer; his strategy of attacking simultaneously from top and below to disrupt the Indians; his ingenious idea to build a mound so that he might bring his siege engine and missiles closer to the mound – reworking the geography to suit his needs.

Hydaspes



Main Factual Information:

Date: 326 B.C.

Numbers: Macedonian: 40,000 inf., 5,000 cav.; Indians: 30,000 inf., 4,000 cav., 200 War Elephants, 300 chariots.

Leaders: Macedonian: Alexander, Craterus, Coenus; Indians: Porus, Porus' son.

Losses: Macedonian: 80 inf., 230 cav. (according to Arrian); 20,000 inf. and 3,000 cav.

Lead up:

- Now entering India, Alexander faced the crossing of many rivers and many fierce tribes and Kingdoms – Kings and leaders who were not weak but much more formidable than Darius had ever been.
- Porus was one of these leaders and as Alexander advanced towards the Hydaspes river, Porus gathered a force to prevent his crossing.
- The River Hydaspes at this time flowed quite heavily, and yet it was fordable.
- Alexander had said openly he would wait for a better season to make a crossing but remained alert.

Main Stages/Obstacles of Battle:

Part one: *The Crossing of the River*

Stage 1:

- Upon arriving at the river Alexander faced the problem of crossing. Porus had gathered a large force and would station them on the river bank every day in opposition to Alexander. The most formidable of these being the elephants. The horses would not cross while they were on the opposing bank.
- Alexander countered problem by troops of cavalry to various points along the bank at night, making noise as though they planned to cross. Porus would send the elephants to shadow these locations and try to prevent the cavalry crossing and outflanking him. However, as Alexander repeated this day after day Porus soon suspected that it was a pretence and so stopped sending the elephant to shadow them.

Stage 2:

- Now that Porus would not send troops, Alexander could hope to move his troops freely. Alexander planned to cross at a part of the river, 18 miles from his main camp, where the river split, and a headland jutted out. This location was heavily wooded and had a wooded island opposite that seemed to be close to the other bank.
- Alexander left Craterus in the camp with 2,000 cavalry to keep the fire lit. He was order not to cross unless the opposing enemy had moved away from the camp or at least the elephants had left.
- Alexander posted some mercenary cavalry and infantry along the banks at different locations with orders to cross if the Indians came out to meet his army.
- Alexander then moved his main force, secretly, and far from the bank, towards the headland crossing.
- At the break of dawn, Alexander transported all his men across to the island, hoping to conceal them in the wood unseen by the Indian patrols.
- Then as they came to the opposite side of the island, they became visible to the Indian patrols who returned to Porus.
- Alexander then crossed his army to what he thought was the mainland but was in fact another larger island. It took them longer to cross from this island to the mainland than Alexander had hoped.

Stage 3:

- When they had at last reached the mainland – according to Ptolemy (Arrian's preferred source for the battle) – Porus' son had arrived with 2,000 cavalry and 120 chariots hoping to prevent Alexander's crossing. However, the Indians were too late, Alexander's army had crossed. Alexander sent his mounted archers against this force. He initially reserved his cavalry, thinking Porus' whole army had arrived. But then, attacked vigorously when he heard it was a smaller force. They killed 400 cavalry, including Porus' son, and captured all the chariots.

Part Two: *The main Battle*

Stage 4:

- Porus, upon hearing of the cavalry engagement and his son's death, decided to move his main force to face Alexander. He left a small force with some elephants to oppose Craterus' crossing.
- Porus came to a patch of land that did not seem too muddy and was level, suitable for cavalry movements. He drew his army up with the elephants tightly in front of his infantry, and on the flank of the infantry line were cavalry and chariots in front of them.
- Alexander began his approach with his cavalry out front and the phalanx approaching at pace behind. Once he was in view of the Indian army he rested his men.

Stage 5:

- The battle began by Alexander launching an attack with his archer cavalry supported by Alexander and his Companion cavalry in tight formation. They attacked the Indian cavalry and chariots on the Indian left flank. Meanwhile he ordered Coenus to move for an attack against the other Indian cavalry on the Indian right.
- The Indian cavalry and chariots on the right, moved to help their harassed comrades on the left, Coenus' cavalry followed their movements.
- And so, the Indian cavalry – all together on the left flank now – were attacked from two sides. From the front from horse archers and Alexander and from the rear by Coenus.
- The Indians attempted to maneuver so that they could face both attackers, but the complicated movement brought even more chaos and they were defeated.
- The cavalry retreated towards the elephants and the infantry line – Alexander's horses would not attack where the elephants were.

Stage 6:

- Meanwhile, Alexander's infantry were approaching the main Indian line.
- The elephants moving to counter the cavalry were met by this line of infantry.
- Arrian says that the elephants were countered by Alexander's light infantry. The light infantry – who were in front of the phalanx – could easily engage in hit and run tactics: throwing javelins at the elephants, while keeping their distance, running away quickly at every elephant charge. The javelins confused the elephants and many of their mahouts (drivers) were killed.
- Meanwhile the Indian cavalry attempted another sortie, but were countered by Alexander's cavalry.
- Eventually, the elephants were hemmed back into their own lines, a mixture of cavalry and infantry at this point. Many of these unmanaged elephants rampaged through the Indian lines, causing chaos.

Stage 7:

- Now that the Indian line was a compact mass of cavalry, infantry, and confused and unmanaged elephants, Alexander ordered his heavy infantry (sarissa and Guards) to lock their shields and advance.
- As the heavy infantry advanced, Alexander moved all his cavalry behind the Indian lines, circling and hemming them in, cutting through any retreating Indians.
- The Indian army was put into full rout and Craterus, with his 2,000 cavalry, had now crossed the river from the original camp and helped with the pursuit of the retreating army.

Aftermath:

- The aftermath of the battle was a complete victory for Alexander.
- Porus, it was said by Arrian, was intent on dying in battle and refused to surrender to Alexander. As he retreated atop his elephant, Alexander, respecting Porus' courage in battle, sent Taxiles – a local Indian king and enemy of Porus – to ask him to surrender. Porus refused to listen and instead threw his spear at Taxiles. Eventually, Alexander sent

Meroes, a friend of Porus, to convince him to surrender. Hearing that Porus was now returning having surrendered, Alexander went out to meet him. When they met, Alexander asked Porus how he wished to be treated. Porus responded "Treat me as a king would treat another king". Alexander, highly impressed with the man, gave him control once more over his kingdom – though as a vassal/subject state of Alexander – and more lands to rule besides.

- The long term effect of the battle was to impress upon the Macedonian soldier the difficulty a long campaign into India would entail. Not long after the battle, at the river Hyphasis, Alexander's soldiers persuaded – with much difficulty – Alexander to turn towards home. Alexander, eventually agreed – only after several days of sulking – but rather than going back the way they had come, decided to journey south, along the river Indus, first and return to Babylon by the coast of the Persian Gulf.

Evidence of Alexander's Leadership and Personality:

- There are many examples of Alexander's intelligence and patience from the battle of Hydaspes: his waiting by the river, tricking Porus not to shadow his men with the elephants, his crossing, and his tactics to outmanoeuvre the Indian cavalry and then deal with the elephants.
- We can also see samples of Alexander's honour, nobility, and clemency (mercy), in his dealing with his opponent, Porus, after the battle was won. This could also be seen as a clever political move; to keep an obviously brave and respected man in power, to use him, rather than enslave or kill him.
- And as always, there are clear signs of Alexander's determined fortitude; he never stops seeking a means to cross the river and to defeat his enemy.