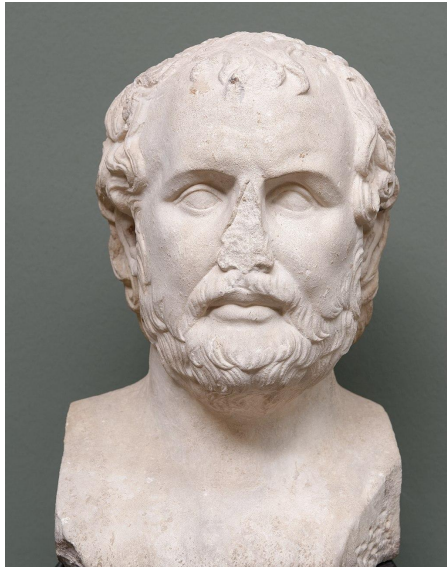


#1: Alexander's Empire and Travel Route Map



Alexander has been referred to as “the Great” by several ancient and modern historians because he built a massive empire between 334 and 323 BCE. This map shows all of Alexander’s territory and his army’s path across parts of Europe, Africa, and Asia. The Macedonian king conquered lands in Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, Bactria, and India over an eleven-year period. His empire extended over 2,000,000 square miles from his hometown in Pella, Macedonia all the way to the Indus River and the modern-day border of India. Alexander’s army went undefeated in all of their clashes with other civilizations, including the famed battles of Granicus, Issus, and Gaugamela against the Persian Empire, as well as at the Hydaspes against an Indian kingdom. He took over many cities and founded numerous settlements of his own, which included naming many cities Alexandria after himself, and naming an additional city Bucephala after his horse.

#2: King Philip and Queen Olympias of Macedonia



Alexander had a royal childhood since he was the son of a Macedonian king named Philip and a queen named Olympias.

Philip (382 - 336 BCE) transformed the Macedonian army into an elite fighting force that conquered most of the city-states in Greece, including Athens and Thebes at the Battle of Chaeronea in 336 BCE. He improved upon the Greek battle formation called the phalanx by equipping his soldiers with spears known as sarissas that could attack opponents from longer distances. It was Philip's goal to defeat the Persian Empire, and his military improvements arguably set up Alexander's success in fulfilling this objective. He also paid for Alexander to receive a world-class education, as he convinced the famous philosopher Aristotle to privately tutor the future king.



Olympias (375 - 316 BCE), who was originally from another Greek kingdom called Epiris, told Alexander that he was related to the mythical hero Achilles, and later that the supreme god Zeus was his true father. She also allegedly played a role in the assassination of Philip, who had divorced her under false claims and taken another wife from Macedonia. Olympias feared this new marriage would result in another son that would block Alexander from the throne.

#3: Alexander Tames Bucephalus

When Philonaeus from Thessaly offered to sell a horse named Bucephalus to Philip at the price of thirteen talents (a type of currency), the king took Prince Alexander and many others to see the animal. The horse appeared extremely vicious and unmanageable. Philip was upset with Philonaeus for bringing him a wild and uncontrollable horse, and told him to take Bucephalus away. But Alexander, who had closely observed Bucephalus' behavior, said, "What a horse they are losing, since they do not have the skill and spirit to manage him!" Philip at first took no notice of this, but the prince repeated the same expression several times. Finally, Philip said, "Young man, you find fault with your elders, as if you knew more than them, or could manage the horse better." "And I certainly could," answered the prince. Philip asked, "If you should not be able to ride him, what will you offer for being wrong?" Alexander responded, "I will pay the price of the horse."

The company laughed, but the king and prince agreed to the deal. Alexander ran to the horse, and turned him to the sun because he had observed that the horse's shadow greatly scared him. After Bucephalus calmed down, Alexander kept speaking to him softly and leaped lightly on his back. Then, without pulling the reins too hard, or using either whip or spur, Alexander got Bucephalus to start moving. As soon as Alexander saw that Bucephalus was no longer afraid and that he only wanted to run, he put him in a full gallop, and pushed him on both with the voice and spur.

Philip and all his court were initially anxious for Alexander's safety and were completely silent. But when the prince had turned Bucephalus around and brought him straight back, they all cheered and applauded for Alexander. Philip, who cried tears of joy and kissed Alexander, said, "Seek another kingdom, my son, that may be worthy of your abilities; for Macedonia is too small for you..."



A Greek historian named Plutarch wrote a biography on Alexander as part of his famous work called *Parallel Lives* around 100 CE, in which he compared several historical figures from ancient Greece and ancient Rome. The story tells of the 12-year-old Alexander and his first meeting with the horse Bucephalus, who would carry the future Macedonian king into

battle during his military campaigns. Plutarch's account about Alexander's ability to tame the wild horse shows a glimpse of the leader's confidence and intelligence even as a child.

#4: Alexander Becomes King and General of the Macedonian Army



Alexander inherited the throne and army of Macedonia after his father, Philip, was assassinated at his daughter's wedding in 336 BCE. Several of the Greek city-states, such as Thebes, and other nearby territories tried to take advantage of the new 20-year-old king and rebelled for their independence. However, Alexander was already an experienced military commander, who had previously led a successful cavalry attack that contributed to his father's victory in the Battle of Chaeronea. He personally led the Macedonian phalanx and cavalry into battle and defeated uprisings against the people of Thrace and

Illyria to the north of his kingdom. Alexander also strengthened his control over the Greek city-states after he destroyed the city of Thebes, which refused to stop rebelling against him, and either executed or enslaved most of its people. After Alexander had established his leadership in Greece, he turned his attention toward the Persian Empire.

#5: Alexander Cuts the Gordian Knot



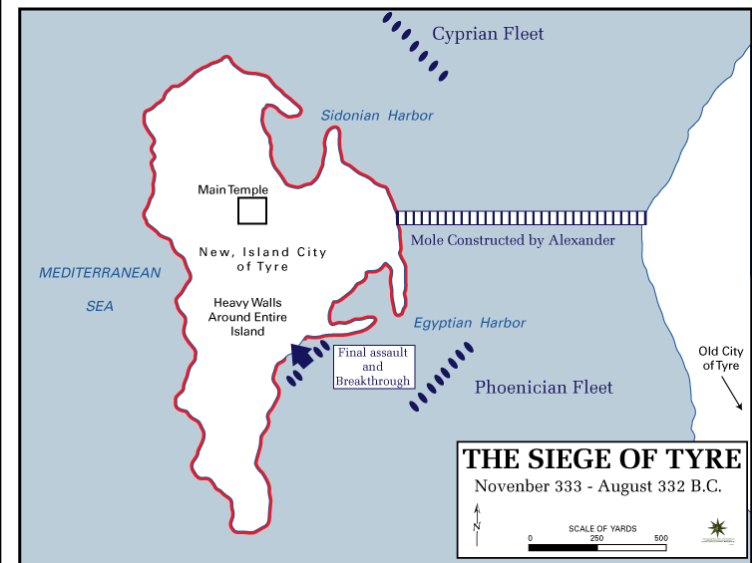
This painting, titled *Alexander Cuts the Gordian Knot*, was created by a French painter named Jean-Simon Berthélemy in 1767 CE. It shows a scene in which Alexander cuts the Gordian knot in the Persian territory of Phrygia, a kingdom in the modern-day country of Turkey in Asia Minor. According to legend, a man named Gordius became the king of Phrygia after he entered the town with an ox-cart and fulfilled an oracle's prophecy. Gordius' son, Midas, offered the ox-cart as a tribute to the gods and tied it to a post with multiple knots that seemed impossible to undo.

Another oracle predicted that whoever untied the Gordian knot would become the ruler over all of Asia, which interested Alexander when he arrived in Phrygia in 333 BCE. Some historians said that Alexander solved the puzzling knot, while others claimed he used his sword to cut the knot in one stroke. It is not known for certain if and how Alexander cut the Gordian knot, but the legend helped his image, and he would eventually conquer much of Asia over the next decade.

#6: Siege of Tyre

The majority of the Tyrians, when they saw that the wall had been captured, deserted it and gathered together at what is called the shrine of Agenor, and there they turned to fight the Macedonians. Alexander attacked them with his royal guards, slaughtered some of them fighting there, and then chased those who ran away. There was a great massacre, since those who were coming from the harbor now had control of the city and Coenus' (one of Alexander's generals) battalion had entered it. In their anger the Macedonians turned on everything, annoyed at the time wasted on the siege and also because the Tyrians had captured some of them as they were sailing from Sidon. About 8000 Tyrians died during the invasion.

Many of the Tyrians fled to the temple of Heracles: including the men of greatest authority and the King Azemilcus, and some ambassadors from Carthage who had come to Tyre to honor Heracles in an ancient custom. Alexander spared all of their lives. However, he enslaved the rest, some 30,000 in number, both Tyrians and non-Tyrians.



A Greek historian named Arrian wrote an account of Alexander's journey called *The Campaigns of Alexander* around 130 CE. This passage discusses what happened during the Macedonians' siege of a city-state called Tyre, in which Alexander's army surrounded the area for seven months from 333 to 332 BCE. While many neighboring cities voluntarily surrendered to Alexander without a battle, the Tyrians refused to accept Macedonian rule. The map on the right side, which was created by the Department of History at the United States Military Academy, shows that Tyre was located on an island that was surrounded on all sides by tall walls. The Tyrians believed they could protect themselves from the Macedonians with their defenses and navy. Alexander used the Cyprian and Phoenician navies to form a blockade on the northern and southern ends of the island, which prevented people and goods from entering or exiting Tyre. Meanwhile, his soldiers built a long bridge (labeled mole on the map) from the mainland to the island, which took several months because constant Tyrian attacks slowed their progress. Eventually, the Macedonian army made it past the city walls, and its treatment of the defeated Tyrians gives insight into Alexander's character.

#7: Temple of Amun at the Siwa Oasis and Alexander Coin



This image shows the ruins of the Temple of Amun at the Siwa Oasis in Egypt. The temple was the home of a person called an oracle, who was a priest that the Egyptians believed could see the future and communicate with the gods. Alexander took a detour to visit this remote location after conquering Egypt without a fight and becoming its pharaoh in 332 BCE. The Greeks considered the temple's god, Amun-Ra, to be the Egyptian version of Zeus, and Alexander wanted to confirm that he was indeed the son of Zeus and therefore a god himself. It is believed that the oracle greeted Alexander with the phrase, "Oh,

son of god,” and the king took this as a confirmation of his beliefs. This moment had a major effect on Alexander’s opinion of himself, as well as others’ views of him. Several coins were issued across the Hellenistic kingdoms after Alexander’s death that show the king wearing the ram horns of Amun, which reinforced the idea that he was a god.

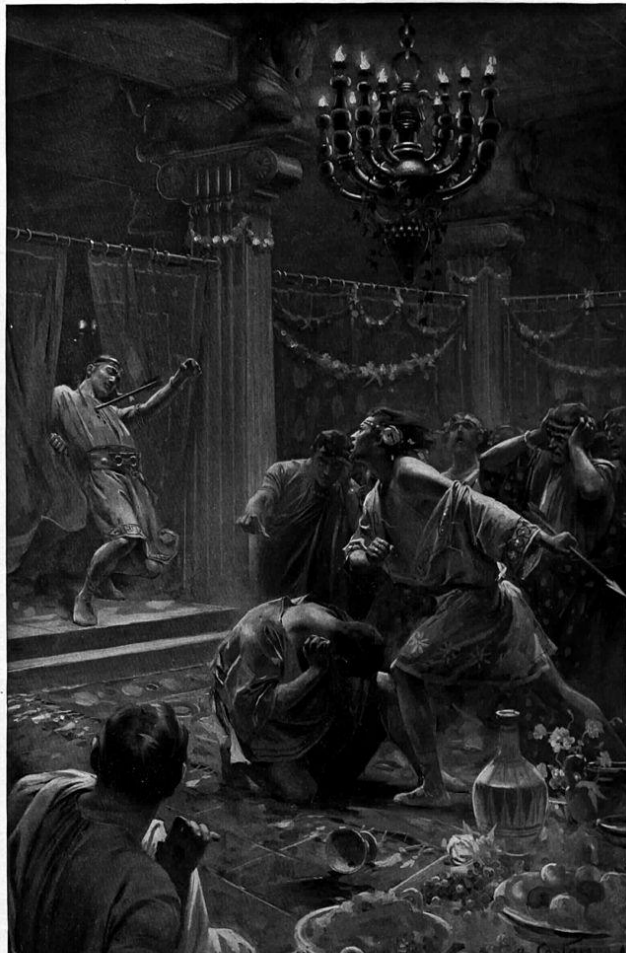
#8: Alexander Mosaic



This floor mosaic was created by the Romans around 100 BCE and was found in the ruins of an ancient city called Pompeii in modern-day Italy. The image is believed to show the first in-person clash between Alexander and King Darius III of Persia at the Battle of Issus in 333 BCE. Alexander is shown riding his horse Bucephalus on the left side, and Darius is shown riding his chariot on the right side. It is believed that the Persians greatly outnumbered the Macedonians during this battle. However,

Alexander and his cavalry were able to overpower the Persians, and forced Darius and his army to retreat from the battlefield. Alexander personally defeated Darius again at the Battle of Gaugamela in 331 BCE, and chased the Persian king across Asia until Darius was killed by his own relative named Bessus. As a result, Alexander became king of the Persian Empire.

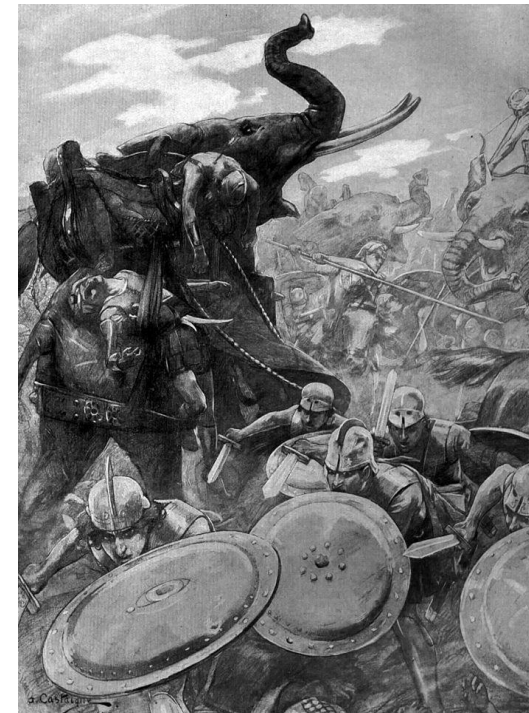
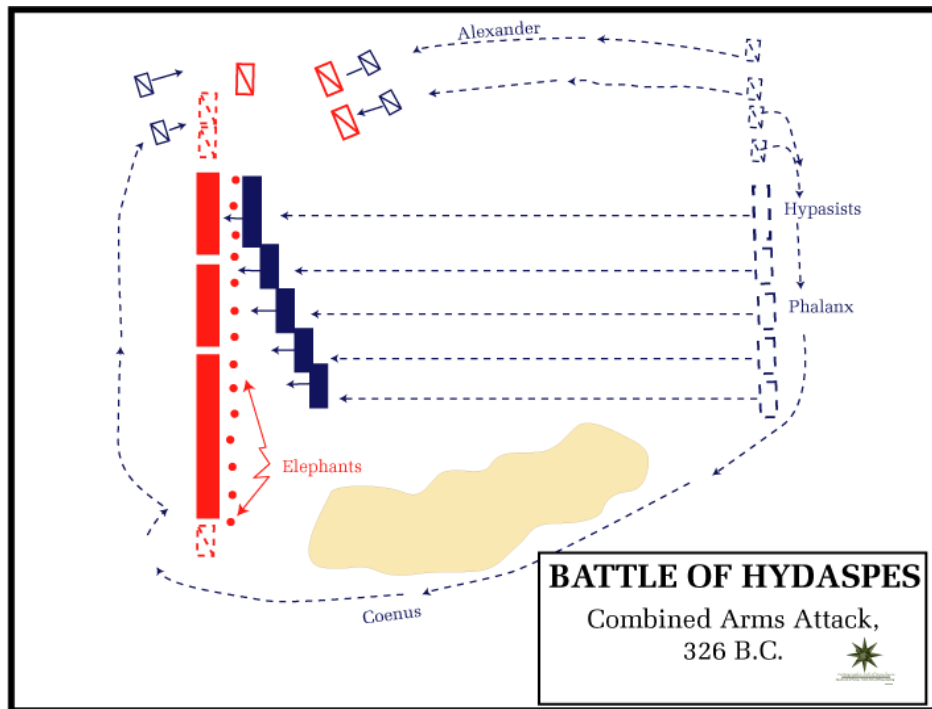
#9: The Killing of Cleitus by Alexander the Great



This painting, titled *The Killing of Cleitus by Alexander the Great*, was created by a French painter named André Castaigne in 1899 CE. It shows Alexander killing one of his generals named Cleitus during an argument at a feast in Bactria in 328 BCE. Cleitus was a longtime commander of the Macedonian cavalry under both Alexander and his father, Philip. He also saved Alexander's life at the Battle of Granicus in 334 BCE. Sources offer several explanations for the deadly conflict, but it is believed that both men were under the influence of alcohol.

One account says that Alexander bragged about how he had accomplished more than his father, and became angry after Cleitus argued that Alexander was not the true king of Macedonia and would not have achieved anything without Philip. Other sources say that Cleitus was already upset at Alexander for reassigning him to a worse military position, and was sick of Alexander adopting Persian clothing and customs that often went against Macedonian views. Alexander managed to find a javelin and threw it through Cleitus' heart to murder him on the spot. All accounts say that Alexander regretted his decision afterward, but this was just one of several occasions where he killed one of his officers for disagreements or betrayal.

#10: Battle of the Hydaspes



Alexander's final major battle occurred along the Hydaspes River in 326 BCE against a king named Porus from northwest India. Porus's army fought alongside war elephants that presented a difficult challenge for Alexander's forces. Alexander solved this problem by leaving a portion of his army in direct sight of Porus's forces, while he secretly led other foot soldiers and cavalry across the river upstream during a midnight thunderstorm. The map on the left, which was created by the Department of History at the United States Military Academy, shows how Alexander, his general Coenus, and his soldiers (labeled as the Hypasists), were eventually able to surround Porus's army using their phalanx and cavalry. The image on the right, titled *The Phalanx Attacking the Center in the Battle of the Hydaspes*, was created by a French painter named André

Castaigne in 1899 CE and shows his imagination of a critical moment in the fight. Alexander's box-shaped formation left limited space for the war elephants, which caused them to accidentally trample many of the Indian soldiers and help the Macedonians. Porus eventually surrendered to Alexander, who in exchange allowed the former Indian ruler to continue the day-to-day operations of his kingdom.

#11: Alexander's Speech to the Macedonian Army in India

I observe, gentlemen, that when I lead you on a new journey you no longer follow me with your old spirit. I have asked you to meet me so that we can make a decision together: are we, upon my advice, to go forward, or, upon yours, to turn back?

With all that we have accomplished, why do you now hesitate to extend the power of Macedon? Are you afraid that a few natives who may still be left will offer opposition? Come, come! These natives either surrender without a blow or are caught on the run--or leave their country undefended for your taking; and when we take it, we make it a present to those who have joined us of their own free will and fight on our side.

In my opinion, doing honorable work is all that should matter to any real man. However, if any of you wish to know what limit may be set to this particular campaign, let me tell you that the area of country still ahead of us, from here to the Ganges and the Eastern ocean, is small. All Libya (in Africa) to the east will soon be ours, and all Asia too, and to this empire there will be no boundaries but what God Himself has made for the whole world.

But if you turn back now, there will remain many unconquered warlike peoples. If we withdraw now, there is a danger that the territory which we do not yet securely hold may be stirred to revolt by a nation that we have not yet forced to surrender. Should that happen, all that we have done and suffered will have proved useless--or we shall be faced with the task of doing it over again from the beginning.

I could not have blamed you for being the first to lose heart if I, your commander, had not shared in your exhausting marches and your dangerous campaigns; it would have been natural enough if you had done all the work merely for others to collect the reward. But it is not so. You and I, gentlemen, have shared the labor and shared the danger, and the rewards are for us all. The conquered territory belongs to you. The governors are chosen from among yourselves, and the greater part of its treasure already passes into your hands. When all Asia is overrun, the results will exceed your wildest dreams of wealth or power, and whoever wishes to return home will be allowed to go, either with me or without me. I will make those who return jealous of those who stay.

A Greek historian named Arrian wrote an account of Alexander's journey called *The Campaigns of Alexander* around 130 CE. This text was part of a famous speech given by Alexander to his troops in 326 BCE. The Macedonian army had gone

undefeated in all of their battles up to this point. Alexander wanted to continue his world conquest by journeying farther into India and continuing on to the Pacific Ocean. However, many of the soldiers wanted to return to Macedonia after being away from their homes and families for nine years, and refused to go any farther. Alexander attempted to convince his men to stay by reminding them of their past glory through their shared efforts, as well as the future possibilities ahead if they did not quit. Ultimately, the soldiers did not change their minds, and Alexander was forced to turn back.

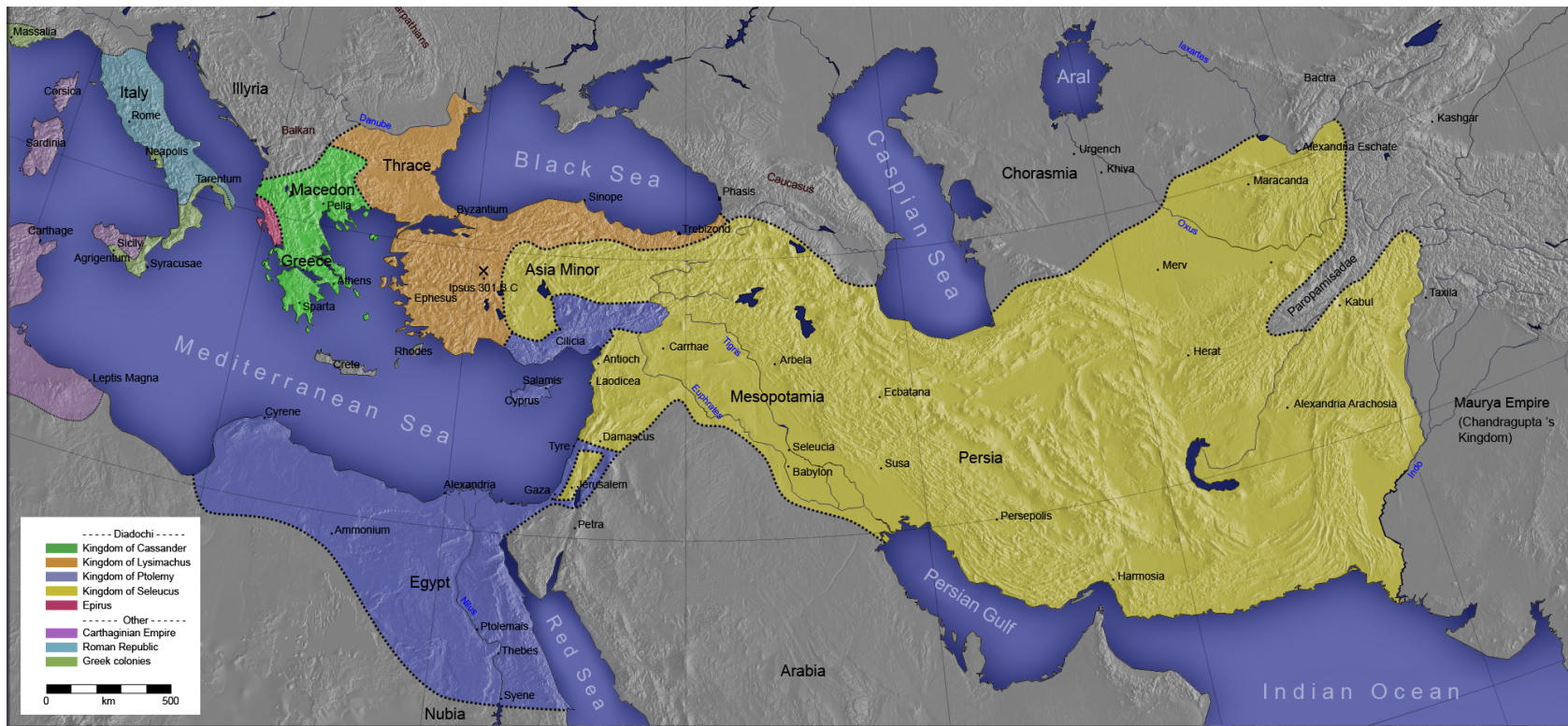
#12: Babylonian Astronomical Diary



This artifact is part of a collection of clay tablets that describe the movements of objects in outer space and their relationship with current events during ancient history. This piece contains the only known written account about Alexander's death from his lifetime, which simply says, "the king died," and does not offer any additional details. Historians have used this source to determine that Alexander died during a stop in Babylon in 323 BCE on his journey back to Macedonia, but they do

not know what was the cause of his death. Some ancient historians believe that he was poisoned by political rivals, while others say that he died from a fever after consuming too much alcohol during a festival. More recent theories include illnesses such as malaria, typhoid, and meningitis.

#13: Hellenistic Kingdoms Map



This map shows the status of Alexander's empire in 301 BCE more than twenty years after his death. It was Alexander's wish that his conquered territories would remain united and that its people from different lands would marry each other and create a new culture. However, Alexander did not leave an heir to inherit his empire at his time of death. (His son was not born until a few months after he died.) Some accounts say that Alexander did choose a successor, while others claim he simply declared on his deathbed that his empire should go "to the strongest." A series of wars between Alexander's former

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generals and their armies led the empire to be split between three established kingdoms at the end of the conflicts around 275 BCE: the Antigonid Kingdom in Macedonia and part of Greece, the Ptolemaic Kingdom in Egypt, and the Seleucid Kingdom in the former Persian Empire across Asia. While Alexander's empire was no longer under one ruler, Greek ideas did influence politics, religion, language, trade, art, architecture, and other parts of local cultures across the region.