

Alexander the Great

- became undisputed leader of the Macedonians at age 20
- Macedonia was a powerful indo-European tribe from the north of Greece
- his father led Macedonian forces into Greece (Philip)
- after father's death, he was able to take over
- Greeks too weak to defend themselves because of internal fighting (Peloponnesian Wars)
- Alexander led Macedonians on to conquer Greece, Persia, Egypt, Mesopotamia, north India
- controlled 3 important river valleys - Nile, Mesopotamia, Indus

- he believed he was a direct descendent of Achilles
- led troops into battle from the front
- he conquered and re-named, or started and named, over 70 cities (most named...)
- spread Greek culture around the known world
- personally controlled largest empire known to that time
- ruthless in pursuit of power

Importance

A) the "One-World" concept - the blending of cultures (mainly Greek) into one, instead of letting people keep their own culture, he took the best parts of the cultures he conquered and only used those

- single govt.
- single monetary system
- single language
- common laws
- equality for all citizens

did this by having his troops inter-marry w/ conquered natives

B) Alexander did not have Greek culture destroyed upon the Macedonian invasion because of his respect for Greek culture thru his Greek education (he was Aristotle's most famous student)

40,000 men (soldiers)

14 years

20,000 miles

1 leader

Ptolemy

