

	<h3>Alexander the Great</h3> <p>A copy of a sculpture made seven years before Alexander's death; one ancient writer said the sculpture (Lysippus) made the most accurate images of Alexander.</p>	<h3>Major Battles</h3> <p>Granicus River (334 BC)--his forces moved into Asia and faced a Persian frontier guard.</p> <p>Issus River (333 BC)--Darius showed up in person, and took a position in Alexander's line of retreat, but flees.</p> <p>Gaugamela (331 BC)--Darius again leads the battle, this time with elephants and scythed chariots, but again flees. Alexander chases Darius until he is killed by the nobles he was fleeing with.</p> <p>Hydaspes River (326 BC)--against Porus, an Indian king in modern-day Pakistan.</p>
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After his forces refused to go on into India, he marched them westward back to Babylon, where he died in 323 BC.

Themes in Alexander's brief rule

1. **Greece was never again threatened by Persian power or influence.** Until the end of the classical world, the question was not whether Persia would threaten the Mediterranean, but whether they could even control just Mesopotamia.
2. **Transformation from a traditional Macedonian monarchy into an imperial, Greco-Persian monarchy:** (1) wearing clothing of Persian emperors and accepting *proskynesis*; (2) the cultivation of a Greco-Persian army--One of the causes of the mutiny at Opis, India was the sight of 30,000 Persians trained to fight in the Macedonian style, with Persian commanders. He also promoted marriages of Asian women with his Greek soldiers (including 80 officers and 10,000 footsoldiers, given generous dowries), and when they wanted to return, told them he would raise their sons and then send the sons to Greece later on. One historian said that when Alexander died, in his papers were found plans to move Europeans to Asia, and Asians to Europe.
3. **Failure to establish succession**, leaving his kingdom "to the strongest" (not his posthumous son nor a stepbrother with a severe intellectual disability), left the Hellenistic world at war for the next 150 years (until Rome conquered them all piecemeal).
4. Establishment of Greek language as the *lingua franca*, and spread of Greek nationals and culture throughout the eastern Mediterranean; even native Egyptians and Syrians learned and wrote in Greek.

Four Hellenistic dynasties were established in Alexander's wake: the Antigonids in Macedonia, the Ptolemies in Egypt, the Seleucids in Syria, and later, the Attalids in Pergamum (western Asia Minor). Although a couple powerful dynasts (Antiochus III and Antigonus) attempted to re-establish Alexander's massive empire, none succeeded.