Alexander the Great

Alexander the Great conquered the known world by the time he was 33. How did he accomplish this task in so brief a period? Alexander is an enigmatic man: hated as a bloodthirsty conqueror, educated by one of the most brilliant philosophers of history, he is both studied and praised by centuries of military men, kings and emperors who sought to pattern themselves after him. Alexander the Great is hard to summarize: he was all at once likable, violent, brave, and unforgiving.

Session 1: Alexander’s Heritage, Family and Early Life
- Philip of Macedon
- The Archaeology of the Royal Tombs
- Alexander’s Training and Education

Session 2: Alexander prepares war against the Persians
- Why did the Greeks hate the Persians?
- The infamous Macedonian Phalanx
- Alexander’s conquests to the death of Darius the Great

Session 3: The End of his Campaigns
- His army pushes on into India
- Illness, misery and defeat
- Alexander prepares to rule his empire

Session 4: An Analysis of Alexander the Great
- Alexander Heracles
- Alexander the Divine
- The Hellenistic Age
- What happened to Alexander’s empire?

Hit ctrl/click to link yourself directly to your class page.

Ancient Authors:

- *Arrian, The Campaigns of Alexander* – best primary source for details on Alexander’s campaign. His information was taken directly from the history written by Alexander's half brother and general Ptolemy who maintained the Ephemerides or daily log of Alexander’s army.
- Isocrates (436-338 B.C.) Athenian orator who urged Philip to lead the Greeks in a war against Persia.
- Aristotle (384-322 BC) Philosopher and tutor of Alexander
- Demosthenes (384 BC-322) Athenian statesman, enemy of Philip and Alexander.
- Polybius (203-121) wrote a criticism of the historical battle of Issus.
- Diodorus Siculus (1st c B.C.) Universal the earliest work on Alexander preserved (vol. 16 and 17)
- Plutarch (AD 45-120) Life of Alexander and Moralia.
- Quintus Cutius Rufus The History of Alexander

Collections of Ancient Documents:


Modern Authors: an abbreviated list which includes just a few of the classics in English.

- *M. ANDRONIKOS, Vergina: The Royal Tombs, Athens, 1984*
- *A.B. BOSWORTH, Conquest and Empire, The Reign of Alexander the Great, 2001*
- *DONALD W. ENGELS, Alexander the Great and the Logistics of the Macedonian Army, 1978*
- *J.R. HAMILTON, Alexander the Great, 1974—numerous good articles by the same author*
- *R.D. MILNS, Alexander the Great, 1968—numerous good articles by the same author*
- *WILLIAM TARN, Alexander the Great 2 vols., 1948*
- *MICHAEL WOOD, Alexander the Great: A Journey from Greece to Asia, 1997.*