

ANCIENT GREECE

Background Information 6: Alexander the Great

The reign of Alexander changed ancient Greece forever. It would no longer be dominated by independent city states but would be part of a vast, cosmopolitan empire.

He was born on 20 July 356BC. He was the son of Philip II of Macedon, the king of a northern Greek kingdom. Philip II, during his reign, had effectively gained control of almost all of Greece. In 337BC he was assassinated on the morning of the wedding of his daughter to his brother-in-law.

Alexander the Great achieved his father's ambition of conquering the Persian Empire. In 334BC he crossed the Hellespont. At the Battle of Issus he defeated the Persian army under King Darius III.

He reached Egypt in 332BC. He made sacrifices to the Egyptian gods and established the city Alexandria near the delta of the river Nile.

In 331BC The Persian Empire was thoroughly defeated the Persians at the Battle of Gaugamela. pressed on further east. By 327BC he reached India. He eventually turned back when his troops refused to go any further. He died in 323BC.