**Alexander III of Macedon** ([Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language): Αλέξανδρος Γʹ ὁ Μακεδών, [*Aléxandros*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander)*III ho Makedȏn*; 20/21 July 356 BC – 10/11 June 323 BC), commonly known as **Alexander the Great** ([Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language): Ἀλέξανδρος ὁ Μέγας, *Aléxandros ho Mégas*), was a king ([*basileus*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basileus)) of the [ancient Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greece) kingdom of [Macedon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia_(ancient_kingdom))[[a]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great#cnote_a) and a member of the [Argead dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argead_dynasty). He was born in [Pella](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pella) in 356 BC and succeeded his father [Philip II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_II_of_Macedon) to the throne at the age of 20. He spent most of his ruling years on an unprecedented [military campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_campaign) through [western Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Asia) and northeast Africa, and by the age of thirty, he had created one of the [largest empires](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_empires) of the ancient world, stretching from [Greece](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece) to northwestern [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_India).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great#cite_note-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great#cite_note-2) He was [undefeated in battle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commanders_who_never_lost_a_battle) and is widely considered one of history's most successful military commanders.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great#cite_note-FOOTNOTEYenne2010159-3)

During his youth, Alexander was tutored by [Aristotle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotle) until age 16. After Philip's assassination in 336 BC, he succeeded his father to the throne and inherited a strong kingdom and an experienced army. Alexander was awarded the [generalship of Greece](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_of_Corinth) and used this authority to launch his father's pan-Hellenic project to lead the Greeks in the conquest of [Persia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persia).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great#cite_note-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great#cite_note-5) In 334 BC, he invaded the [Achaemenid Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire) (Persian Empire) and began a [series of campaigns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wars_of_Alexander_the_Great) that lasted 10 years. Following the conquest of [Anatolia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anatolia), Alexander broke the power of Persia in a series of decisive battles, most notably the battles of [Issus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Issus) and [Gaugamela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Gaugamela). He subsequently overthrew Persian King [Darius III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darius_III) and conquered the Achaemenid Empire in its entirety.[[b]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great#cnote_b) At that point, his empire stretched from the [Adriatic Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adriatic_Sea) to the [Beas River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beas_River).

Alexander endeavoured to reach the "ends of the world and the Great Outer Sea" and [invaded India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_campaign_of_Alexander_the_Great) in 326 BC, winning an important victory over the [Pauravas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pauravas) at the [Battle of the Hydaspes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Hydaspes). He eventually turned back at the demand of his homesick troops, dying in [Babylon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon) in 323 BC, the city that he planned to establish as his capital, without executing a series of planned campaigns that would have begun with an invasion of [Arabia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Peninsula). In the years following [his death](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Alexander_the_Great), a [series of civil wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wars_of_the_Diadochi) tore his empire apart, resulting in the establishment of several states ruled by the [Diadochi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diadochi), Alexander's surviving generals and heirs.

Alexander's legacy includes the [cultural diffusion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_diffusion) and [syncretism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syncretism) which his conquests engendered, such as [Greco-Buddhism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Buddhism). He founded some [twenty cities that bore his name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_founded_by_Alexander_the_Great), most notably [Alexandria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandria) in Egypt. Alexander's settlement of Greek colonists and the resulting spread of [Greek culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Greece) in the east resulted in a new [Hellenistic civilization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic_civilization), aspects of which were still evident in the traditions of the [Byzantine Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire) in the mid-15th century AD and the presence of [Greek speakers in central](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cappadocian_Greeks) and [far eastern Anatolia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pontic_Greeks) until the [Greek genocide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_genocide) of the 1920s. Alexander became legendary as a classical hero in the mould of [Achilles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achilles), and he features prominently in the history and mythic traditions of both Greek and non-Greek cultures. He was undefeated in battle and became the measure against which military leaders compared themselves. [Military academies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_academy) throughout the world still teach his tactics.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great#cite_note-FOOTNOTEYenne2010viii-6)[[c]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great#cnote_c) He is often ranked among the most influential people in history.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great#cite_note-7)

