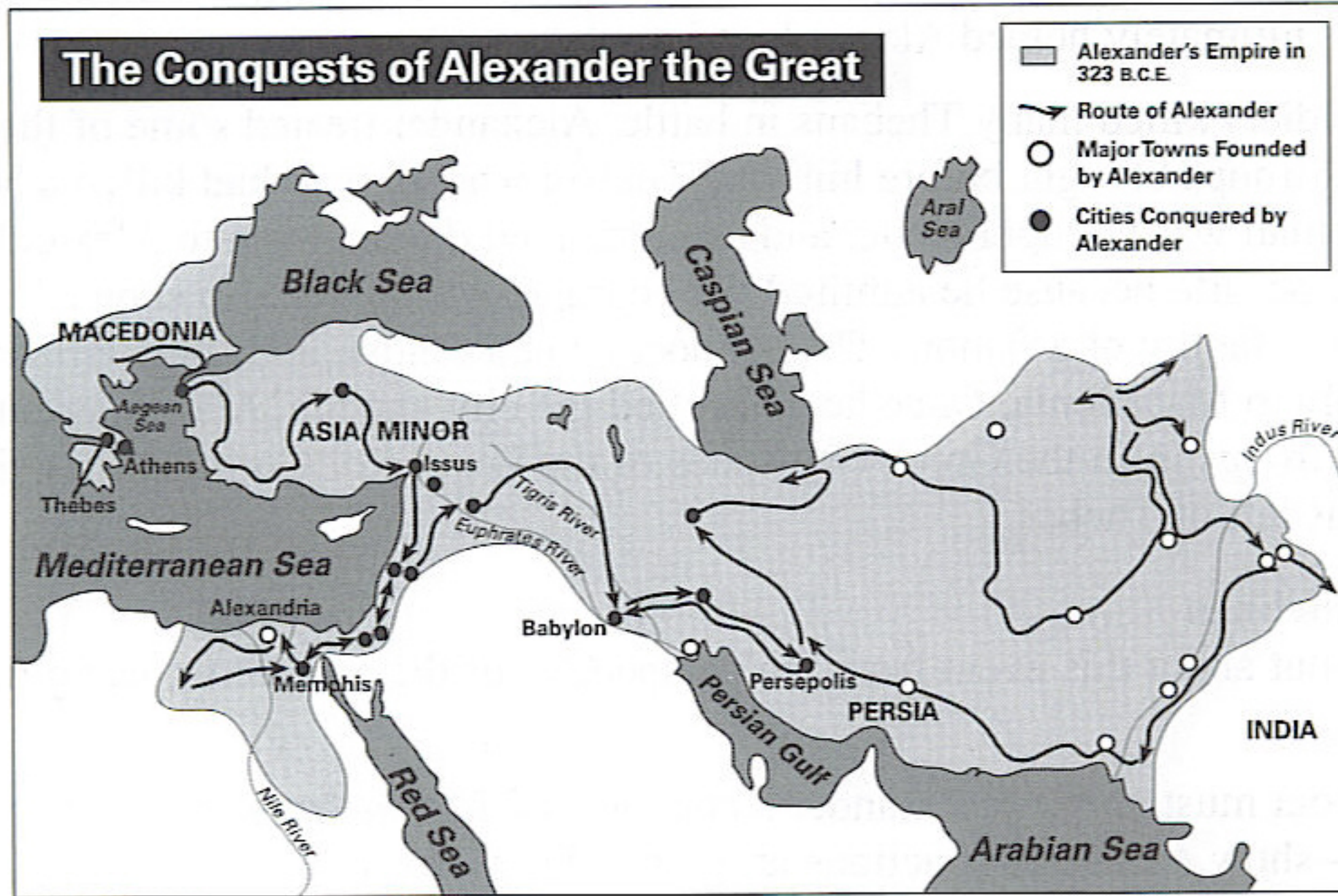


Information About Event A: Alexander in Thebes from the Perspective of Conqueror



When Philip II of Macedonia was assassinated in 336 B.C.E., the Macedonian army immediately accepted Alexander as his father's rightful successor. News of Philip's death then traveled to the League of Corinth, the federation of Greek city-states that Philip had assembled after he conquered all of Greece. The league members elected Alexander to be Philip's successor as commander-in-chief. They gave him the power to secure troops from mainland Greece to make war against Persia—the most powerful empire in the ancient world at the time.

However, the Greek city-state of Thebes was a reluctant participant in this plan. In 335 B.C.E., while Alexander was fighting some rebellious tribes in Macedonia, false reports of his death reached Thebes. The Thebans seized this opportunity to declare their independence from Macedonian rule. Alexander was furious. This direct challenge to his authority threatened his plans to unite Greece and conquer Persia. He marched his army south 240 miles to the gates of Thebes to crush the rebellion.

When Alexander arrived at Thebes, he had more than 30,000 troops at his command. Some of the troops came from Greek city-states in the League of Corinth. Alexander hoped his enormous army would convince the Thebans to ask for peace. He waited for three days, but the Thebans maintained their resistance. The Macedonians sent a message that any citizen of Thebes who wanted to could join Alexander's troops and share the peace that all of Greece enjoyed. The Thebans sent a message back that any Macedonians who wanted to could join *them* and overthrow the "tyrant of Greece." Alexander was stunned at the rebellious attitude of the Thebans—and was determined to defeat them.

An intense battle began. The Macedonians under Alexander were more experienced fighters and greatly outnumbered the Thebans. However, the citizens of Thebes were determined, and they fought long and hard. Alexander called in reserve troops, and they were assisted by other Macedonian troops who were stationed in a military post, or *garrison*, within the city. These combined forces ultimately helped Alexander triumph.

Although his soldiers killed many Thebans in battle, Alexander treated some of the rebels with compassion. His troops brought before him one Theban woman who had killed a Macedonian general. The woman was not apologetic, and she remained defiant even to Alexander. Still, he decided to spare her life because he admired her courage. Alexander also showed mercy to several priests, the family of a famous Theban poet named Pindar, and some citizens who remained friendly to Macedonia. Once he controlled the city, though, Alexander put its fate in the hands of his troops from the Greek city-states of the League of Corinth. They decided to destroy what was left of Thebes.

Act-It-Out Guidelines

Create an act-it-out about this event from the perspective of the conqueror, using these guidelines:

1. Your act-it-out must portray Alexander's conquest of Thebes from the perspective of the conqueror—show Alexander's actions in a favorable manner.
2. Study the role cards below to help group members understand what information should be included in your act-it-out.
3. Brainstorm simple actions and lines of dialogue that will help you dramatically convey the information on the role cards.
4. Practice performing your act-it-out so that it incorporates all group members and can be presented in less than 2 minutes.

Role Cards

Alexander: Explain who you are. Explain how the League of Corinth gave you the power to secure forces from mainland Greece to make war against Persia. Describe how you patiently waited for three days before attacking the rebellious Theban army.

Macedonian soldier: Introduce yourself to the class as Craterus (pronounced kray-TER-uss), one of Alexander's close friends and advisors. Describe how Alexander defeated the determined Theban army. Tell the class that Alexander had to destroy Thebes because its defiance threatened his plans to unite Greece.

Theban man: Introduce yourself to the class as Pindar, a famous Theban poet. Explain how Alexander took control of Thebes despite fierce resistance by its inhabitants. Tell the class how Alexander showed mercy to you and your family.

Theban woman: Introduce yourself to the class as Timoclaea (pronounced tim-oh-KLAY-ah), a respected Theban woman. Explain why you were brought before Alexander. Tell the class that Alexander spared your life because he admired your courage.