

Alexander the Great: Hero

Background Information

Conqueror and ruler of an enormous empire, Alexander is considered the greatest military leader of all time. He spread Greek culture and ideas throughout the ancient world, and showed an interest in the cultures of the people he conquered.



Event A

Alexander unified all of Greece by putting down the rebellion in the city-state of Thebes. He showed compassion toward some of the rebels, including some Theban citizens, several priests, and the family of a Theban poet.



Event B

Alexander was welcomed in Egypt more as a savior than as an invader, and was enthroned as a king. He founded the Egyptian city of Alexandria, which after his death became a great center for learning and Greek and Near Eastern culture.



Event C

Alexander defeated the mighty Persian army at the Battle of Issus and then courageously conquered the Persian Empire. As the ruler of the Persian Empire, he showed much respect for the native people, appointing Persian governors in conquered territories and allowing the people to continue practicing their religious traditions.



Event D

Alexander brilliantly defeated the army of the Indian king Porus, overcoming heavy rains and the army's use of elephants. He was greatly interested in Indian culture and religion, and closely questioned Indian holy men to learn more about Hinduism.



Alexander the Great: Villain

Background Information

Alexander's military accomplishments were due to the powerful military force his father, King Philip II, left him. Ruthless and cruel, he had a fierce temper and mistreated his own loyal advisors and soldiers.



Event A

Alexander brutally put down the attempt of the people of Thebes to declare their independence and freedom. His forces killed 6,000 Thebans, sold more than 20,000 citizens into slavery, and destroyed virtually the entire city.



Event B

Alexander only founded the site for the city of Alexandria, and played no role in the city's growth. The emphasis on Greek culture and scholarship excluded the Egyptians from any key role in the city's development.



Event C

Alexander's military campaign against Persia was brutal and relentless, without regard for the casualties of either the Persians or his own troops. He plundered the riches of Persepolis, Persia's great capital, and burned it to the ground, destroying a magnificent center of Persian culture.



Event D

Alexander's forces spent three years in India ruthlessly putting down any resistance, slaughtering males and selling females and children into slavery. His campaigns into deepest India, despite horrible weather conditions, finally caused his own troops to demand that he turn around and return home.

