

Name:	Date Issued: Date Due:	Period:	Compelling Question: Does Alexander III deserve to be called "the Great"?
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**Instructions:** Highlight or underline that the text will help you answer your Supporting and Compelling Questions. Take notes on the side and explain why the examples are important.

**Background:** Close reading is thoughtful, critical analysis of a text that focuses on significant details or patterns in order to develop a deep, precise understanding of the text's form, craft, meanings, etc. It is a key requirement of the Common Core State Standards and directs the reader's attention to the text itself.

<b>Steps:</b>			
1. Read the entire document.	2. Underline the Supporting Details.	3. Place a STAR by the Main Idea.	4. Summarize any notes on the right-side margin.
Things to Consider...	A: What is the author's purpose?	B: What text features were used?	C: What is the tone?

<b>Article Title: Background Information on Alexander the Great: Hero</b>	<b>Notes/Vocabulary:</b>
<p>1. Alexander the Great was born in 356 B.C.E. in the kingdom of Macedonia, north of mainland Greece. Although he lived only to the age of 32, and ruled for just 13 years, many historians consider him the greatest military leader of all time. During his reign, Alexander conquered Greece, the Near East, Persia, and India, ruling an empire that stretched 3,000 miles from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indus River. His was the largest empire the world had ever seen.</p> <p>2. Historians often view Alexander's conquests favorably because of several notable attributes. His sheer military genius and bravery drove him to conquer many new lands. His philosophy of not plundering the lands he conquered often made him a favorable leader to the natives of those lands. In addition, historians have praised him for allowing his subjects to continue practicing their own customs and beliefs, often showing an interest to learn about them himself. Most importantly, Alexander was responsible for the rapid spread of Greek culture and ideas throughout the ancient world during his reign. In the course of his career, he founded more than 20 new cities, many named Alexandria after him. During the Hellenistic Age, the three centuries immediately following Alexander's lifetime many of these cities rose to prominence, helping to preserve the finest aspects of Greek and Near Eastern culture.</p> <p>3. Alexander grew up as a clever and precocious child. According to one Legend, he tamed a wild stallion around the age of nine, after its trainer failed to do so. His proud father, King Philip II, said, "My son, you must seek a kingdom worthy of your talents, for my kingdom of Macedonia is too small for you." The king brought the Greek philosopher Aristotle to Macedonia to teach his intelligent young heir. Aristotle taught Alexander</p>	

<p>political philosophy, literature, natural history, and medicine. Alexander is said to have greatly admired Aristotle for his knowledge and incorporated his teachings into his life.</p> <p>4. Alexander was a very capable warrior from the time he was a young boy. At the age of 16, he had his first battlefield command, and defeated an enemy tribe on Macedonia's northern frontier. However, it was two years later (339 B.C.E.) in the war against Athens and Thebes-at the Battle of Chaeronea (pronounced kee-ROH-nee-ah)-that he first displayed his legendary bravery and tenacity. While Philip's troops drove the Athenian soldiers away, Alexander led a daring cavalry charge through the strongest part of the Theban line. The resulting victory allowed Philip to win control of all of Greece. It also allowed Alexander to share in the glory of conquest, a glory he would soon spread on his own far and wide as the leader of a vast empire</p>	
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<b>Article Title: <i>Background Information on Alexander the Great: Villain</i></b>	<b>Notes/Vocabulary:</b>
<p>1. Despite Alexander the Great's legacy, some historians tell a less complimentary version of his story. First, some attribute Alexander's military accomplishments to the formidable army left to him by his father, King Philip II. During his reign, Philip had reorganized, reformed, and strengthened the Macedonian army. When a Macedonian noble assassinated Philip in 336 B.C.E., Macedonia's army was the dominant military force in the region. At the time of Philip's death, the Macedonian army was prepared to pursue a goal he had set out to accomplish years earlier-the conquest of the powerful Persian Empire. With this force Alexander was able to spread Macedonian rule thousands of miles across Egypt, Persia, and India over the next 13 years.</p> <p>2. Second, although Alexander's military conquests of foreign lands were impressive, he neglected his own kingdom of Macedonia. Two years after he succeeded his murdered father, Alexander set out for the East to begin his military campaigns. He never returned home to Macedonia. In his absence, local military leaders abused their powers and rarely responded to the needs of the people.</p> <p>3. Critics of Alexander also decry his extreme emotional temperament, which may have resulted from his upbringing. Alexander's mother, Olympias, is said to have been a tempestuous woman who held strange religious beliefs. For example, Olympias supposedly kept a giant snake as a pet and spiritual advisor. Though she and Philip were</p>	

married for 20 years, they were not happy. Alexander and his mother were very close, and he often sided with her in arguments against his father. With Olympias's encouragement, Alexander grew up believing he was destined to accomplish great things and convinced he could surpass even his father in military greatness. When the bitterness between Philip and Olympias ended in divorce, Alexander and his mother fled to her homeland in northwestern Greece. Although Alexander and his father eventually reconciled, Alexander's unstable childhood made him prone to emotional outbursts throughout his life.

4. Alexander's troops and closest advisors were most likely to feel his wrath and emotional instability. Alexander demanded and received the utmost allegiance and obedience from them. Yet, he was often brutal to them despite their loyalty. Furthermore, his fierce temper and heavy consumption of alcohol frequently caused him to make poor decisions, resulting in excessive casualties in battle. Alexander's mistreatment of his men, and his relentless pursuit of conquering new lands, eventually caused his own troops to rebel against him. In 326 B.C.E., after they had journeyed thousands of miles for months in brutal weather, his army demanded that they return home. With reluctance and anger, Alexander agreed. On this return trip, Alexander became very ill while his forces were in Babylon (present-day Iraq), and he died in 323 B.C.E.
5. Finally, Alexander failed as a ruler in one important area: he neglected to designate a legitimate heir to succeed him. Shortly after his death, his empire crumbled. Various people, including his own relatives and generals, fought for control over the vast lands he had conquered.