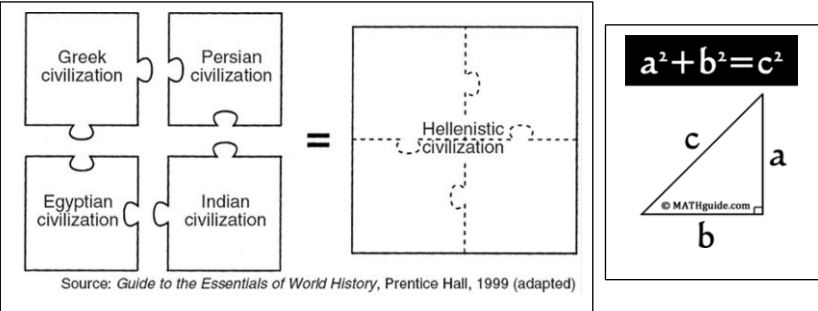
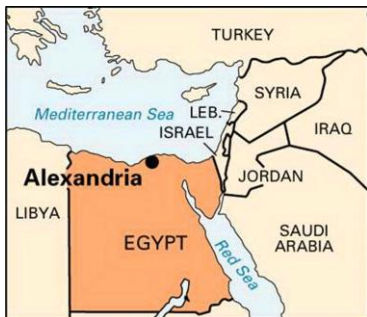
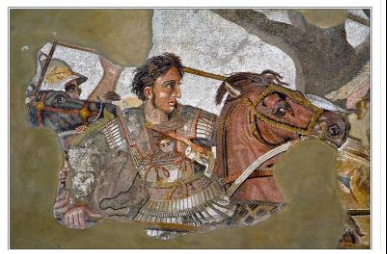
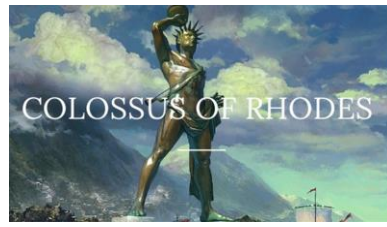
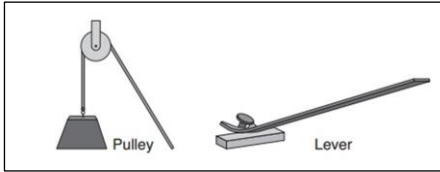


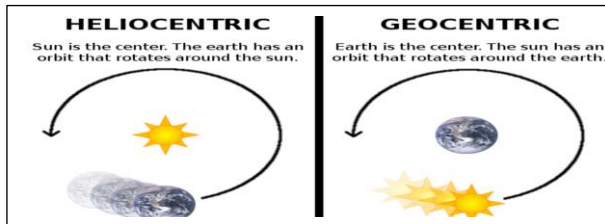
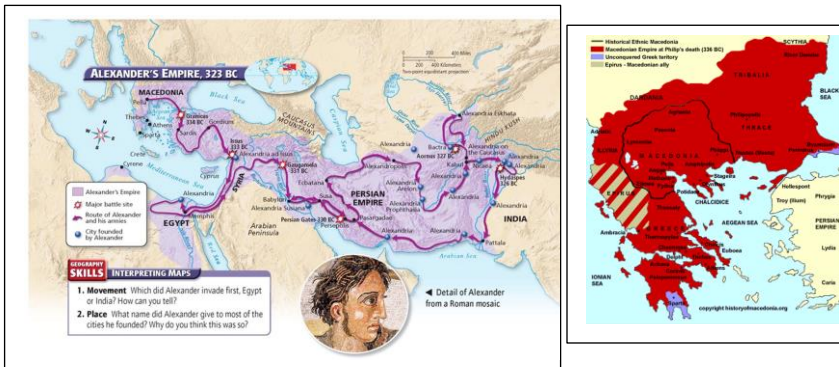
Aim #16: How did Alexander the Great expand his empire and spread Greek culture?

Alexander and the Hellenistic Age

NYS SS Framework: 9.3C



Source: Guide to the Essentials of World History, Prentice Hall, 1999 (adapted)



Hellenistic World

- Alexander the Great of Macedonia formed a huge empire that included all of Greece, the former Persian Empire, Syria, and Egypt.
- In his empire, Alexander encouraged the blending of native cultures with Greek.
- After Alexander died, his empire was divided among his generals. The result was three independent kingdoms, each with a Greek-influenced culture.
- Cities that Alexander founded such as Alexandria, Egypt, became great centers of learning and trade. Scholars in these cities made great advances in many fields.

Mini Lecture

- Soon after Macedonian king **Philip II** gained the throne in 359 B.C., he built a powerful army & eventually brought all of Greece under his control.
- Philip's next goal was to conquer the Persian empire. However, he was assassinated before he could.
- After Philip's death, his son, who came to be known as **Alexander the Great**, acquired the throne & began organizing forces to conquer Persia.
- Alexander was victorious. Once much of the Persian Empire fell under his control, he advanced into India. Unexpectedly in 323 B.C., Alexander died at the age of 33 in Persia from a fever.
- Although his empire collapsed soon after, he is credited with spreading Greek culture from Egypt to the borders of India.
- Local people assimilated, or absorbed, Greek ideas. In turn, Greek settlers adopted local customs. Gradually, a new **Hellenistic** culture emerged that blended Greek, Persian, Egyptian, & Indian influences.
- At the very heart of the Hellenistic world stood the magnificent city of **Alexandria**, founded in Egypt by Alexander. Its great library was among the greatest scientific & cultural centers of the age.
- Like Alexandria, cities of the Hellenistic world employed many architects & artists. Temples, palaces, & other public buildings were larger & **grandier** than the buildings of classical Greece. The elaborate new style reflected the desire of Hellenistic rulers to glorify themselves as godlike.
- During the Hellenistic age, scholars built on earlier Greek, Babylonian, & Egyptian knowledge. In mathematics, **Pythagoras** derived a formula to calculate the relationship between the sides of a right triangle.
- The astronomer **Aristarchus** developed the theory of a **heliocentric**, or sun-centered, solar system.
- Another scientist, **Archimedes**, applied the principles of physics to make practical inventions.
- In the field of medicine, the Greek physician **Hippocrates** studied the causes of illnesses & looked for cures.
- Greek works in the arts & sciences set a standard for later Europeans. Greek ideas about law, freedom, justice, & government continue to influence political thinking today.

Review Questions:

- How was Alexandria typical of a Hellenistic city?
- How did Alexander the Great's conquests help create a new Hellenistic culture?

Resources/Documents:

- Video on Alexander & Hellenism
- Excerpts on Alexander's Empire & Hellenistic culture
- Map & artwork of Alexander's empire & culture

Further Reading: Chapter 4, Section 5

What were the effects of Alexander the Great's empire?

Directions: Read the excerpt below and respond to the questions.

Alexander the Great was the son of Philip II of Macedon, the king of the area known as Macedonia, who **conquered Athens** in the 300s BCE. While in control of Athens and several other Greek city states, Philip II was **assassinated**. His son, Alexander, became the king. During his brief thirty-two years of life, Alexander led an army of Greeks to conquer an area that stretched from **Athens to India** and included **Persia**, the **Middle East**, and **Egypt**.

Alexander set-up cities throughout his **empire**, modeled them after Greek cities and spread Greek culture throughout the region. As a result, **Hellenistic culture**, a blend of Greek, Persian, and Indian traditions was created.

Alexander died in 323 BCE of illness and his empire soon **crumbled**, but his cultural **legacy** lasted for centuries.

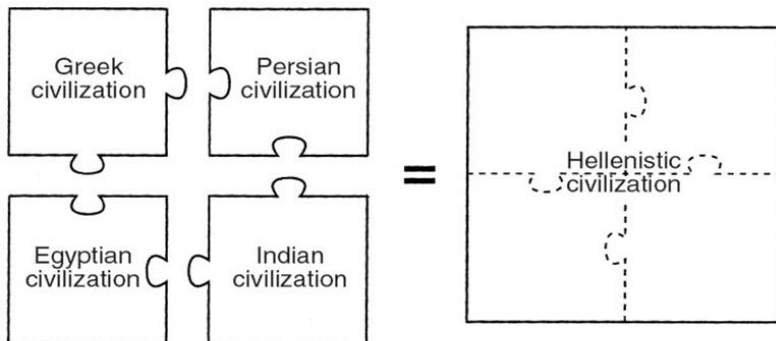
1. Who did Alexander the Great conquer?
2. What is Hellenistic culture?
3. Identify one way Alexander the Great spread Hellenistic culture?

Directions: Watch this video on "[Alexander the Great and the Birth of Hellenism](#)," then answer the questions below (Start at 2:45).

1. Why was Alexander so successful as a general and ruler?
2. How did Alexander unify his empire?
3. What happened to Alexander's empire after his death?

The Spread of Hellenistic Culture

Directions: Examine the image below and read the text. Then, respond to the questions.



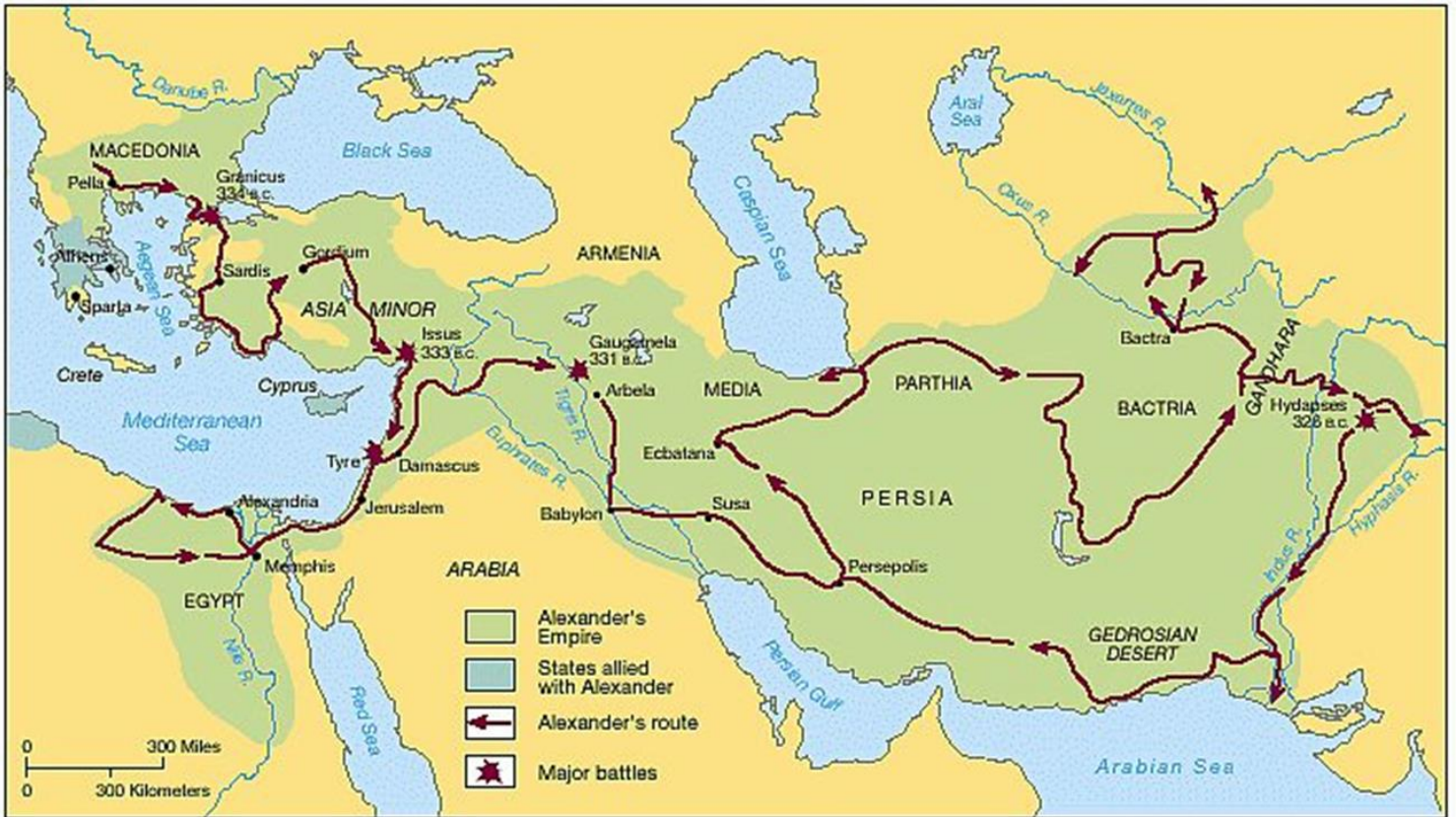
Source: *Guide to the Essentials of World History*, Prentice Hall, 1999 (adapted)

Hellenistic Culture is a combination of Greek, Persian, and Indian art, philosophy, science, math, architecture, and traditions that were created through contact between people ruled by Alexander the Great and spread by those that traveled in his empire.

What is Hellenistic culture?

How did Hellenistic culture spread?

Directions: Examine the map below, then fill out the chart with what you see, think and wonder about Alexander the Great and Hellenistic culture.



<p style="text-align: center;">See</p> <p>List three things you <i>see</i> in the image above.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Think</p> <p>Based on your observations, what impact do you think Alexander the Great's empire had?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wonder</p> <p>Write two questions you have about the map above.</p>
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Directions: Examine the artwork/map and answer the questions that follow.



A capital (top) of a Greek Corinthian pillar, from the *tholos* at Epidaurus (Archaeological Museum of Epidaurus)



Coin from Athens, 467-465 BC. Silver Dekadrachm (43.38 g). Head of the goddess Athena right, Back: AΘΗΝΑΙΩΝ - of Athenians), owl standing facing, wings spread; olive sprig and crescent to upper left



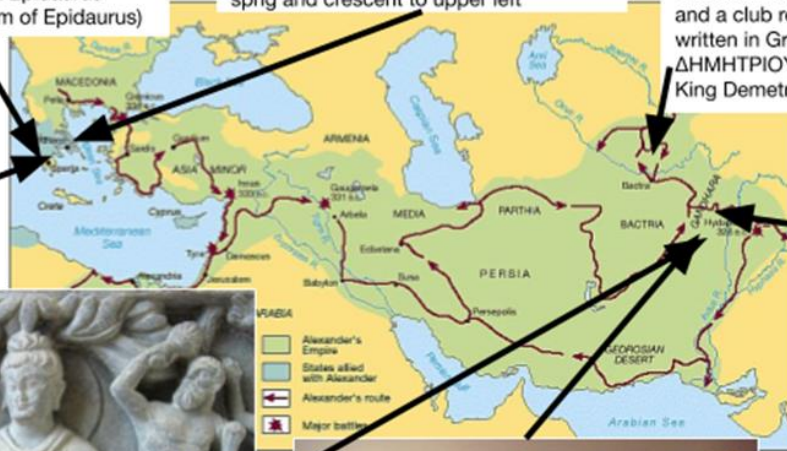
Silver coin depicting the Greco-Bactrian king Demetrius I (200-180 BC) wearing an elephant scalp, symbol of his conquest of India. **Back:** Herakles (Hercules), holding a lion skin and a club resting over the arm. The text, written in Greek reads: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ - *BASILEŌS DEMĒTRIOU* "of King Demetrius".



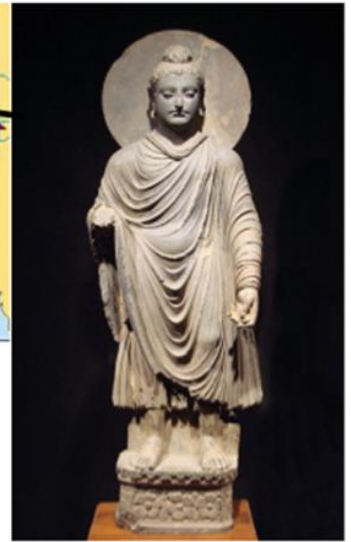
Statue of the Greek goddess Athena. Marble, Roman copy after a Greek original of the late 5th century BCE.



Heracles depiction of Vajrapani as the protector of the Buddha, 2nd century Gandhara, British Museum.



An Indo-Corinthian capital with the Buddha at its centre, 3-4th century, Gandhara.



One of the first representations of the Buddha, 1st-2nd century AD, Gandhara: Standing Buddha (Tokyo National Museum).

1. List three things you see in the image above.

2. Based on your observations, what impact do you think Alexander the Great's empire had?