

0. Alexander the Great - Story Preface

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Statue of Alexander the Great. Maintained at the Istanbul Archaeology Museum. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

*Ever to be best
and stand
Far above all others.*

Allegedly One of Alexander's Favorite Lines from Homer

Alexander the Great was born at the right time, with the right genes, and the right personality. By the time he died, at age 33, he ruled over 2 million square miles. He never lost a battle (except one against nature). Few men have changed the world as much as he.

Taught by Aristotle, the young prince had other advantages. Through his mother, Olympias, he was descended (it is said) from Achilles. Through his murdered father, Philip II of Macedon (pronounced "Bilip" by his countrymen), he inherited a great army.

Propelled by ambition and brilliant strategy, Alexander was a military genius. Thousands of years later he was still a role model for would-be conquerors, like Napoleon Bonaparte.

Who was Alexander? What did he look like? Do any of his own writings survive? Although many of his generals lived to be old men, why did he die at such a young age? Do we have facts, or merely legends, about him?

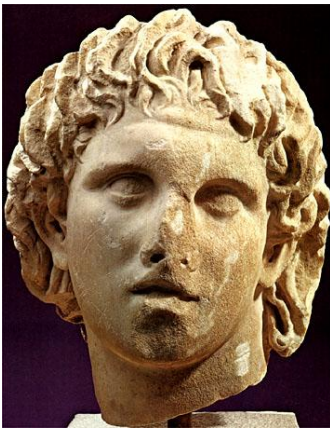
Turns out, "the greatest legend of all was real."

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Alexander-the-Great0)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Alexander-the-Great0)

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Alexander the Great - Recorded in History

Online image, courtesy The Honors College at the University of Maine.

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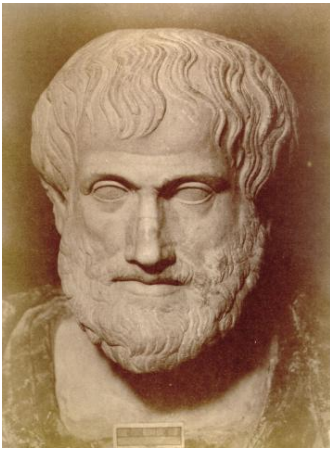


Alexander the Great - Path of Conquests

Image online, courtesy the nyc.gov website.

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Aristotle - Teacher of Alexander the Great

Image online, courtesy National Museum of Rome.

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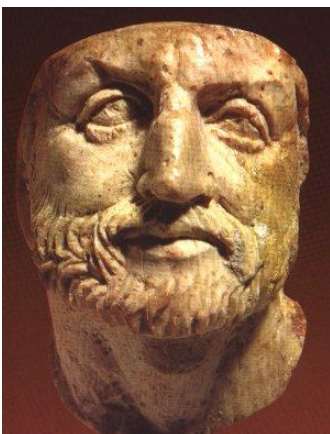


Queen Olympias - Mother of Alexander the Great

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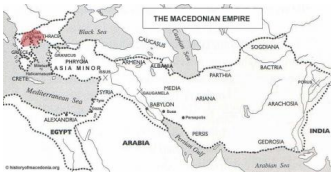


Philip II, King of Macedonia - Father of Alexander the Great

Online image, courtesy of the livius.org website.

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The Macedonian Empire

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Napoleon Bonaparte - Inspired by Alexander the Great

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Alexander the Great

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