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Pella, which was a waterfront town at the time of Alexander the Great, is landlocked today. This drawing, by Marsyas, depicts its location. License: [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

What was life like in Pella, where both Alexander and his father were born? The town, and its royal sites, have been archeologically rediscovered during the past fifty years, thereby allowing us to examine the place where the future conqueror spent his youth.

Ancient Pella was connected to the sea (the Thermaic Gulf) by a navigable inlet. Because the harbor silted over long ago, however, the site is landlocked today.

Based on remains, scholars have reconstructed the royal palace. They have also unearthed other important places and artifacts:

- The palace court (although scholars believe the mosaic floors are post-Alexander);
- Bust of Alexander the Great, found at Pella;
- Ancient pipes uncovered in modern excavations;
- A Macedonian gold crown worn by royalty.

Alexander's future conquests made himself, and his people, wealthy. That wealth is reflected in today's archeological finds at the old Macedonian capital. Some of the oldest mosaics in the world have been unearthed at Pella.

Among the treasures (from a time following Alexander) are:

- A mythological god (Dionysus) riding a leopard;
- Two warriors (the one on the left is Alexander) fighting a lion;

- A mythological centaur.

The Romans sacked Pella in 168 B.C., and took its treasury to Rome. In the first century B.C., an earthquake destroyed the town.

Modern archeologists have uncovered stores, and workshops, with their goods still recognizable. Residents rebuilt the city over its ruins, thereby preserving them.

Long before the earthquake rocked Pella, however, a man-made incident rocked Philip's kingdom. It happened unexpectedly, during a time of celebration.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/ALEXANDER-S-HOMETOWN-Alexander-the-Great>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/ALEXANDER-S-HOMETOWN-Alexander-the-Great>

Media Stream



Pella Today - Alexander's Birthplace

Image online, courtesy the liceorescigno.gov.it website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pella-Today-Alexander-s-Birthplace>

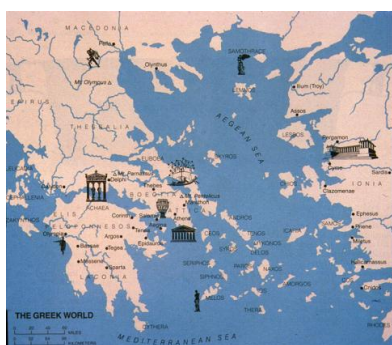


Ancient Pella - Map Locator

Image online, courtesy wikibooks.org website.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ancient-Pella-Map-Locator>

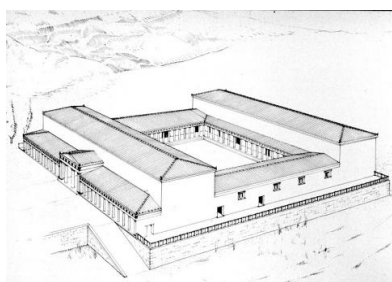


The Ancient Greek World

Image online, courtesy the University of Texas at Austin.

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Royal Palace of Alexander

This [drawing](#) is provided by Papalexiou Constantine (at a Greek-language website).

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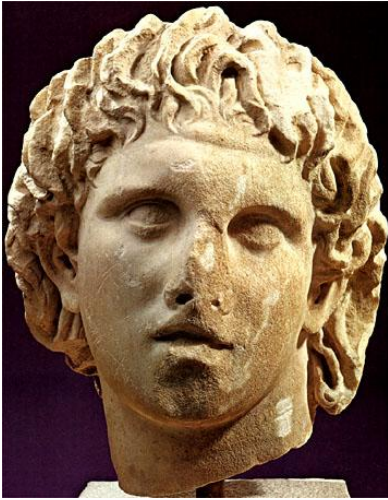


Palace Court of Alexander

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Alexander the Great

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

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Ancient Palace Ruins - Pella, Macedonia

Image online, courtesy the greatcommission.com website.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ancient-Palace-Ruins-Pella-Macedonia>



Macedonian Gold Crown

Image online, courtesy Dr. Burnshead website.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Macedonian-Gold-Crown>



Alexander in a Mosaic

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Alexander the Warrior

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Archeological Site of Lion Hunting Mosaic

Image online, courtesy flickr.com website.

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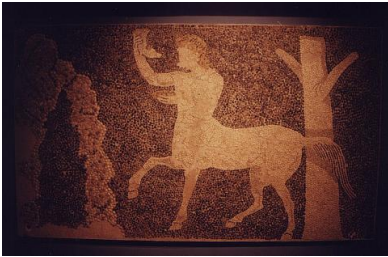


Artistic Mosaic Floor - Pella, Macedonia

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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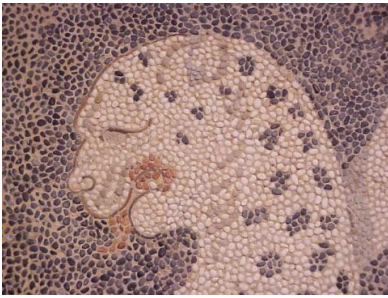


Centaur - Half Man Half Horse

Image online, courtesy the greatcommission.com website.

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Closeup of Leopard in Mosaic of Dionysus

Image online, courtesy [The Silk Route](#) website.

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Alexander and Craterus Fight a Lion

This photo was taken by miriam.mollerus in March, 2009. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Location of Pella

Image, described above, uploaded to Wikimedia Commons by Marsyas.

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Mosaic Floor from Royal City of Pella

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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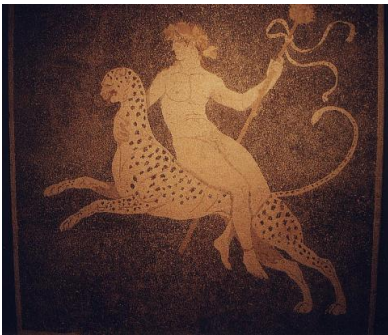


Mosaic Floor of Palace Court

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Mosaic of Greek God Dionysus

Image online, courtesy macedonian-heritage.gr website.

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