

## Alexander the Great Histories

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Non-fiction Reading and Analysis

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Alexander the Great:

'Your ancestors invaded [Macedonia](#) [3] and the rest of Greece [4] and did us harm although we had not done you any previous injury. I have been appointed commander-in-chief of the Greeks and it is with the aim of punishing the Persians that I have crossed into Asia, since you are the aggressors. You gave support to the people of Perinthus, who had done my father harm, and Ochus [5] sent a force to Thrace, which was under our rule. My father died at the hand of conspirators instigated by you [6], as you yourself boasted to everybody in your letters, you killed Arsēs [2] with the help of [Bagoas](#) [7] and gained your throne through unjust means, in defiance of Persian custom and doing wrong to the Persians. You sent unfriendly letters to the Greeks about me, to push them to war against me, and sent money to the Spartans and some other Greeks, which none of the other cities would accept apart from the Spartans. Your envoys corrupted my friends and sought to destroy the peace which I established among the Greeks [8].'

- 1.) Based on previous knowledge, to whom is Alexander talking? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) What does Alexander accuse this person of doing? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) What can you infer about Alexander and the meaning of this letter? \_\_\_\_\_

The following is an excerpt from an Alexander speech shortly after the Hydaspes River Battle.

"I could not have blamed you for being the first to lose heart if I, your commander, had not shared in your exhausting marches and your perilous campaigns; it would have been natural enough if you had done all the work merely for others to reap the reward. But it is not so. You and I, gentlemen, have shared the labor and shared the danger, and the rewards are for us all. The conquered territory belongs to you; from your ranks the governors of it are chosen; already the greater part of its treasure passes into your hands, and when all Asia is overrun, then indeed I will go further than the mere satisfaction of our ambitions: the utmost hopes of riches or power which each one of you cherishes will be far surpassed, and whoever wishes to return home will be allowed to go, either with me or without me. I will make those who stay the envy of those who return."

- 1.) How does Alexander hope to rally the men to continue the fight? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) Based on your own knowledge of Alexander, explain any statements that you think are untrue and explain why.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following passage was written by Plutarch, a famous Greek historian.

“When he came to Thebes, to show how willing he was to accept of their repentance for what was past, he only demanded of them Phoenix and Prothytes, the authors of the rebellion, and proclaimed a general pardon to those who would come over to him. But when the Thebans merely retorted by demanding Philotas and Antipater to be delivered into their hands, and by a proclamation on their part invited all who would assert the liberty of Greece to come over to them, he presently applied himself to make them feel the last extremities of war. The Thebans indeed defended themselves with a zeal and courage beyond their strength, being much outnumbered by their enemies. But when the Macedonian garrison sallied out upon them from the citadel, they were so hemmed in on all sides that the greater part of them fell in the battle; the city itself being taken by storm, was sacked and razed. Alexander's hope being that so severe an example might terrify the rest of Greece into obedience, and also in order to gratify the hostility of his confederates, the Phocians and Plataeans. So that, except the priests, and some few who had heretofore been the friends and connections of the Macedonians, the family of the poet Pindar, and those who were known to have opposed the public vote for the war, all the rest, to the number of thirty thousand, were publicly sold for slaves; and it is computed that upwards of six thousand were put to the sword.”

1.) What famous event is Plutarch describing? \_\_\_\_\_

2.) How had the people of Thebes defied Alexander's request? \_\_\_\_\_

3.) At this point, do you feel Alexander was justified in carrying out these punishments? Why or why not?

---

---