

Name _____

Alexander the Great and His Empire

Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great, planned to take advantage of the wars between the Greek city-states to conquer them. How successful do you think his plan will be?

Background: The Peloponnesian War left the Greek city-states divided and weak.

Questions to Consider:

1. On a sports team, what are the advantages of team members fighting among themselves? What are the disadvantages?
2. What do you think the advantages and disadvantages were of the constant fighting among the Greek city-states?
3. If team members are constantly fighting among themselves, is it more or less likely that they will be beaten by another team? Why?
4. Do you think the wars between the Greek city-states made them more or less able to resist Philip? Why?

Rate Philip's plan to defeat the Greek city-states by taking advantage of the wars between them. Be prepared to give two reasons for your rating.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very unsuccessful						Very successful

How successful was Philip's plan?

Alexander planned to use both terror and kindness to conquer an empire. How successful do you think his plan will be?

Background: Alexander was well trained to be a leader because Aristotle had taught him such important subjects as public speaking, science, and philosophy, as well as an appreciation of Greek culture.

Alexander decided to attack Persia because he thought a common enemy would unite the Greeks. He also wanted to increase his wealth.

Questions to Consider:

1. Who is more likely to get you to do something: someone who threatens to beat you up if you don't, or someone who offers you money if you do?
2. Why do you think Alexander planned to destroy some of the cities he conquered and sell the people into slavery? Do you think this was a good idea or a bad idea? Why?
3. Why do you think Alexander planned to rebuild destroyed property in some cities he conquered and appoint local leaders to rule? Do you think this was a good idea or a bad idea? Why?

Rate Alexander's plan to use terror and kindness to conquer an empire. Be prepared to give two reasons for your rating.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very unsuccessful						Very successful

How successful was Alexander's plan?

Alexander planned to use religion to get people to accept him as their leader. He thought this would unite the people of his empire. How successful do you think his plan will be?

Background: Alexander believed that people would be more willing to accept him as a leader if he respected their religion by honoring their gods. He also encouraged the idea that he was a god so that people would obey his order.

Questions to Consider:

1. Do you think it is important for your leader to follow the same religion as you do? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think Alexander treated all religions as equal? Do you think this was a good idea or a bad idea? Why?
3. If people believed that Alexander was a god, how might they feel about things he did?
4. If people did not think Alexander was a god, how might they feel about the fact that he said he was a god?

Rate Alexander's plan to use religion to get people to accept him as their leader. Be prepared to give two reasons for your rating.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very unsuccessful						Very successful

How successful was Alexander's plan?

Alexander planned to unite the people he conquered by adopting some of their cultural practices. How successful do you think his plan will be in uniting his empire?

Background: Alexander adopted the Persian style of government. He began wearing Persian-style clothes. He received official visitors in a luxurious tent as Persian kings did. He demanded visitors greet him in the Persian way by kneeling and touching the head to the ground. Finally, he married the daughter of a Persian king.

Questions to Consider:

1. When people live in another country, do you think they should dress like the people in that country, or wear the same clothes they usually wear? Why?
2. Why do you think Alexander wore Persian clothes? Do you think this was a good idea or a bad idea?
3. Suppose a child has a mother from one country and a father from another country. How might that affect the languages the child speaks, the foods he or she eats, and the holidays he or she celebrates?
4. Why do you think Alexander encouraged marriages between Macedonians and Persians? Do you think this was a good idea or a bad idea? Why?

Rate Alexander's plan to unite his empire by accepting foreign ways and encouraging Macedonians to do the same. Be prepared to give two reasons for your rating.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very unsuccessful						Very successful

How successful was Alexander's plan?