



## Macedonian Men

### Springboard:

Students should read “Macedonia” and answer the questions.

**Objective:** The student will be able to explain how King Philip of Macedonia and Alexander the Great built a short-lived Macedonian Empire.

**Materials:** Macedonia (Springboard handouts)  
I Am a Macedonian Man (transparency)

**Terms to know:** **legions** – large divisions of military forces

### Procedure:

- After reviewing the Springboard, explain that *in this lesson students will be learning more about Alexander the Great who is considered to be among the world’s greatest generals of all time.*
- Display the “I Am a Macedonian Man” transparency. Have students practice reading (or rapping) the poem.
- Then explain that *the poem only tells a small part of the story of this great general.* Go on to explain that *students will be doing research in order to add to the rap so it tells the whole tale.*
- Have students work individually, in pairs, or small groups to research Alexander the Great. Using the Internet or media resources, they should find information from a time in his life not already included in the rap and use what they learn to write at least one more verse to add to the poem. (**NOTE:** They may also want to change the rap, which is fine.)
- Have students share their products, adding them to the existing poem wherever appropriate. Then let students practice rapping the completed version.
- Students should then answer the Objective question about the Macedonian Empire.



# Macedonia



People have lived in Macedonia since prehistoric times, but the people who called themselves Macedonians came to the land in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BCE. Their kingdom ruled over the region north of Greece until the 4<sup>th</sup> century, when Philip of Macedonia and his son, Alexander III, conquered many foreign lands and people to establish a vast empire under their control. The Peloponnesian War and Spartan rule thereafter had greatly weakened the Greeks, allowing the Macedonians to defeat them and take control of their land.

Fortunately the Macedonian kings were highly educated and greatly respected the Greeks and of their achievements. So as their empire grew, they spread knowledge and Greek culture to places that came under their control. At its greatest extent, Macedonia ruled lands in Europe, Asia, and Africa. After Alexander the Great's death in 323 BC, Macedonia's empire split into three parts: Egypt was ruled by the Ptolemy Dynasty; Asia Minor and Persia came under the Seleucid Empire, and Greece was controlled by the Antigonid Dynasty of Macedonia. Then gradually, most of the former Macedonian Empire fell under control of a new and growing power, Rome.

## The Macedonian Empire

- A. extended from the Mediterranean to India.
- B. was first established in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BCE.
- C. ruled over most of Europe, Africa, and Asia.
- D. was ruled by Greek and Roman monarchs.

According to information in the reading, Philip of Macedonia was the

- A. first Macedonian king.
- B. greatest general of the period.
- C. last Macedonian monarch.
- D. father of Alexander the Great.

Based on information in the passage, the Macedonian Empire lasted

- A. less than 100 years.
- B. 100 to 150 years
- C. 150 to 200 years.
- D. more than 200 years.

# Macedonia - Answers & Explanations



People have lived in Macedonia since prehistoric times, but the people who called themselves Macedonians came to the land in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BCE. Their kingdom ruled over the region north of Greece until the 4<sup>th</sup> century, when Philip of Macedonia and his son, Alexander III, conquered many foreign lands and people to establish a vast empire under their control. The Peloponnesian War and Spartan rule thereafter had greatly weakened the Greeks, allowing the Macedonians to defeat them and take control of their land.

Fortunately the Macedonian kings were highly educated and greatly respected the Greeks and of their achievements. So as their empire grew, they spread knowledge and Greek culture to places that came under their control. At its greatest extent, Macedonia ruled lands in Europe, Asia, and Africa. After Alexander the Great's death in 323 BC, Macedonia's empire split into three parts: Egypt was ruled by the Ptolemy Dynasty; Asia Minor and Persia came under the Seleucid Empire, and Greece was controlled by the Antigonid Dynasty of Macedonia. Then gradually, most of the former Macedonian Empire fell under control of a new and growing power, Rome.

The Macedonian Empire

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*(Students have to use the map to answer and must figure out that the dotted line defines the empire.)*

According to information in the reading, Philip of Macedonia was the

- A. first Macedonian king.
- B. greatest general of the period.
- C. last Macedonian monarch.
- D. father of Alexander the Great. \*

*(A and C are false, and B cannot be determined and is also false. Students can conclude that Alexander III was "the Great.")*

Based on information in the passage, the Macedonian Empire lasted

- A. less than 100 years. \*
- B. 100 to 150 years
- C. 150 to 200 years.
- D. more than 200 years.

*(The empire was established in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE and ended in 323 BCE, still in the 4<sup>th</sup> century.)*



# *I Am a Macedonian Man*

My name is Alexander and I'm not Greek  
Though I will tell you what I think  
The Greeks are smart and very clever  
But even so, they really never  
Stood a chance against the many legions  
Of our soldiers when it was their season.  
It makes me proud and here's the reason:  
I am a Macedonian man.

Philip was my father, King by name  
Winning in wars was his favorite game;  
He conquered Greece, Illyria and Thrace  
And Asia Minor, that Turkish place;  
Now all his victories gave me a taste  
For war and winning, and getting my face  
In history; which I did and so can base  
My pride on saying, "I am a Macedonian man."

Some say my mother was a goddess  
Which could be, since her name was Olympias  
From the sacred mountain or close nearby  
My family line would take me high  
Yet I still believed I had to try  
To study hard and learn my letters  
From the Greek Aristotle; who could be better?  
To set my path and help me mature  
Secure, and sure that I am Macedonian man.

My father was away at war, you see  
And left the governing up to me  
To rule as king and be regent so he  
Could build an empire round the southern sea  
And even further if it were to be  
But it wasn't; 'cause he was killed  
And I took the throne with a strength of will  
To fill his shoes, remembering still  
That I am a Macedonian man.