Lesson 3 ALEXANDER THE GREAT

A WHY WAS HE "THE GREAT"?

Mark asked Kostas why Alexander was such a great leader. Kostas found this text.

Alexander was born in 356 BC in Pella, Macedonia to King Philip II. At 20, after his father's murder, he became king. From the age of 22 until his death at 33 he conquered most of the known world, reaching as far as India.

1. The Persians were his major enemy. They were very strong in sea power. Alexander did not have a strong navy. He was afraid of the Persian navy. In order to stop the Persian navy he did not attack the ships. Instead he destroyed their ports.
2. In the battle of the river Issus, he did not feel strong. So he changed tactics. He himself led a focussed attack on Darius, the Persian king. Darius's personal guard did not hold the attack. Darius withdrew and his troops followed.
3. Alexander wanted to capture Tyre, a city on an island very near to the coast of today's Lebanon. Tyre was very difficult to conquer. After several months of attack by sea Alexander changed tactics. He built a causeway. This way his troops marched up to the walls. They used land attack tactics Tyre was captured soon afterwards.
4. Alexander wanted to control the lands he had conquered. In order to do so, he told his troops to live there. This way the ancient Greek culture and language spread to those lands.

Choose one of the following statements which show Alexander was a great leader. Explain why.

a. Alexander did not have a navy. Nevertheless he stopped the Persian navy.
b. At the battle of the River Issus he defeated the Persians, who had a bigger army.
c. Alexander captured the town of Tyre, which everyone thought impossible.
d. He controlled the lands he conquered well.

(text by the school book for E class by the Greek Ministry of Education)

Read the text and answer the questions:

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1. When was Alexander born?

2. Where was he born?

3. At what age did he become King?

4. Who was his major enemy?

5. Did he have a strong navy?

6. How did he stop the Persian navy?

7. Who was Darius?

8. Where was Tyre?

9. How did Alexander capture Tyre?

10. How did the ancient Greek culture and language spread to the lands he conquered?

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Did you know that there is a song about Alexander the Great by Iron Maiden, one of the most successful and famous English heavy metal bands? You can watch and listen to it below:

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