

## YEAR 3: ANCIENT GREECE- UNIT 2 (5 lessons)



### Contents Include:

Greek Philosophy

The Rise of Alexander the Great

Alexander's conquests

The death and legacy of Alexander

### Suggested Teacher Resources:

- *A Little History of the World* by Ernst Gombrich (chapters 7, 8, 9 and 10).
- *Ancient Greece* by Andrew Solway (illustrated by Peter Connolly).
- The BBC has a good section on teaching Ancient Greece in the primary school, with a good range of images and information. Click [here](#).
- Scenes from films such as *300* (2006), *Troy* (2004), and *Alexander* (2004).

# Lesson 1. Great Thinkers in Athens

*The impact of Ancient Greece on Western Philosophy is hard to overstate. Whilst the Romans were more militarily successful with a greater Empire, the Greeks always retained intellectual dominance, founding the basic principles of science, mathematics and medicine. This lesson should simply introduce the pupils to the idea that the Greek philosophers liked to ask questions about life. This can be done through teaching them about the lives of the three most important Greek philosophers, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. All three studied in Athens, Plato as a pupil of Socrates, and Aristotle as a student of Plato.*

**See pages 155-156 of *What Your Year 3 Child Needs to Know*.**

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
<p>To gain an introduction to Greek philosophy and the sorts of questions it posed.</p>	<p>The Ancient Greeks gave birth to philosophy, meaning 'love of wisdom'.</p> <p>The three most important philosophers of Ancient Greece were Plato, Aristotle and Socrates.</p> <p>They asked questions about what it means to be a good person, how people should be governed, and what is the nature of truth.</p>	<p>Explain a potted biography of the three main Greek philosophers, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. <a href="#">This</a>, <a href="#">this</a> and <a href="#">this</a> from Horrible Histories may help. Then do an information sort about the three philosophers (<b>resource 7</b>). Study the famous painting, <a href="#">The School of Athens</a>.</p> <p>Challenge the class to come up with some of their own philosophical questions, and write them into the thought bubbles on a worksheet.</p> <p>Pose some simple philosophical questions to the class: What is stronger, love or hate?; Should only clever people rule a country?; Does money make you happy?; What does it mean to be happy?; Is it ever right to lie?</p>	<p>philosophy</p>	<p><i>What does philosophy mean?</i></p> <p><i>Who were the three main Greek philosophers?</i></p> <p><i>What sorts of questions do philosophers ask?</i></p>

# 7. The Greek Philosophers

Learn about the lives of these three great philosophers, then try to group the five descriptions under the correct name.

SOCRATES

PLATO

ARISTOTLE

He is seen by many as the father of modern science.	He was born in 470 BC.	He thought a lot about government, and did not like democracy.
He was the tutor to famous Greek ruler Alexander the Great.	He was born in 428 BC.	He was a student of Socrates.
He taught by always asking questions—the 'Socratic Method'	He believed the greatest aim in life was to be good, or 'virtuous'.	He loved mathematics, and thought that people should be logical.
He was executed by Athens for asking too many questions.	Founded the 'Academy' in Athens—the first ever university	He was a student of Plato.
He was born in 384 BC.	He had many ideas about what it meant to be a good person.	He was famously ugly—many said he looked like a monkey.

# 7. The Greek Philosophers

(comp.)

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## ARISTOTLE

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He thought a lot about government, and did not like democracy.

He loved mathematics, and thought that people should be logical.

Founded the ‘Academy’ in Athens—the first ever university

# Lesson 2. The young Alexander

*Alexander the Great is one of the most important figures in the history of the world. Born in 356 BC, he became king of Macedonia in northern Greece aged only 19. As a child, he was tutored by the great Athenian philosopher Aristotle in philosophy, poetry, drama, science and politics. Once he grew up to be king, Alexander combined great intelligence with fierce courage. There are many famous stories about Alexander's youth which told people of the king he was likely to become. One of them was the story of how he tamed a wild horse named Bucephalus, by noticing that the horse was afraid of its own shadow.*

**See pages 158-159 of *What Your Year 3 Child Needs to Know*.**

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
<p>To understand how Alexander's upbringing helped him to become a great king.</p>	<p>Alexander the Great is one of the most important figures in world history.</p> <p>Alexander was born in 356 BC in a small kingdom in northern Greece called Macedonia. His father, King Phillip II of Macedon, had him tutored by the great Athenian philosopher Aristotle.</p> <p>According to legend, Alexander tamed a wild horse which was afraid of its shadow, and named it Bucephalus.</p>	<p><a href="#">This</a> is a good summary of Alexander the Great's life.</p> <p>Read the story of how Alexander the Great combined bravery and wisdom to tame the horse Bucephalus, and discuss what it tells us about Alexander as a young man. <a href="#">This</a> video shows Alexander taming Bucephalus.</p> <p>Write an account of an eyewitness who has seen Alexander tame the horse. Describe what happened, and predict what sort of king Alexander is likely to be on the basis of the event.</p>	<p>Bucephalus Macedonia</p>	<p><i>When was Alexander the Great born?</i></p> <p><i>Where was Alexander the Great born?</i></p> <p><i>How did Alexander tame Bucephalus at a young age?</i></p> <p><i>What did Alexander taming Bucephalus tell us about the sort of king he was likely to be?</i></p>

# Lesson 3. Alexander's conquest of Greece

Alexander became king of Macedonia aged 19, and by the age of 21 he had conquered the whole of Greece. Alexander's ambition was without limit, and he was extremely cruel in his efforts to unite each of the Greek city-states into one Empire. When the Greek city-state of Thebes rebelled against Alexander, he burned the city to the ground and sold the population of 30,000 citizens into slavery. This sent a clear message to the rest of Greece that Alexander was not to be opposed. The story of the Gordian Knot, which Alexander untangled by slicing in half, is often told to illustrate Alexander's ruthless ambition.

See pages 155-156 of *What Your Year 3 Child Needs to Know*.

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
<p>To understand what sort of military commander was Alexander the Great.</p>	<p>Having become King of Macedonia aged only 19, Alexander conquered the whole of Greece in just two years.</p> <p>Alexander was ruthless in his conquests, burning the ancient city-state of Thebes to the ground and selling its population into slavery.</p> <p>In one famous story, Alexander was challenged to untangle a rope known as the 'Gordian Knot'. He cut straight through it with his sword.</p>	<p>Re-enact the cutting of the Gordian knot in the classroom. Prepare a tightly tangled rope in which the ends are hidden within the knot. Tell the class that whoever can untie the knot, shall have the world as their kingdom. Ask a number of pupils to untie the knot. Hopefully, they will be unable to untie it. Then, choose one to act as Alexander, and cut straight through the knot with scissors (in place of Alexander's sword!).</p> <p>Write an account of an eyewitness who has seen Alexander cut the Gordian knot, and predict what sort of king Alexander is likely to be on the basis of the event.</p>	<p>Gordian knot</p>	<p><i>How quickly did Alexander conquer the whole of Greece?</i></p> <p><i>Was Alexander cruel in the way he did this?</i></p> <p><i>What was the Gordian knot?</i></p> <p><i>What can we tell about Alexander's character by the story of the Gordian knot?</i></p>

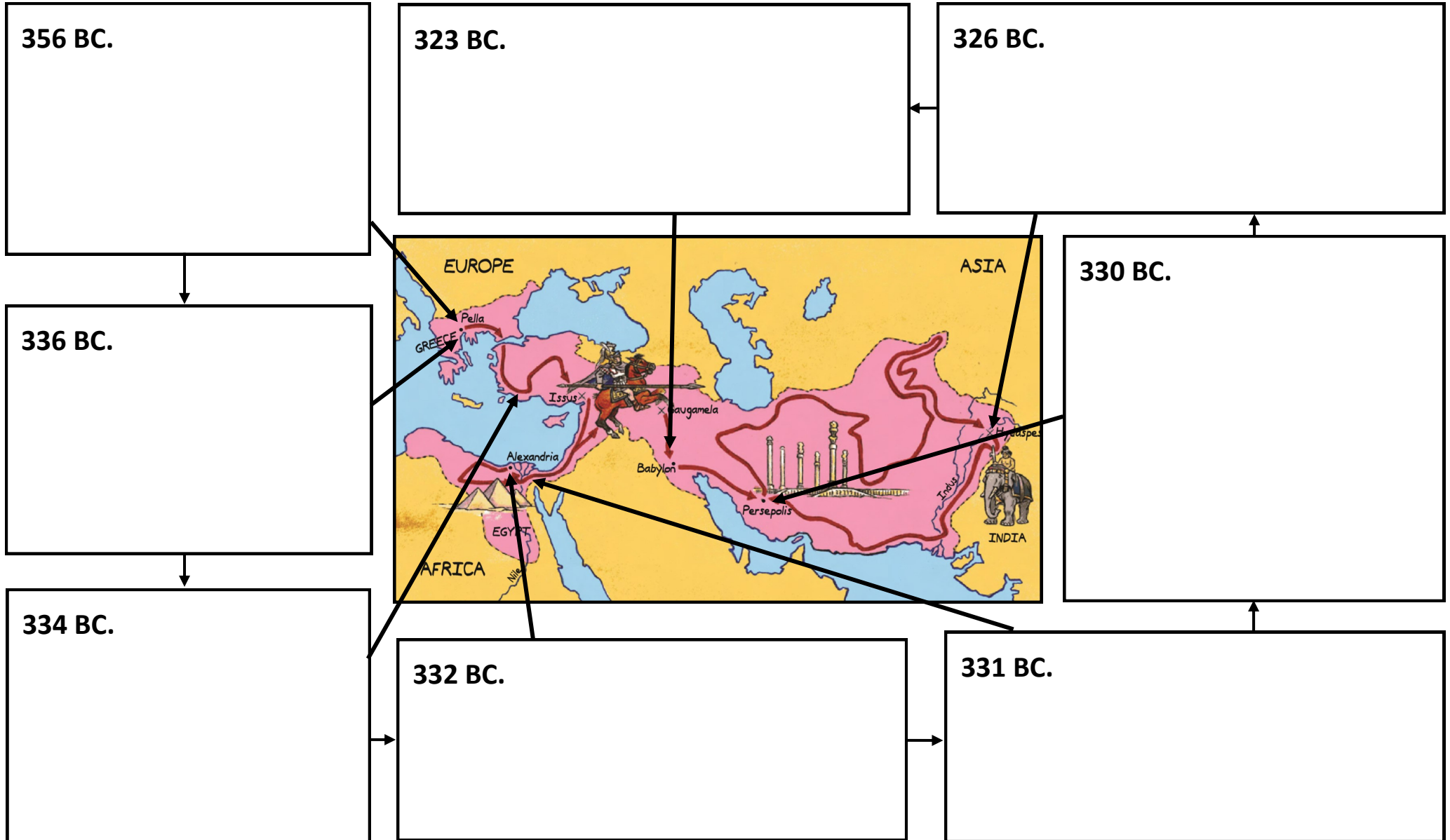
# Lesson 4. Alexander's Empire

*From Greece, Alexander invaded North Africa, and then Asia, conquering more land for his Greek Empire. The Persian Empire was the old enemy of Ancient Greece, and Alexander successfully took their land, killing King Darius III of Persia. The decisive event was the Battle of Guagamela, an amazing victory which saw the 26 year old Alexander's Greek forces defeat a Persian army five times its size. From there, Alexander carried on to the Persian city of Persepolis, and all the way to the Indus river in modern day Pakistan and India. Through near constant battle, Alexander conquered much of the known world.*

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Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
<p>To understand the geographical spread of Alexander's empire.</p>	<p>Having conquered the whole of Greece, Alexander spread his Empire further, conquering Egypt in north Africa, and then the whole of the Persian Empire in Asia.</p> <p>Alexander's greatest victory occurred at the Battle of Guagamela, where Alexander defeated an army five times the size of his own, and secured the death of the Persian King Darius.</p> <p>Alexander spread his Empire as far as the Indus river, which is the border of modern day India and Pakistan. He had conquered much of the known world.</p>	<p>Annotate a map of Alexander's victories, so that pupils understand the geography of Alexander the Great's campaign (<b>resource 2</b>). <a href="#">This</a> is a good horrible histories video about his habit of naming cities after himself.</p> <p>Study the Battle of Gaugamela. <a href="#">This</a> is a documentary, and <a href="#">this</a> is a clip from the film <i>Alexander</i> (2004). Pupils then imagine that they were a Greek hoplite at the battle, and write an account of what happened.</p> <p>Re-enact the Susa weddings in 324 BC. Alexander the Great married two Persian princesses named Stateira and Parysatis, and ordered his leading Greek officers do the same. These weddings intended to unite the Greek and Persian cultures.</p>	<p>empire Guegamela Persopolis Indus River</p>	<p><i>What did Alexander do having conquered the whole of Greece?</i></p> <p><i>Why was Alexander the Great so keen to defeat Persia?</i></p> <p><i>What was the name of the decisive battle in Alexander's defeat of Persia?</i></p> <p><i>How far east did Alexander spread his Greek Empire?</i></p>

# 9. Alexander the Great's Campaigns





# 9. Alexander the Great's Campaigns (complete)

**356 BC.** Alexander is born in Pella, in the North of Greece. His father, the King of Macedonia, had already conquered Athens.

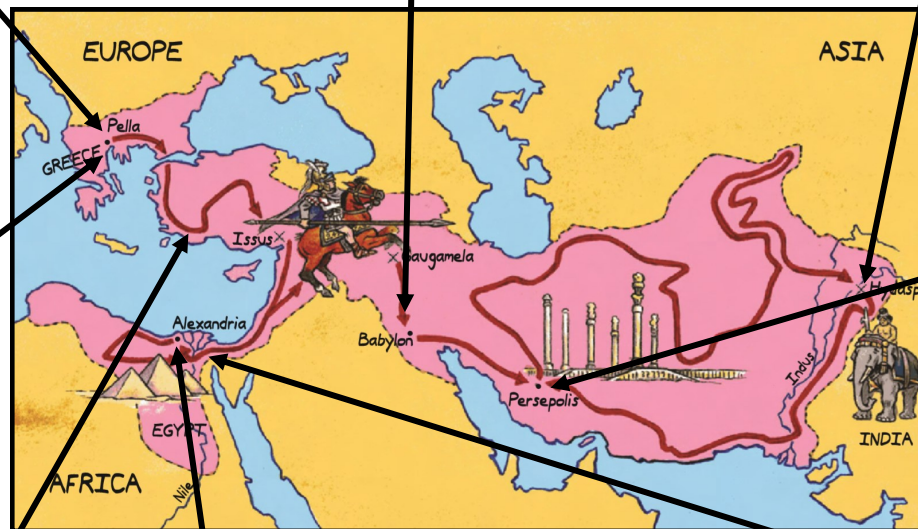
**336 BC.** Alexander becomes king aged 19. He quickly conquers all of Ancient Greece, and raises a great army.

**334 BC.** Alexander defeats the King Darius III, the powerful Persian King, and claims control of the Persian Empire.

**323 BC.** Alexander returns to the Persian city of Babylon after his Indian campaign. Two weeks after a night of heavy drinking, he dies, aged only 33.

**326 BC.** Alexander begins his campaign into northwest India (today's Pakistan). He fights many battles against Indian Kings and reaches the Himalayas.

**330 BC.** Alexander wins the Battle of Gaugamela, Alexander takes the Persian capital Persepolis, and burns it to the ground. King Darius III is killed, and Alexander is given the title 'King of Kings'.



**332 BC.** Alexander conquers Egypt in North Africa, and has himself proclaimed son of God and 'master of the universe' by the Egyptian Priests.

**331 BC.** Before leaving Egypt, Alexander founds a city named after himself, 'Alexandria'. He plans to build the world's greatest library there.

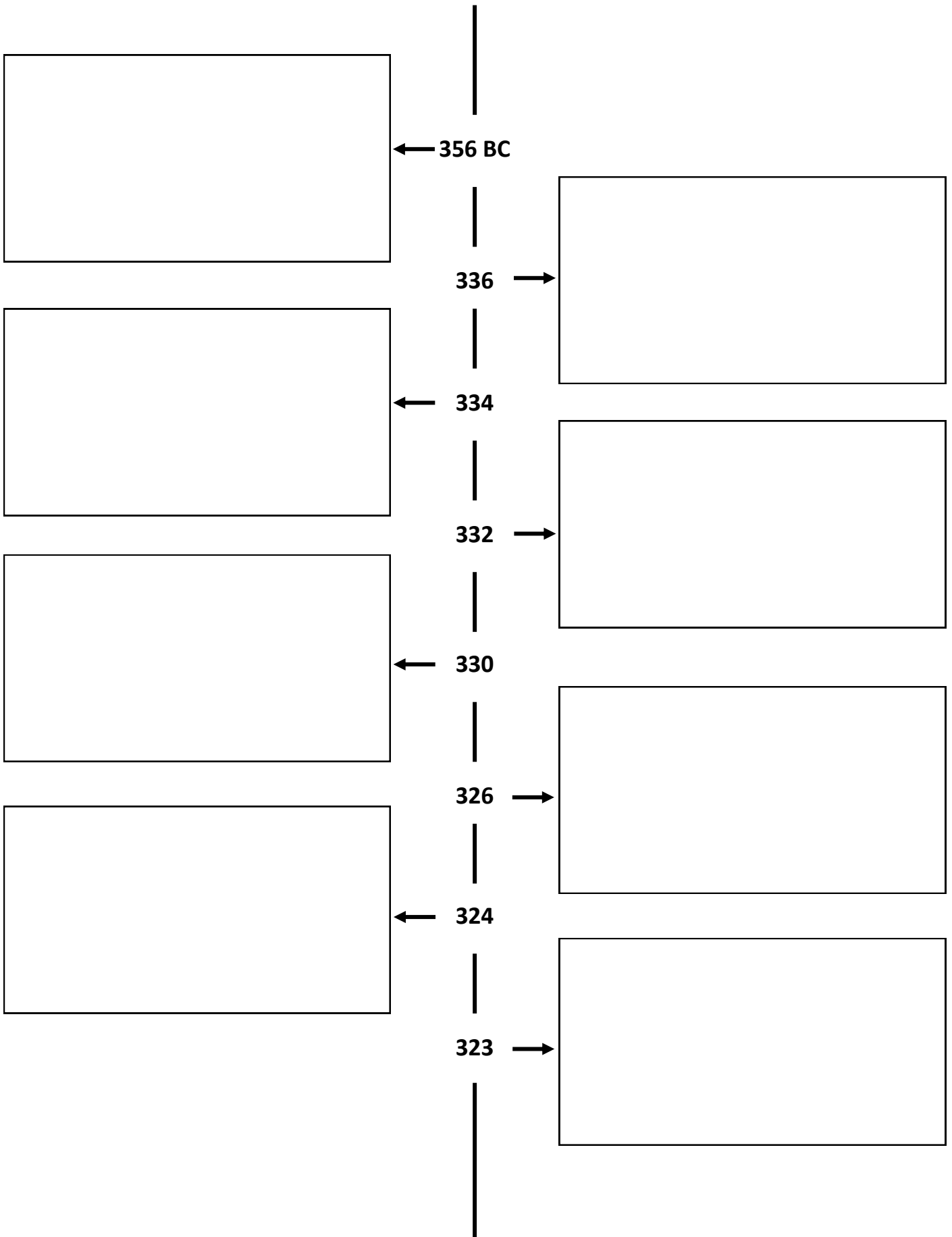
# Lesson 5. Alexander's death and legacy

*Alexander died aged 33 whilst holding court in the Persian city of Babylon, probably from typhoid fever, though many thought he was poisoned. In ten years, Alexander conquered the largest empire in human history, but he never lived long enough to rule it. After Alexander's sudden death, the Greek empire rapidly shrank as it divided into different warring kingdoms. However, Alexander's legacy was strongly felt in uniting Greek culture, known as 'hellenism', with Persian culture throughout the Europe and the middle east. Though he only lived for 3 years, Alexander the Great's legacy lasted for centuries.*

**See pages 155-156 of *What Your Year 3 Child Needs to Know*.**

Learning Objective	Core Knowledge	Activities for Learning	Related Vocabulary	Assessment Questions
<p>To understand the legacy of Alexander the Great.</p>	<p>Alexander the Great died aged just 33, whilst holding court in the Persian city of Babylon.</p> <p>Alexander spent his entire life on military campaign, so was never able to rule his empire. Once he died, the empire quickly broke up into warring factions.</p> <p>Alexander's Greek empire was very short lived, but its legacy was strong in uniting Greek and Persian ideas and culture, and spreading them across Europe and the middle east. There were some twenty cities named after him, most importantly, Alexandria in Egypt.</p>	<p>Complete a timeline of Alexander's life, marking all of his major achievements (<b>resource 3</b>).</p> <p>Write an obituary for Alexander the Great, explaining why he lead such a great life, and what were his greatest achievements.</p> <p><a href="#">This</a> is a good horrible histories song about Alexander the Great. <a href="#">This</a> is an extremely detailed map of Alexander's conquests and empire.</p>	<p>Hellenism legacy</p>	<p><i>How did Alexander the Great die?</i></p> <p><i>What happened to the Greek Empire after Alexander the Great's death?</i></p> <p><i>Why is Alexander the Great remembered as such a significant historical figure?</i></p>

# 5. Alexander timeline



# 5. Alexander timeline (comp)

