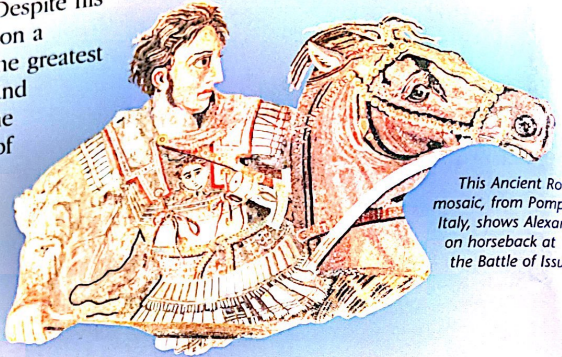


# ALEXANDER THE GREAT

When Alexander became King of Macedonia in 336BC, he was only 20. Despite his youth, he immediately embarked on a military campaign that won him the greatest empire the world had ever seen and earned him the title "Alexander the Great". He was a military genius of extraordinary energy and courage, who inspired great loyalty in his soldiers.



*This Ancient Roman mosaic, from Pompeii in Italy, shows Alexander on horseback at the Battle of Issus.*

## VICTORY OVER PERSIA

Alexander continued the task of expanding Macedonian territory that his father had begun. In 334BC, he led 35,000 soldiers into Asia Minor and set out to destroy the Persian army (see page 41). He beat the Persian rulers of Asia Minor at the Battle of Granicus, and went on to defeat Darius III, the Persian king, at the Battle of Issus in

333BC. Darius fled and Alexander marched on to Egypt, where he overpowered the Persian governors and was crowned King of Egypt. But his greatest battle was yet to come. In 331BC, he destroyed the entire Persian army at Gaugamela. Once again, Darius escaped, but the Greeks pursued him and he was finally murdered by his own troops. Alexander was crowned Great King of Persia.

## BUILDING AN EMPIRE

Alexander's army marched over 8,000 km (5,000 miles) and acquired an empire that stretched as far as northern India. Along the way, he founded several cities, including Alexandria in Egypt (see page 246).



### INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can watch movies and find out more about Alexander, go to [www.usborne-quicklinks.com](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com)

*This photograph shows the landscape of the Indus Valley, in northern India. It still looks much as it would have when Alexander's troops got there.*

