

THE HELLENISTIC WORLD

For several hundred years after Alexander's death, the territories of his former empire remained influenced by Greek culture. They are often described as the Hellenistic World, from the word *Hellene*, meaning "Greek". The period until the Roman conquest in 30BC (see page 250) is known as the Hellenistic Age.

This gold Hellenistic diadem, or headband, was made in Apulia, Italy in the 3rd century BC.

AFTER ALEXANDER

As news of Alexander's death reached Greece, rebellions broke out in many Greek cities, which turned into a full-scale war. After a year, the revolt was subdued by

Ptolemy III, a descendent of one of Alexander's generals

soldiers from Alexander's army returning from Asia. The empire itself was officially inherited by Alexander's infant son and half-brother Philip

Arrius, but it was ruled on their behalf by his generals, known as the Diadochi, meaning "successors".



THE EMPIRE DIVIDES

As rival Diadochi fought to grab the lion's share, the political unity of the empire was soon shattered by a terrible power struggle. By 301BC,

Alexander's mother, wife, son and half-brother had all been murdered in the conflict. By 281BC, three separate kingdoms emerged from the chaos. They were ruled by descendants of three Diadochi: Antigonas, Seleucus and Ptolemy.



INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can find interactive timelines of ancient Greece and read about the Hellenistic world, go to www.usborne-quilcklinks.com

HELLENISTIC ART

Although the peoples of Alexander's empire preserved their own culture and worshipped their own gods, Greek art and architecture often had an influence, even in places far from Greece. Statues of the Buddha from Gandhara in northern India show elements of style that are Greek, rather than traditionally Indian.

The features on this carving of the Buddha, including the expression, the tilt of the head and the curly hair, show signs of Greek influence.

