

Alexander and the Hellenistic Age

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Art

- Many architects and artists were employed, making buildings much grander than classic Greek buildings.
- There was a lot of Greek influence on buildings.
- A Greek architect drew up the plans for Alexandria, the Hellenistic cultural capital.
- The first museums and libraries were built.
- New representations of the Greek Gods were formed through art.



Cities

- Alexander's territory included the Persian Empire, which was mainly Egypt, India, Turkey, and Iran.
- Many city-states from Classical Greece stayed consistent in population and trade during the spread of the empire, such as Athens, Corinth.
- Many new cities emerged during the Hellenistic Age. Those included: Pergamum, Ephesus, Antioch, Damascus and Trapezus
- Alexandria: a city in Egypt founded by Alexander himself in 331 BCE, it was the most influential city in his kingdom and was a center of commerce and culture.
- Alexander's empire was so large that it was incredibly challenging to protect and control



Government

- Kings were the divine rulers when Alexander ruled
- After Alexander died, people created governments run by assemblies as opposed to one person
- Two other 'political institutions' were created after Alexander's death. The Achaean and Aetolian leagues
- Achaean league: the city-states of Peloponnesus, not including Sparta and Elis
- Aetolian league: central Greece, not including Athens



Writing

- Women began to learn how to read and write.
- Almost everyone wrote Koine, a kind of colloquial Greek.
- Libraries were created, the most famous one being in Alexandria.
- People began to see the importance in writing.
- More people, even women, became philosophers or poets.



Religion

- Greek religions fizzled out, in place were the philosophies of Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Skepticism.
- Others turned to the worship of Fortune or atheism.
- There were so many scientific advancements that there wasn't really a need for gods.
- Many Hellenistic Jews converted to Christianity
- There wasn't one main religion, but many disperse ones.



Social Structure

- As Alexander conquered more civilizations, there was an increase in goods and resources, leading to more wealth, investments, and trade to the upperclassmen
- Many of Alexander's closest friends were favored when dividing land and resources
- Small independent farmers came into debt when prices increased, and could not keep up with large scale companies
- There was a growing gap between the rich and poor (merchants and peasants)
- Technically, slavery declined. But many peasants could only work for extremely low wages.



Test Questions

1. What influenced the style of many Hellenistic buildings?
a. Persian architecture **b. Greek architecture** c. Egyptian architecture d. Indian architecture
2. What two types of political institutions were created after Alexander's death?
a. Achean, Democracy **b. Monarchy, Aetolian** c. Achean, Aetolian d. Monarchy, Oligarchy
3. What were the three philosophies that emerged in place of Greek religion?
a. Agnosticism, Capitalism, and Maoism **b. Logicism, Innatism, and Skepticism** c. Agnosticism, Epicureanism, and Maoism **d. Stoicism, Skepticism, and Epicureanism**