



History Topic: Why was Alexander the Great such a successful leader?

Year: 6 **Term:** Spring 1

Key Knowledge/Content:

- **Chronological understanding-** Create a timeline showing the key events during Alexander the Great's life.
- **Historical enquiry-** Use a range of sources to find out about Alexander the Great.
- **Interpretations of the past-** Consider whether accounts of Alexander the Great were reliable, looking at why they might be biased.
- **Knowledge and understanding-** Identify why things changed during Ancient Greece.
- **Compare and contrast-** Make comparisons across the events in Alexander the Great's life.

Links to:

Prior learning:

To learn about the Roman Empire and the impact it had on Europe. This was a time period which overlapped Ancient Greece.

Future learning:

To look at the impact Ancient Greece had on Britain and other parts of Europe.

Key vocabulary with definition:

Prior vocabulary:

- **Citadel-** A strong building in a city where people shelter for safety.
- **Trade-** Buying or exchanging goods or services for other goods or services.
- **Empire-** Lots of countries or states ruled over by one monarch or country.
- **Conquest-** Land gained during a war or battle.
- **Invasion-** Taking a country or place by force.

New vocabulary:

- **Deity-** A God or Goddess.
- **Democracy-** A fair political system where all adults vote for a Government.
- **Merchant-** Someone who buys or sells goods in large amounts.
- **Philosophy-** The study or creation of theories about things such as existence or knowledge.
- **Polis-** An Ancient Greek city-state.
- **Mythology-** A group of myths especially from a culture or country.
- **Macedonia-** An important, historic region in South Europe near Greece.
- **Decompose-** Break apart.

By the end of this unit

All children can: **discuss** the aspects of Alexander the Great's life that made him a successful leader and **research** his background and achievements.

Most children can: **explain** how we learn about Alexander the Great from sources, such as stories to recounts of his failed invasion of India, and **discuss** the reliability of these sources.

Some children can: **compare** the Roman Empire to Ancient Greece, two periods that were happening coherently in the past and **notice** similarities and differences in their invasion approaches.

Background understanding for teachers and parents:

This unit will introduce children to Ancient Greece through the focus on Alexander the Great and his role as King of Macedonia. They will look at various aspects of his life such as his invasion attempts across Europe and Asia and the mystery of his body's lack of decomposition.

Curriculum Driver (one):

Aspiration

Evidence outcome:

Consider the impact one individual, Alexander the Great, had on a time period through effective leadership and aspiration.