

**Horse and Pony**

**KS3 Tuesday**

**Humanities**

**Alexander the Great and Bucephalus**

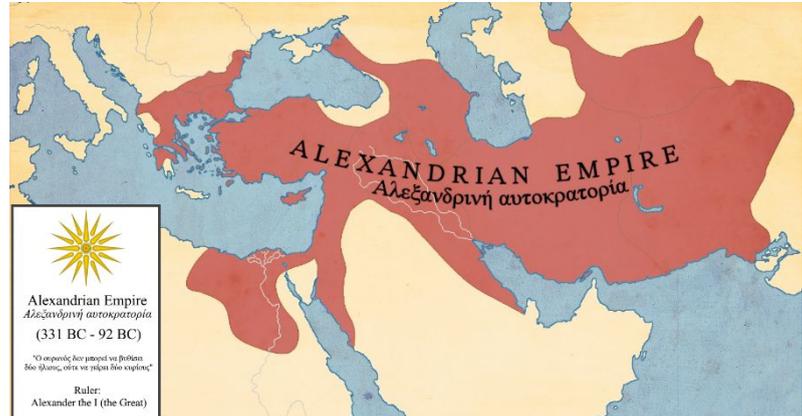
**Alexander the Great**



Alexander the Great is known as one of the greatest generals in all of history. He had a great mind for military tactics and as King of Macedonia he used his prowess to conquer Egypt, much of Asia and many other nations to create a vast empire centuries before the Romans began to build their own empire. Alexander did not impose his religion on the nations he conquered but founded many cities for the development and growth of those

nations, knowing that knowledge, technology and development were the way forward.

He founded the city of



Alexandria where a huge library, possibly the biggest ever made and certainly the biggest at the time, was built by his command. It contained the writings of not only the great thinkers of Ancient Greece but works from throughout his empire. Tragically it was destroyed in a fire and only a portion of it remains.

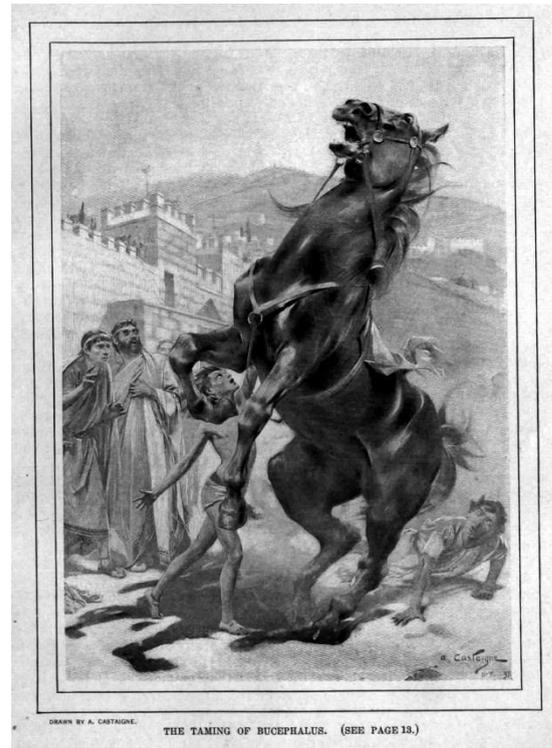
## The Beginning

Little is known about Alexander's childhood. He was born on 21 July 356 BC and was the son of King Philip II of Macedon. He became king upon his father's death in 336 BCE at the age of 20. When Alexander was young, he was taught to fight and ride, endure hardships such as forced marches, to read, write and to play the lyre. This tutelage would instill in Alexander a lifelong love of reading and music. At 14, Alexander began three years of study with the Greek philosopher Aristotle who he remained in contact with throughout his life thereafter.

## Bucephalus

Initially, Bucephalus was brought to Macedon and presented to the king, Alexander's father, in 346 BCE by Philoneicus of Thessaly. With a price tag almost three times the norm (13 talents), the beautiful black horse stood taller than the normal Macedonian steed but was considered too wild and unmanageable, rearing up against anyone who came near him. Phillip ordered him led away.

11 year old Alexander sat in the audience with his mother Olympias watching the spectacle before him. As the attendants tried to lead Bucephalus away, Alexander rose, calling them spineless. The young prince said, "What an excellent horse do they lose for want of address and boldness to manage him."



At first, Phillip ignored the challenge, but finally, he said to Alexander: "Do you reproach those who are older than yourself, as if you were better able to manage him than they."

Alexander, ignoring his father remark, repeated his challenge and said he would pay for the horse if he, Alexander, were unable to tame him.

Amid wild laughter, Alexander approached the horse calmly. He had realised something the others had not - the horse was afraid of his own shadow. Turning Bucephalus toward the sun so his shadow was behind him and slowly taking the reins in his hand, Alexander mounted him. The laughter of the crowd turned to cheers as Alexander rode off.

According to Plutarch, as Alexander returned to the arena with Bucephalus and dismounted, Phillip said: "O my son look thee out a kingdom equal to and worthy of thyself, for Macedonia is too little for thee." Historians claim this taming of the wild Bucephalus was a turning point in the young prince's life.

### **The first Batman and Robin?**

Bucephalus and Alexander were inseparable; only Alexander could ride him, and indeed he did, into every battle from the conquest of the Greek city-states and Thebes through the Battle of Gaugamela and into India. After the final defeat of Darius III, Bucephalus was kidnapped while Alexander was away on excursion. Upon returning and learning of the theft, Alexander promised to fell every tree, lay the countryside to waste, and slaughter every inhabitant in the region. The horse was soon returned along with a plea for mercy. Alexander founded a city in his beloved horse's memory and named it Bucephala.



Bucephalus was the loyal friend, sidekick and companion of Alexander the Great and played a large role in the legend and life of the only man he ever permitted to ride him.

Put your knowledge to the test!...

## **Alexander the Great Quiz**

Many of these questions are covered by the information above, but you may need to do your own research to get all of them right. How many can you get?

### **1) Who of the following philosophers taught Alexander?**

- a) Aristotle
- b) Plato
- c) Socrates
- d) Heraclitus

### **2) What was Bucephalus?**

- a) Alexander's cat
- b) Alexander's dog
- c) Alexander's horse
- d) Alexander's parrot

### **3) How old was Alexander when he became king?**

- a) 10 years
- b) 15 years
- c) 20 years
- d) 40 years

### **4) Whose house was spared by Alexander when he destroyed Thebes?**

- a) Archimedes
- b) Homer
- c) Pindar
- d) Euclid

### **5) Which knot was cut by Alexander?**

- a) Celtic Knot
- b) Constrictor Knot
- c) Gordian Knot
- d) Sailing Knot

**6) Which city was captured after seven month siege?**

- a) Athens
- b) Sidon
- c) Jerusalem
- d) Tyre

**7) Where did Alexander defeat Darius III for the third time?**

- a) Cairo
- b) Antioch
- c) Gaugamela
- d) Luxor

**8) Who was killed by Alexander in a drunken brawl?**

- a) Antigonus
- b) Seleucus
- c) Cleitus
- d) Philotas

**9) Who of the following kings sided with Alexander against Porus?**

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Dhanananda
- c) Bimbisara
- d) Ambhi

**10) Why Alexander's son Alexander IV did not succeed him?**

- a) He died before Alexander's death.
- b) He did not want to become king.
- c) He was disinherited.
- d) He was born after Alexander's death.