

Some Facts about Alexander the Great

Remember that Alexander is a larger than life figure so some information about him could be fiction mixed with fact.

1. Birth

Alexander was born around July 19/20, 356 B.C.

2. Parents

Alexander was the son of King Philip II of Macedon and [Olympias](#), daughter of King Neoptolemus I of Epirus. Olympias was not the only wife of Philip and there was much conflict between Alexander's parents.

3. Education

Alexander was tutored by Leonidas (possibly his uncle) and the great Greek philosopher Aristotle. ([Hephaestion](#) is thought to have been educated along with Alexander.)

4. Who Was Bucephalus?

During his youth, Alexander tamed the wild horse Bucephalus. Later, when his beloved horse died, Alexander renamed a city in India for Bucephalus.

5. The Promise Shown When Alexander Was Regent

In 340 B.C., while father Philip went off to fight rebels, Alexander was made regent in Macedonia. During Alexander's regency, the Maedi of northern Macedonia revolted. Alexander put down the revolt and renamed their city Alexandropolis.

6. His Early Military Prowess

In August 338 Alexander showed his mettle helping Philip win the [Battle of Chaeronea](#).

7. Alexander Succeeds His Father to the Throne

In 336 B.C. his father Philip was assassinated, and Alexander the Great became ruler of Macedonia.

8. Alexander Was Wary of Those Around Him

Alexander had potential rivals executed in order to secure the throne.

9. His Wives

Alexander the Great probably had 3 wives:

1. Roxane,
2. Statira, and
3. Parysatis.

10. His Offspring

Alexander's children were

- Herakles, son of Alexander's mistress Barsine,
- Alexander IV, son of Roxane.

Both children were killed before they reached adulthood.

11. Alexander Solved the Gordian Knot

One of the legends about Alexander the Great is that when he was in Gordium, in Turkey,

in 333 B.C., he undid the Gordian Knot which had been tied by the legendary King Midas' father. The prophecy about the Gordian knot was that the person who untied it would rule all of Asia. Alexander the Great is said to have undone the knot by slashing through it with a sword.

12. **Death of Alexander**

In 323 B.C. Alexander the Great returned to Babylonia where he became ill suddenly, and died at age 33. The cause of his death is unknown. It could have been disease or poison.

13. **Who Were Alexander's Successors?**

The successors of Alexander are known as the [Diadochi](#).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoMOs2mBilw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwWbD7m28Ro>