

3 **Alexander the Great****4 Themes**

- Take Advantage of Others' Conflicts
- Use Kindness & Terror
- Unite through Religion
- Unite through Culture
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4 **Take Advantage of Internal Conflict**

- Background: The Peloponnesian War left the Greek city-states divided and weak.
- Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great, planned to take advantage of the wars between the Greek city-states to conquer them.

5 **Questions to Consider**

- On a sports team, what are the advantages of team members fighting among themselves? What are the disadvantages?
- What do you think the advantages and disadvantages were of the constant fighting among the Greek city-states?
- If team members are constantly fighting among themselves, is it more or less likely that they will be beaten by another team? Why?
- Do you think the wars between the Greek city-states made them more or less able to resist Philip? Why?
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6 **Use of Terror and Kindness**

Background: Alexander was well trained to be a leader because Aristotle had taught him such important subjects as public speaking, science, and philosophy, as well as an appreciation of Greek culture. He also wanted to increase his wealth.

- Alexander planned to use both terror and kindness to conquer an empire.

7 **Questions to Consider**

- Who is more likely to get you to do something: someone who threatens to beat you up if you don't, or someone who offers you money if you do?
- Why do you think Alexander planned to destroy some of the cities he conquered and sell the people into slavery? Do you think this was a good idea or a bad idea? Why
- Why do you think Alexander planned to rebuild destroyed property in some cities he

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conquered and appoint local leaders to rule? Do you think this was a good idea or a bad idea? Why?

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8 **Use Religion to Unite People**

- Background: Alexander believed that people would be more willing to accept him as a leader if he respected their religion by honoring their gods. He also encouraged the idea that he was a god so that people would obey his order.
- Alexander planned to use religion to get people to accept him as their leader. He thought this would unite the people of his empire.

9 **Questions to Consider**

- Do you think it is important for your leader to follow the same religion as you do? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Alexander treated all religions as equal? Do you think this was a good idea or a bad idea? Why?
- If people believed that Alexander was a god, how might they feel about things he did?
- If people did not think Alexander was a god, how might they feel about the fact that he said he was a god?

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10 **Unite through Culture**

- Background: Alexander adopted the Persian style of government. He began wearing Persian-style clothes. He received official visitors in a luxurious tent as Persian kings did. He demanded visitors greet him in the Persian way by kneeling and touching the head to the ground. Finally, he married the daughter of a Persian king.
- Alexander planned to unite the people he conquered by adopting some of their cultural practices. How successful do you think his plan will be in uniting his empire?

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11 **Questions to Consider**

- When people live in another country, do you think they should dress like the people in that country, or wear the same clothes they usually wear? Why?
- Why do you think Alexander wore Persian clothes? Do you think this was a good idea or a bad idea?
- Suppose a child has a mother from one country and a father from another country. How might that affect the languages the child speaks, the foods he or she eats, and the holidays he or she celebrates?
- Why do you think Alexander encouraged marriages between Macedonians and Persians? Do you think this was a good idea or a bad idea? Why?

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