1. In the spring of 334 B.C.E... Alexander III (the Great) of Macedon crossed the Dardanelles with 30,000 foot soldiers and 5,000 cavalry to face King Darius of Persia. The two armies met for the first time on the banks of the Granicus River. According to Alexander’s biographer, the Macedonians lost only 115 men while the Persian army was virtually destroyed.

2. Heading south from Granicus, Alexander sought to occupy the Persian coastal cities as a means to avoid facing the formidable Persian navy. The only holdout in Anatolia was the city of Halicarnassus, which resisted and was stormed. Over the winter, Alexander traveled to Gordian-home of the famous Gordian knot. According to tradition, only the man destined to conquer all of Asia could untie the knot. Several versions of the story exist, but in the most popular, Alexander simply cut the knot with his sword, securing his legacy as the conqueror of Asia.

3. In autumn of 333 B.C.E., Alexander faced Darius III a second time at Issus, where Anatolia meets The Levant. There Alexander not only routed the Persian army, but also captured Darius’s mother, wife, and children after the king fled the field of battle.

4. Having defeated Darius again, Alexander headed south toward Egypt. Alexander has met with little resistance in the Levant, until he arrived at Tyre, in modern day Lebanon. The island city resisted Alexander’s siege for an astonishing seven months. Having razed the mainland portion of the city, Alexander used the rubble to build a bridge out to the island stronghold. In one of his greatest military achievements, Alexander finally succeeded in storming the city in July of 332 B.C.E. As punishment for the long siege, Alexander killed 10,000 of the city’s inhabitants and sold another 30,000 into slavery. Alexander again faced resistance when he reached Gaza. Like Tyre, however, the city could not, in the end, resist. After two months, Gaza fell to Alexander.

5. After the hard-fought battles along the Mediterranean coast, Alexander finally arrived in Egypt in November of 332 B.C.E. There he was welcomed as a liberator. Unable to rally his people, the Persian leader Mazaces surrendered his kingdom to Alexander without a fight. Over the winter, Alexander rested his troops, explored the Nile, and founded the city of Alexandria. With Egypt under his control, Alexander now effectively ruled the entire eastern Mediterranean.

6. Well rested and eager for battle, Alexander headed for Mesopotamia in the spring of 331 B.C.E. On October 31, 331 B.C.E., Alexander met Darius in battle for the last time at Gaugamela. As in the earlier engagements, Alexander proved himself to be a better general than the Persian king. Despite being pursued by Alexander for 35 miles to neighboring Arbela, Darius managed to escape capture once again.

7. After his victory Alexander captured the Persian capitals at Babylon, Susa, and Persepolis. Persepolis was burnt, either by accident or as retribution for Xerxes burning of Athens. Alexander then continued to track Darius west through several Persian territories. In Ecbatana, Darius learned of Alexander’s approach and retreated further to the province of Bactria where he was murdered by the Bactrian satrap Bessus. With Darius’s death, Alexander proclaimed himself “Lord of Asia.”

8. Over the next year, Alexander made a circuit of modern-day Iran, avoiding the mountainous interior. By 329, Alexander had reached the territory held by Darius’s murderer. After a brief pursuit, Bessus was captured and sent to Ecbatana to be executed for his treason against Darius.
9. From Bactra, Alexander marched north to the boundary of the Persian Empire, the Jaxartes River. He remained in the north fighting determined opposition from nomads and border territories until he successfully conquered Sogdiana, modern day Afghanistan, by marrying a local princess, Roxana, in the autumn of 328 B.C.E. The city he founded in this distant territory was named Alexandria Eschate, or Alexandria “the farthest.”

10. After resting and reinforcing his army in the province of Bactria, Alexander headed slowly west over the Hindu Kush toward India in the early summer of 327 B.C.E. In the spring of 326 B.C.E., Alexander arrived at what was to be the site of the last major battle of his campaign. On the opposite bank of the river Hydaspes waited the Indian ruler Porus with an impressive force of 34,000 men and 200 war elephants. Unable to ford the river at the Indian camp, Alexander created a diversion and crossed upstream where the river was passable. Despite superior numbers and frightening elephant cavalry, Porus was no match for the military genius of Alexander.

11. After years of constant war, Alexander’s troops refused to continue further west into India. Alexander consented to return home to Macedonia. Alexander build almost a thousand ships on the banks of the Hydaspes and using a combination of marching and sailing, fought his way down the Hydaspes to the Indus River and finally to the coast.

12. In order to suppress ongoing rebellions, Alexander sent Craterus—one of his most able generals—west, with instructions to reunite in Carmania.

13. At Patala, Alexander divided his forces between sea and land routes. Despite heavy losses due to food shortages and the monsoon season, Alexander and his army finally reached the city of Susa, the former administrative center of the Persian Empire, in 324 B.C.E. From there, Alexander began the gargantuan task of managing the huge area of land he had conquered over the preceding decade. To help with that, Alexander arranged the “Susa Weddings,” a mass wedding of Alexander, Hephaestion, and many other Macedonians married Persian princesses and noblewomen. Alexander began planning further conquests but in 323 B.C.E., first Hephaestion and then Alexander died.

**DEFINE THE FOLLOWING ON NOTEBOOK PAPER**

1. Anatolia
2. to storm (in war)
3. liberator
4. reinforce (in war)
5. gargantuan

**IDENTIFY THE FOLLOWING ON NOTEBOOK PAPER - TELL WHO/WATCH? AND WHY?**

1. The Dardanelles
2. Darius III
3. The Levant
4. Granicus River
5. Alexandria (in Egypt)
6. Issus
7. Gaugamela
8. Persepolis
9. Bessus
10. Porus

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING USING COMPLETE SENTENCES**

1. What was said about the man who could untie the Gordian Knot? How did Alexander “untie” it?
2. When did Alexander capture Darius’ wife and mother?
3. In what modern country was Tyre located?
4. How did Alexander take Tyre?
5. Why is the battle at Gaugamela sometimes called Arbela?
6. What is Sogdiana called today?
7. What does eschate mean in ancient Greek?
8. Why didn’t Alexander continue conquering India and China?