

Ancient Greece

Alexander the Great

Macedonia

- Macedonia was a territory just to the north of Greece



Macedonia Conquers Greece

- In 359_{BCE}, Philip II becomes king of Macedonia
- After fighting off many invaders, he becomes the invader
 - He wants to control all of Greece



Macedonia Conquers Greece

- Athens fears Philip II and calls for Greek city-states to unite
 - Very few cities respond
- Philip II easily conquers Athens
 - Other Greek city-states see this and they immediately submit to Macedonia



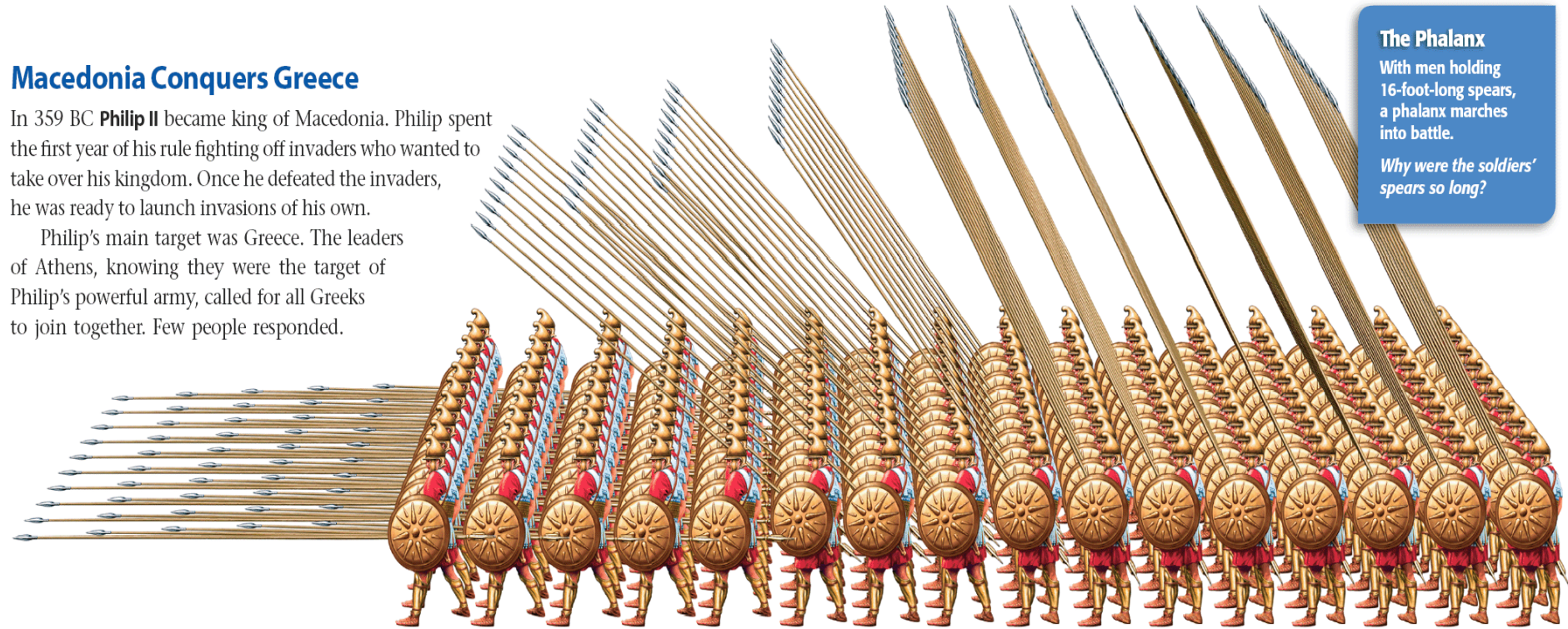
Philip's Military Strength

- Philip was a great military leader
- His main weapon was a phalanx
 - Phalanx – A group of soldiers who stood close together in a square
 - Very effective; when one soldier died, another quickly took his place
- Philip's phalanx had very long spears (16 feet!)
 - Allowed them to reach the enemy first

Macedonia Conquers Greece

In 359 BC **Philip II** became king of Macedonia. Philip spent the first year of his rule fighting off invaders who wanted to take over his kingdom. Once he defeated the invaders, he was ready to launch invasions of his own.

Philip's main target was Greece. The leaders of Athens, knowing they were the target of Philip's powerful army, called for all Greeks to join together. Few people responded.



The Phalanx

With men holding 16-foot-long spears, a phalanx marches into battle.

Why were the soldiers' spears so long?

Alexander Begins His Empire

- Philip then wanted to conquer Persia
 - But he dies in 336BCE
 - Killed while celebrating his daughter's wedding
- Alexander (his son) comes into power next
 - He is only 20 years old
- As soon as Thebes found out, they rebelled against Alexander

Alexander Builds An Empire

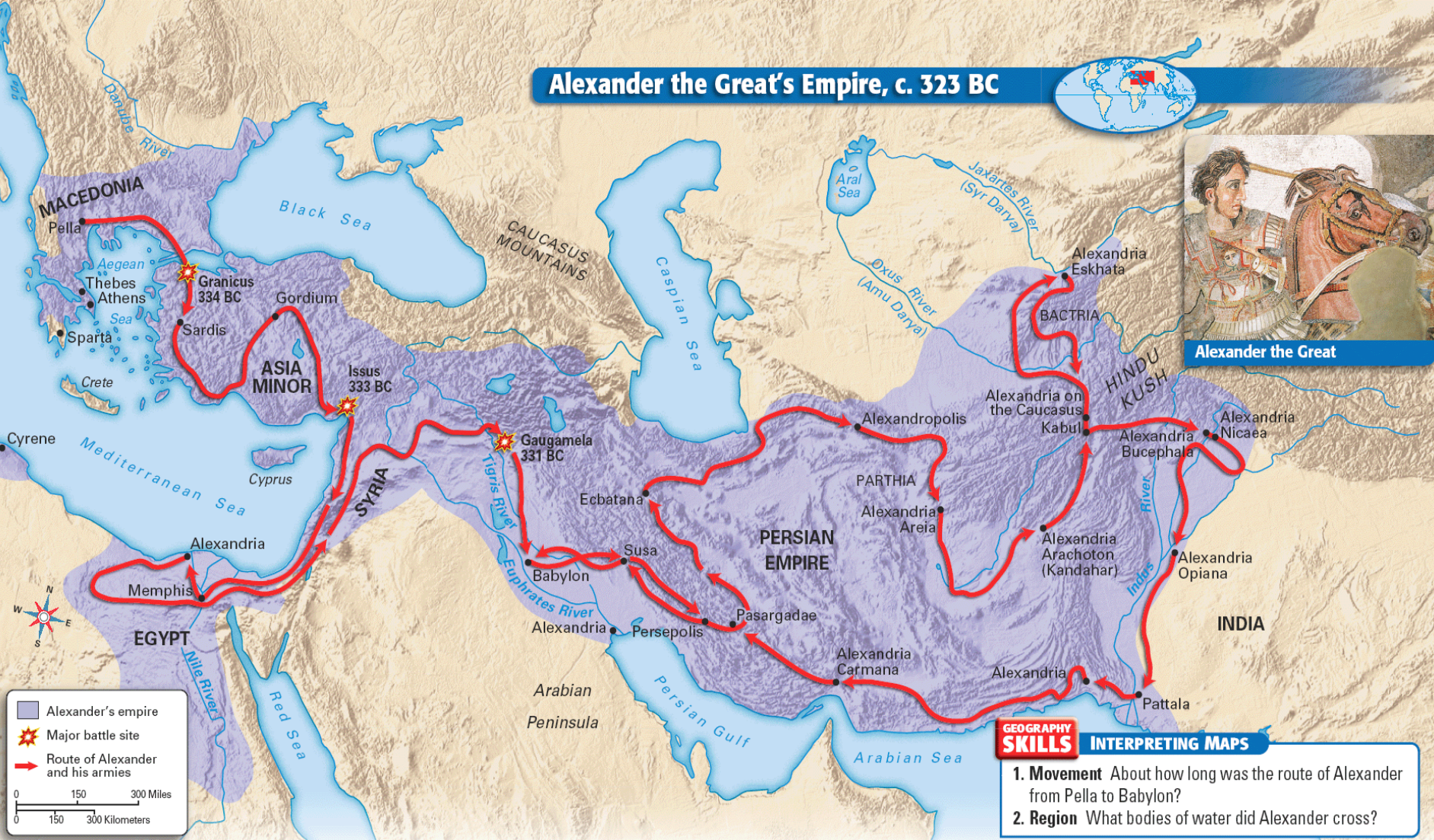
- In one year, Alexander destroys Thebes
 - Makes everyone who lives in Thebes a slave
- Alexander made an example of Thebes to everyone else
- He then set off to build an empire
 - Alexander became one of the world's greatest conquerors
 - That's why we call him Alexander the Great



Alexander the Great's Empire, c. 323 BC



Alexander the Great



Alexander's empire
 Major battle site
 Route of Alexander and his armies

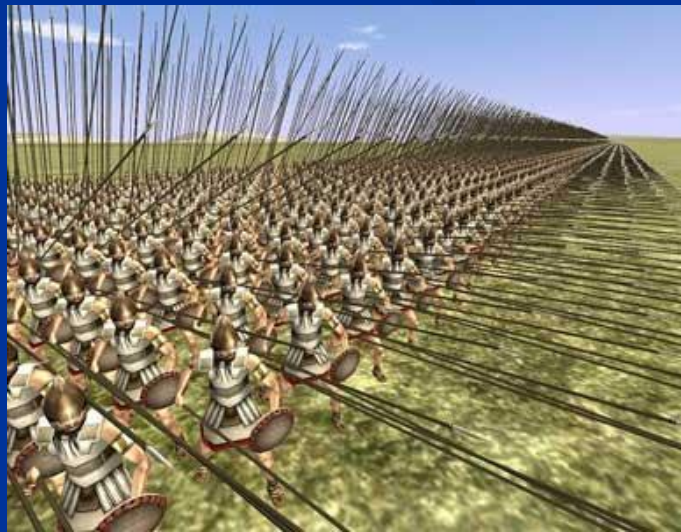
0 150 300 Miles
 0 150 300 Kilometers

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Movement** About how long was the route of Alexander from Pella to Babylon?
- 2. Region** What bodies of water did Alexander cross?

Building A New Empire

- 334_{BCE} – Alexander battled the Persians
 - Persians have a much larger army
 - Alexander's army is well trained
- Alexander defeats the Persians quickly at Granicus
 - Will not be the last time they beat the Persians



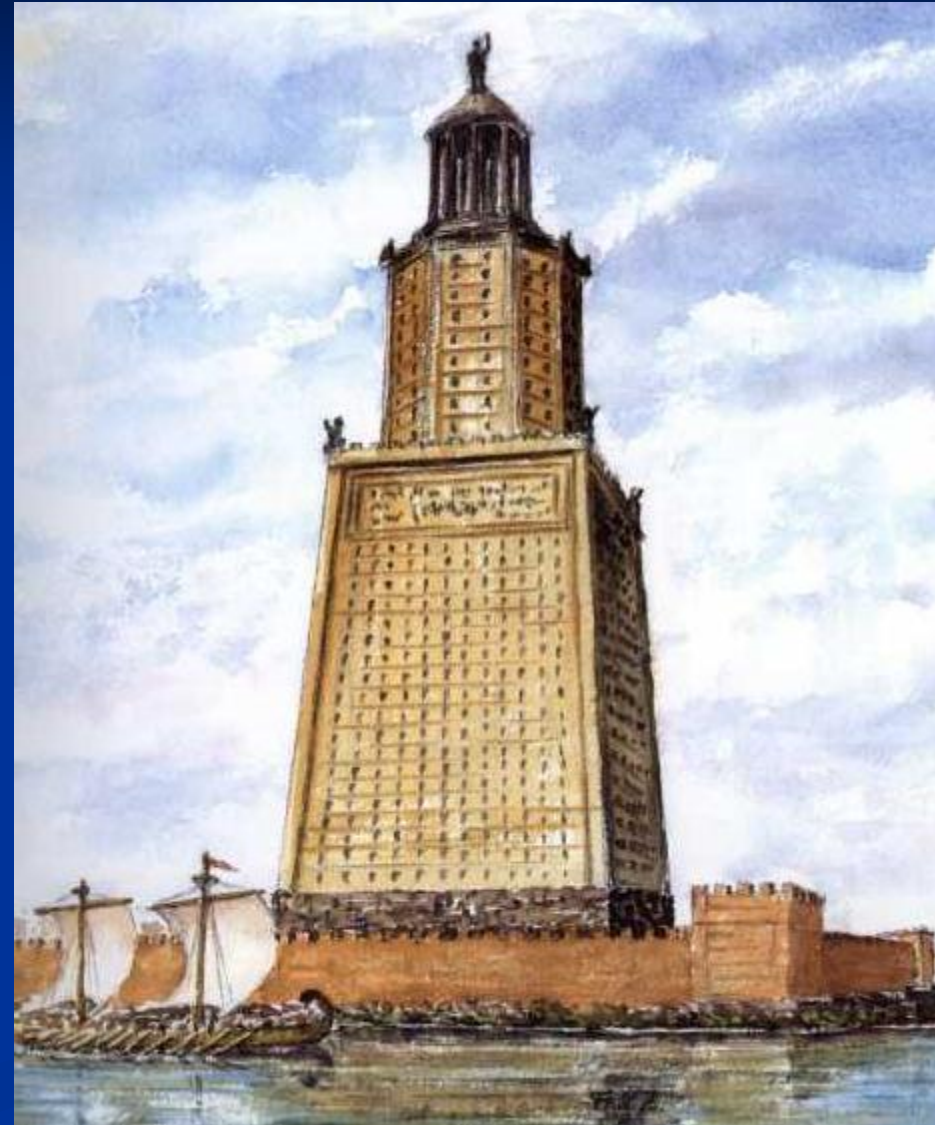
A Legend About Alexander

While chasing the Persians, Alexander visited the town of Gordium. He heard a tale there about a knot that was tied by an ancient king. The story said that whoever untied the knot would become king of all of Asia.

Alexander pulled out his sword and cut right through the knot. He saw this as a sign that he was destined to rule all of Asia.

Building A New Empire

- Alexander defeats the Persians again at Issus
- Alexander then goes to Egypt
 - Conquers them without a fight
 - Crowned Pharaoh
 - Creates a city named Alexandria
 - Not the last time he will do this either



Building A New Empire

- Alexander chases the Persians and defeats them again at Gaugamela
 - Final time he will defeat the Persians
- The Persian king dies a short time later
 - Alexander becomes emperor of the Persian Empire



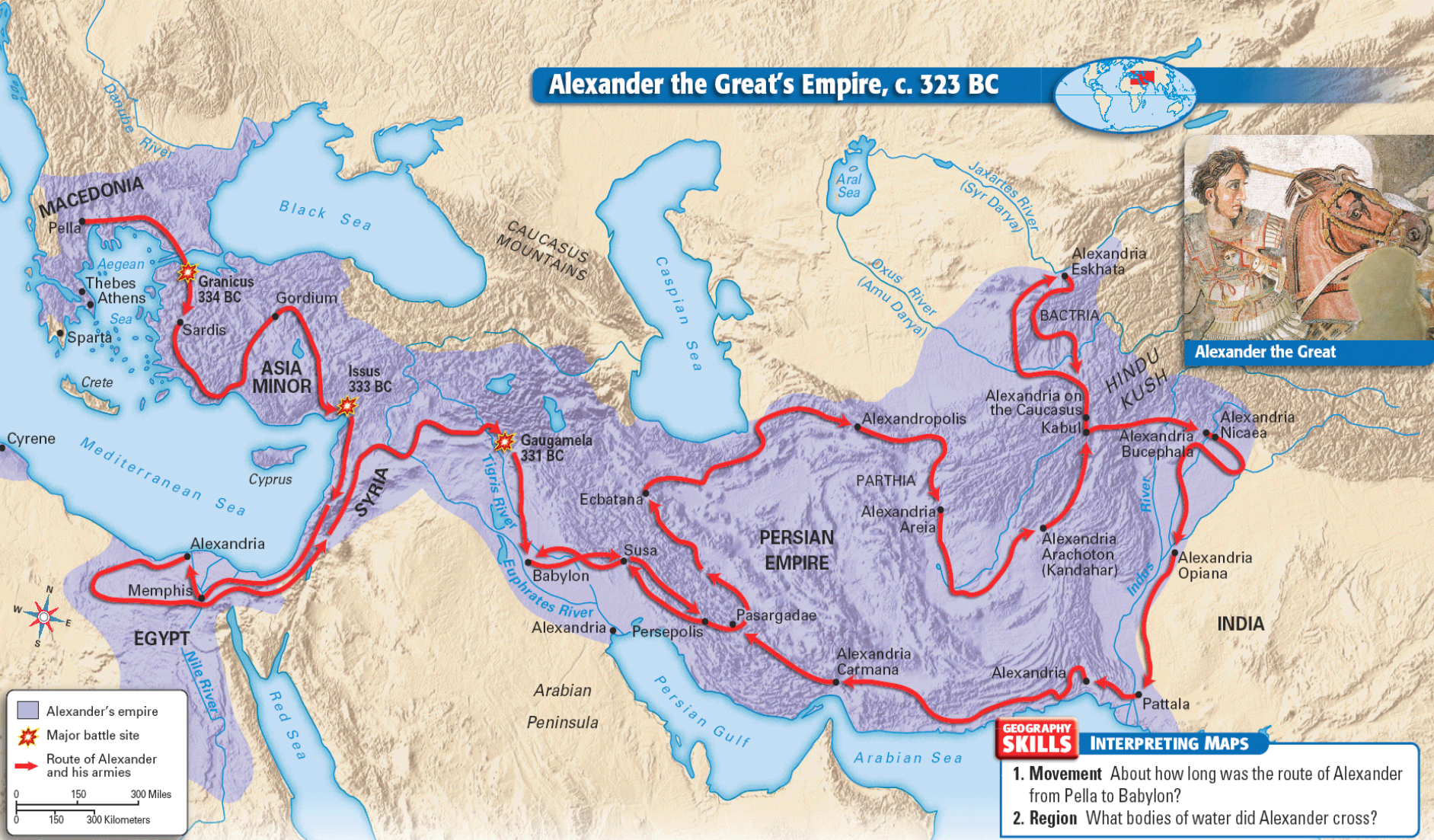
Marching Home

- Alexander then pushes into India
- At the Indus River, his soldiers are exhausted and refuse to go on
- Alexander marches back home
 - He never makes it
 - Visits Babylon, where he becomes sick
 - 323_{BCE} – Alexander the Great dies from disease at 33 years old
- Alexander the Great had created the largest empire the world had ever seen

Alexander the Great's Empire, c. 323 BC



Alexander the Great



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Spreading Greek Culture

- Because of Alexander the Great, Greek culture spread quickly throughout the world at that time
 - Built Greek temples and theaters in his cities
 - He encouraged Greeks to settle in his cities
 - It combined with other cultures at the same time
 - These combined cultures are called Hellenistic Cultures
 - Hellenistic – Greek like

Hellenistic Kingdoms

- After Alexander died, his generals fought for power
- They split the empire into three kingdoms
 - Macedonia, Egypt, and Syria (Persia)
 - Macedonia and Syria dealt with constant rebellions
 - Egypt became a great cultural center
 - Macedonian kingdom was conquered by the Romans
 - 150's BCE
 - Syrian kingdom was conquered by the Romans
 - 60's BCE
 - Egyptian kingdom was conquered by the Romans
 - 30's BCE

