Lesson 4: Alexander the Great

DIRECTIONS: Read the summary to reveal how the conquests of Alexander the Great built a new culture that mixed Greek and Asian ways. As you read, highlight/underline important details on your purple summary page. Use the section’s title to assist you. Think about what you already know, what you want to know, and what you have learned after reading the summary.

Alexander’s Conquests (p. 267)
Philip II was the king of Macedonia. After he was killed by a young noble, his 20-year-old son Alexander became king. Two years later, in 334 B.C., Alexander invaded the Persian Empire. During a major battle, Alexander told his army not to retreat from the larger Persian army. He showed his leadership by ordering his army to attack the Persians. The Persians ran away. Alexander’s army had won. Alexander then conquered Syria and Phoenicia. Alexander also took over Egypt after they quickly surrendered and was crowned pharaoh.

A Great Empire (p. 268)
In 331 B.C., Alexander’s army fought and beat the larger Persian army again. Alexander then led his army eastward. The army won every battle it fought. Five years after his march started, the soldiers were in India. They were very tired and ready to stop fighting. Alexander marched his army back toward Greece. At the age of 33, he died on the way back. The empire he created was huge. It spread across Europe, Asia, and Africa. During his nearly 13 years in power, Alexander spread Greek culture. He also took on many Asian ways. A new civilization rose from this blend of Greek and Asian cultures. We call this period the Hellenistic Age because Hellas was the name Greeks used for their country. For these accomplishments, the young king is remembered as “Alexander the Great.”

The Hellenistic Age (p. 269)
After Alexander’s death three of his generals divided the empire among themselves. For 300 years, Hellenistic culture spread. New cities were founded in Europe, northern Africa, and western Asia. The cities became centers of Greek culture. Trade grew between Hellenistic cities and far-off parts of the world. Alexandria was a city in Egypt. It became the greatest center of trade and learning. It had the busiest port of its time and a great library.

Discovery and Invention (p. 270-271)
During the Hellenistic Age, Greek science and mathematics reached their peaks. Hippocrates, known as the “father of medicine,” was a doctor who looked for natural causes of diseases. Today he is often called the father of medicine. He believed a good diet and lifestyle were needed for good health. Also during this time, Greek engineers built machines. Archimedes was a famous inventor and mathematician. He made discoveries about levers. He also improved pulleys for carrying heavy objects. Pythagoras was mathematician whose ideas about numbers led to the development of the mathematical field of geometry. He also started a school that studied geometry. Euclid was the most important mathematician of his time. Students today still study his system of plane geometry.
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DIRECTIONS: Match each person in the first column with the correct description in the second column. You will use your textbook and/or summary (other side) to find your answers. You may use the pages listed below and/or the “Biographical Dictionary” in your textbook.

p. 268 1. Alexander ______
p. 266 2. Philip II ______
p. 270 3. Hippocrates ______
p. 271 4. Pythagoras ______
p. 271 5. Euclid ______
p. 270 6. Archimedes ______

A. started a school that led to the development of geometry
B. murdered by a young noble
C. explained how levers work
D. worked out a system of plane geometry
E. took the throne at age 20
F. the “father of medicine”

DIRECTIONS: Sequence the events below from 1 (earliest) to 7 (most recent). You will use your textbook and/or summary (other side) to find your answers.

p. 267 Alexander invades the Persian Empire. ______
p. 268 At 33 years of age, Alexander dies before returning home. ______
p. 269 Alexandria becomes a center for trade and learning. ______
p. 270 Greek engineers build machines that move heavy loads. ______
p. 267 Alexander the Great becomes king of Macedonia. 1
p. 268-9 The Hellenistic Age begins. ______
p. 267 The Egyptians surrender. ______