

Alexander

The Greeks left many written accounts of India. Historians use these accounts as sources of knowledge about India.

Here is one account the Greeks wrote of the strength of Nanda's army:

20,000	cavalry (men on horses)
2,00,000	infantry (soldiers)
2,000	chariots
3,000	elephants

Here is an account the Greeks wrote of what a tiger was:
"In each jaw it has three rows of teeth and at the tip of its tail it is armed with stings by which it defends itself in close fight and which it discharges against distant foes, just like an arrow shot by an archer."



How useful do you think the Greeks accounts are as sources of History?

Do you believe the account of the tiger?

Do you believe the account of Nanda's army?

Explain why or why not.

Did the Greeks have any reason to exaggerate the truth? Discuss.

Alexander's admiral Nearchus wrote this account of the clothes worn by Indians:

The dress worn by the Indians is made of cotton produced on trees. But this cotton is either of a brighter white colour than any found anywhere else, or the darkness of the Indian complexion [skin colour] makes their clothing look so much whiter. They wear an undergarment of cotton which reaches down below the knee halfway to the ankles and an upper garment which they throw partly over their shoulders and partly twist in folds around their head. The Indians also wear earrings of ivory, but only the very wealthy do this. They use umbrellas as a screen from the heat. They wear shoes made of white leather and these are elaborately trimmed. . .

Here is an account the Greeks wrote of the people they saw in India:

. . . they speak of people three metres long and two metres wide, some without noses, having instead merely two breathing holes above their mouths. There are stories of people who sleep in their ears. There are also certain mouthless people who are gentle by nature and live round the sources of the Ganga and [instead of eating food] they sustain themselves by inhaling vapours [air]. . .

- (1) Circle all the sentences in these accounts that you think are not true.
- (2) Do you know of any people who are three metres tall? About how tall is the tallest person you have ever seen?
- (3) Why do you think the Greeks may have written things that were not true?
- (4) Based on these accounts, tell whether the following are true or false, and explain what information is given in the accounts that supports your answer:
 - (a) The Indians at this time were strict vegetarians, and never killed animals.
 - (b) The Aryans were all very fair skinned.
 - (c) The Aryan society was divided into classes based on wealth - some were rich and some were poor.
 - (d) The umbrella was originally invented by the Chinese.

**Draw lines to match the following dates to the list of events.
Then label them all on the timeline.**

323 BCE	Birth of Alexander in Macedonia
326 BCE	Death of Alexander at Babylon
331 BCE	Alexander fought Darius
336 BCE	Death of Alexander's father, Philip I
342 BCE	Alexander won his first battle before becoming the king, at the age of 18
348 BCE	Alexander gets a horse named Bacephalus
356 BCE	Alexander fought Porus



Write Long Answers:

- (1) What kinds of information did the Greeks record as they made new conquests?
- (2)
 - A. What do you think Alexander died of? Explain why you think so.
 - B. Tell how we might find out the truth about how he died.
- (3) Why is Alexander called Alexander the Great? Maybe he should be known by some other name instead. Here is a list of possibilities:
 - Alexander the Good
 - Alexander the Terrible
 - Alexander the Killer
 - Alexander the Powerful
 - Alexander the Poor
 - Alexander the Drunkard
 - Alexander the Horse Rider
 - Alexander the Conqueror
 - Alexander the Good.

Tell what Alexander did that makes him fit each name.

Choose any 5 of these and explain in detail why you think each name might be right. Then choose the one name that you think is best of all (you can make up one of your own if you like) and explain why you think it's best.

Multiple Choice:

- (1) Did some Greeks follow Christianity during Alexander's time?
 - (a) Yes, there were some Christian Greeks.
 - (b) No, only the Egyptians were Christian.
 - (c) No, there were no Christian Greeks.
 - (d) There were no Christians anywhere at that time.

The Greek Alphabet

Greek letter	sounds like the Hindi letter
α	आ
β	ब
γ	ग
δ	द
ε	ए
ζ	ज़
η	ई
θ	थ
ι	इ
κ	क
λ	ल
μ	म
ν	न
ξ	क्ष
ο	ओ
π	प
ρ	र
σ	स
τ	त
υ	व
φ	फ़
χ	ख
ψ	फ़
ω	ओ

(1) Write your name in the Greek alphabet.
[Names could be written on chits, the chits shuffled and then given to other students to read.]

(2) Write the following Greek words in their Hindi transliteration
(use the Greek Alphabet Table).

<u>Greek word</u>	<u>Hindi transliteration</u>	<u>Meaning*</u>
υπνος		
ζωιον		
τραγωδια		
δεκαδ		
βοτανικος		
λεξικον		

***Guess the meaning of each Greek word from this list:**

- botanical (relating to plants)
- animal
- lexicon (a dictionary)
- tragedy (a very bad event)
- sleep
- a group of ten

Multiple Choice Questions

Tick as many choices as you think are correct.

- (1) Alexander invaded India at the time of:
- (a) the Mongols
 - (b) the Mughals
 - (c) the Mauryas
 - (d) the Nandas
 - (e) Buddha
 - (f) the 3rd century BCE
 - (g) the 2nd century BCE
 - (g) the 4th century BCE
- (2) Alexander turned back after defeating Porus because:
- (a) his army mutinied
 - (b) his army was tired
 - (c) he was called back to Greece
 - (d) they were afraid of the armies they might meet further east
- (4) Alexander died when he was only 33 years old. When was he born and when did he die?
- (a) Birth: 356 BCE Death 389 BCE
 - (b) Birth: 323 BCE Death 356 BCE
 - (c) Birth: 356 BCE Death 223 BCE
 - (d) Birth: 356 BCE Death 323 CE
 - (e) Birth: 323 CE Death 356 CE
 - (f) Birth: 356 CE Death 323 CE
- (5) As they travelled, Alexander's people recorded information on people and customs, languages, medicine, geography, animals, and geology. For example, which of the following subjects might they have written about?
- (a) tigers and elephants that they had never seen before
 - (b) people who spoke Hindi
 - (c) soil and rocks in between the Tigris and Euphrates
 - (d) cures for fever
 - (e) the Jhellum River
 - (f) people with ears so big they could sleep in their ears
 - (g) The great cities of China

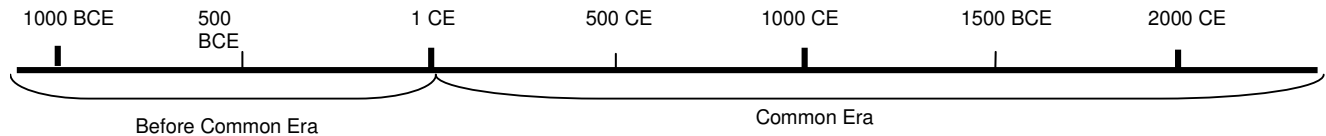
Mark True or False:

- (1) The modern name for Mesopotamia is Iraq. ____
- (2) Homer was Alexander's tutor. ____
- (3) When he became king, Alexander crushed the city-state of Pella. ____
- (4) The Nandas ruled in Magadh. ____
- (5) At the time of Alexander, English was being spoken in England. ____
- (6) At the time of Alexander, Punjabi was being spoken in Punjab. ____

An Ancient Timeline

We now live in what is called the Common Era, or **CE** (this is sometimes called AD).

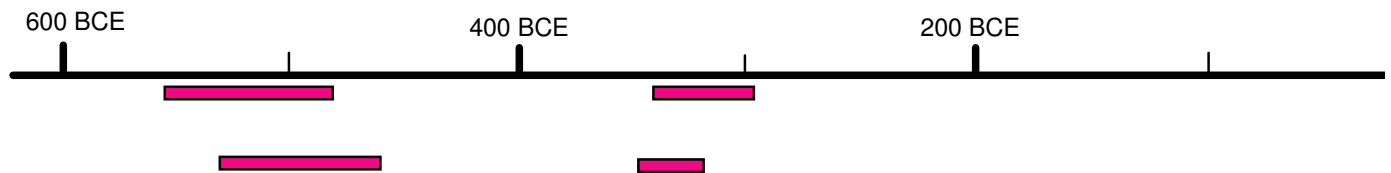
Before the year 1 CE, there was the period called Before Common Era, or **BCE** (sometimes called BC), with the numbers going backwards.



Here is a list of people who lived in the BCE period. Also given is the year each of them died (these years are approximate, since the records are unclear in many cases).

<u>Name</u>	<u>Death</u>
Mahavir Jain	468 BCE
Gautama Buddha	483 BCE
Chandragupta Maurya	297 BCE
Alexander of Macedon	323 BCE

- (1) Which bar on the following timeline shows the life of which person? Write the person's name below each bar.



- (2) Alexander was living at the same time as:
 (a) Chandragupta Maurya
 (b) Mahavir Jain
 (c) Gautama Buddha
 (d) None of the above
- (3) Which of these men lived the longest life?
 (a) Chandragupta Maurya
 (b) Mahavir Jain
 (c) Gautama Buddha
 (d) Alexander
- (4) Which of these men lived the shortest life?
 (a) Chandragupta Maurya
 (b) Mahavir Jain
 (c) Gautama Buddha
 (d) Alexander
- (5) Was Chandragupta Maurya born before or after Alexander?
- (6) Was Gautama Buddha born before or Mahavir Jain?

Write Long Answers:

- (1) What difficulties did Alexander and his army face along the route of their conquest?
- (2) Why do you think Alexander turned back after defeating Porus? Give reasons, and discuss all possible other reasons.

Use your maps and atlases to answer the following questions:

- (1) Alexander's route passed through places that are now part of which countries? Make a list of all the modern countries.
- (2) Which cities were there in Alexander's time that are still called by the same names today?
- (3) Which cities were there in Alexander's time that are now called by different names? (Tell the old and the new names.)
- (4) Which rivers did Alexander cross in his travels?