

## Alexander's army

Alexander the Great is the most famous name in Ancient Greek warfare. His father Philip II of Macedon took over all of Greece. By his death (323 bc) Alexander had created an empire that reached from Egypt to India. This period saw the height of Ancient Greek warfare techniques.

Alexander's army had hoplites (foot soldiers) armed with long spears [[Myth and religion 14](#); [Citizenship 1](#); [Warfare 1-7](#)]. When they moved together 'in formation' nobody could break through their group [[Warfare 17](#)]. They were supported by a skilled cavalry that charged in a wedge shape, to break up the enemy [[Greece 13](#); [Warfare 14 – 20](#), [22](#)].

Armies in the 4th century BC also developed siege techniques (ways of stopping people from getting in or out of a town). At Tyre Alexander's army even built a bridge to an island in order to defeat their enemy.

The army of Alexander the Great moved on foot, marching over 22,000 miles in total. Once he had taken over an area he sometimes he replaced local rulers with Greeks, but often he allowed satraps (local rulers) to keep some power and rule, which made the local people happy. Alexander also founded a number of cities, many named after himself. He did not have an heir to rule after him, so after his death his empire broke up into smaller regions, each run by one of his generals.



Persian king fighting Alexander's army, on a mosaic from Pompeii, House of the Faun, now in Naples.