After Alexander

Trace how kingdoms carried ideas across the Mediterranean.

SS24.7.14e "Describe the influence of Alexander the Great's empire, including the establishment of Hellenistic kingdoms, the diffusion of Greek culture, and its role in shaping Rome."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline why Alexander's empire split into kingdoms, circle two ways Greek culture spread or changed, and number two connections between the Hellenistic kingdoms and Rome.

From Alexandria to Rome

1. Imagine walking into Alexandria, a busy port in Egypt, around 250 BCE. Ships unload grain, and people speak several languages along the docks. This city grew under the Ptolemaic dynasty, one of the royal families that ruled after Alexander the Great died in 323 BCE. Alexander had led armies from Macedonia through Egypt and into parts of India, but he left no clear adult heir. His generals fought for control, and their territories became separate Hellenistic kingdoms, including Ptolemaic Egypt, the Seleucid kingdom in western Asia, and Antigonid Macedonia.

2. The Ptolemies supported scholars in Alexandria, where Greek became a common language of government and learning. In markets and workshops, Greek ideas met older Egyptian customs. Artists sometimes combined Greek styles with Egyptian subjects, rather than replacing local art. Across other kingdoms, rulers founded cities and encouraged Greek theaters, schools, and public buildings. Trade and travel carried Greek language, stories, and artistic styles across a wide region. People did not all become Greek; they adapted what they encountered to their own lives.

3. Rome encountered Greek culture before it took over the Hellenistic kingdoms, partly through Greek cities in southern Italy. Later, as Rome expanded east, it defeated Macedonia and eventually took control of Egypt in 30 BCE. Roman writers studied Greek works, and Roman artists borrowed Greek styles. Romans also gave Greek gods Latin names while reshaping their stories and worship. The kingdoms had helped keep Greek language and learning active across the Mediterranean. As a result, Rome inherited and adapted Greek ideas through both early contacts and its later rule of Hellenistic lands.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Alexander's death lead to the establishment of Hellenistic kingdoms?

2. How did Ptolemaic rule in Alexandria help Greek culture spread beyond Greece?

3. How does the art described in the passage show that Greek culture changed as it spread?

4. How did the Hellenistic kingdoms help shape Rome, even though Rome had encountered Greek culture earlier?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label for an object you invent from a Hellenistic city. Describe the object, then explain how the kingdoms arose, how Greek culture spread or mixed with local traditions, and how this history later connected to Rome.

After Alexander

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline why Alexander's empire split into kingdoms, circle two ways Greek culture spread or changed, and number two connections between the Hellenistic kingdoms and Rome. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Alexander's death lead to the establishment of Hellenistic kingdoms?	**Alexander left no clear adult heir, so his generals fought for control. Their territories became separate kingdoms.**
2	How did Ptolemaic rule in Alexandria help Greek culture spread beyond Greece?	**The Ptolemies supported scholars in Alexandria, where Greek became a common language of government and learning.**
3	How does the art described in the passage show that Greek culture changed as it spread?	**Artists combined Greek styles with Egyptian subjects instead of simply replacing local art.**
4	How did the Hellenistic kingdoms help shape Rome, even though Rome had encountered Greek culture earlier?	**The kingdoms kept Greek language and learning active across the Mediterranean. When Rome took over Hellenistic lands, it inherited and adapted Greek ideas.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

This imagined clay lamp from Alexandria has Greek letters around its rim and an Egyptian flower design. It represents a city ruled by the Ptolemies, whose kingdom formed after Alexander died without a clear adult heir and his generals fought for control. Its two kinds of decoration suggest how Greek styles could mix with local traditions. Centuries later, Rome took control of Egypt and adapted Greek ideas that had remained active in Hellenistic lands.

Accept other passage-supported examples of cultural exchange and Roman influence. For the museum label, the invented object should be plausible, and the historical explanation should be accurate.