After the Conquest

Trace how Alexander and his successors shaped the Hellenistic world

9-12.WC.5 "Analyze the contributions of Alexander the Great and the development of the Hellenistic world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one decision Alexander made, circle two actions taken by later rulers, and number two details that show Greek and local traditions coexisted. Use your marks to trace how the Hellenistic world developed.

Alexandria and a Changing World

1 In 334 BCE, Alexander of Macedon led an army into the Persian Empire. Over the next decade, his forces conquered lands from Egypt to the edge of India. He founded cities, including Alexandria on Egypt's Mediterranean coast, and left Greek-speaking soldiers and settlers across the conquered regions. Yet Alexander did not govern by simply removing every local custom. In some places he kept Persian officials, and he adopted elements of Persian court dress. These choices helped him rule a vast territory, but his campaigns also brought sieges, deaths, and displacement to people in their path.

2 Alexander died in 323 BCE without a clear adult heir. His generals fought for control, and his empire broke into rival kingdoms. The Ptolemies ruled Egypt, while the Seleucids controlled much of western Asia. These rulers used Greek in government and supported cities where Greek-speaking settlers lived alongside other communities. Trade and travel carried ideas and goods between regions, but people did not all become Greek. In Egypt, for example, older religious practices continued under the Ptolemies. The Hellenistic world grew from both Alexander's conquests and the choices made after his death.

3 Alexandria shows how that world developed. Its harbor connected Egypt to Mediterranean trade, and Ptolemaic rulers funded a center of learning that included a famous library. Scholars there collected texts and studied subjects such as mathematics and medicine. The rulers also promoted Serapis, a god whose worship drew on Egyptian and Greek traditions. Such mixing did not make every group equal: Greek speakers often held advantages in government. Alexander opened routes for contact through conquest; later rulers built institutions that made those contacts last. The result was not one uniform culture, but a network of places where traditions met and power shaped the exchange.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Alexander's founding of Alexandria help later rulers shape the Hellenistic world?

2. Why did Alexander's death change who shaped the Hellenistic world?

3. What two details challenge the claim that the Hellenistic world had one uniform Greek culture?

4. How did power affect cultural exchange in Alexandria, even as traditions mixed?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 65 to 85 word museum label titled "Alexandria After Alexander." Explain how Alexander and later rulers each helped shape the city, then weigh one benefit and one limit of cultural exchange there. Include at least two specific details from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

After the Conquest

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-12.WC.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one decision Alexander made, circle two actions taken by later rulers, and number two details that show Greek and local traditions coexisted. Use your marks to trace how the Hellenistic world developed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Alexander's founding of Alexandria help later rulers shape the Hellenistic world?	**Alexander founded the city; later Ptolemaic rulers made it a center of trade and learning.**
2	Why did Alexander's death change who shaped the Hellenistic world?	**His generals divided the empire into rival kingdoms, whose rulers made new decisions about government and cities.**
3	What two details challenge the claim that the Hellenistic world had one uniform Greek culture?	**Older Egyptian religious practices continued, and the worship of Serapis drew on both Egyptian and Greek traditions.**
4	How did power affect cultural exchange in Alexandria, even as traditions mixed?	**Rulers promoted a mixed religious practice, but Greek speakers often had advantages in government.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Alexandria After Alexander: Alexander founded Alexandria on Egypt's coast, creating a place where people and ideas could meet. After his death, Ptolemaic rulers supported a learning center with a library, and the city's harbor linked Egypt to Mediterranean trade. The worship of Serapis drew on Greek and Egyptian traditions, showing that contact could produce new practices. Yet exchange was not equal: Greek speakers often had greater access to government power. Alexandria's history joins conquest, royal investment, cultural mixing, and inequality.

Accept other passage-supported examples of cultural continuity or mixing for question 3. The museum label should connect Alexander's founding of the city to later Ptolemaic actions and explain both a benefit and a limit of exchange.