A Connected World

Conquest, cultural exchange, and Hellenistic ideas

AWH.C.6.6 "Describe the rise of Alexander the Great and the spread of Greek culture, evaluating major contributions of Hellenistic art, philosophy, science, and political thought."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that explain how Alexander gained or extended power, circle two details showing exchange between Greek and local cultures, and number two Hellenistic contributions whose importance you could defend.

After Alexander's Conquests

1. In 336 BCE, Alexander became king of Macedon after his father, Philip II, was killed. Philip had built a strong army and brought many Greek city-states under Macedonian control. Alexander kept that army together, defeated a rebellion in Greece, and marched against the Persian Empire. His forces won major battles, including one at Gaugamela in 331 BCE. By the time he died in 323 BCE, his rule reached from Greece to parts of India. Soldiers, merchants, and officials carried Greek language and customs east. In new cities, Greek settlers lived beside local communities, whose traditions also shaped daily life.

2. After Alexander's death, his generals fought for territory and established kingdoms. Greek became a shared language in many cities, but cultural exchange was not simply Greeks teaching others. In Egypt, artists combined Greek styles with Egyptian religious images. Hellenistic sculptors also made figures with twisting bodies and intense expressions, inviting viewers to notice human emotion rather than only ideal balance. In philosophy, Stoics argued that people should live by reason and that all humans belonged to a wider moral community. This idea could challenge the belief that loyalty and duty stopped at a city's borders.

3. New kingdoms supported centers of learning, especially Alexandria in Egypt. There, Eratosthenes used differences in the noon sun's angle at two places to estimate Earth's circumference. His method showed that careful observation and geometry could answer questions about a world that no ruler could fully see. Yet the Hellenistic kingdoms were monarchies, not democracies: kings claimed broad authority and relied on officials to govern diverse peoples. Stoic ideas about a shared human community offered a different way to think about political belonging, even though they did not give ordinary people control of those kingdoms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Philip's actions and Alexander's victories work together to spread Greek language and customs?

2. What do the two examples of Hellenistic art show about cultural exchange and artistic expression? Explain why each example matters.

3. How did Stoic political thought offer a different idea of belonging from rule by Hellenistic kings, and what limit remained?

4. Why was Eratosthenes' method an important scientific contribution? Use evidence from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 65 to 90 word museum label for an imagined exhibit called “A Connected World.” Explain how Alexander's conquests helped spread Greek culture, compare two contributions from different fields in the passage, judge which had the wider impact, and show why cultural exchange did not move in only one direction.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that explain how Alexander gained or extended power, circle two details showing exchange between Greek and local cultures, and number two Hellenistic contributions whose importance you could defend. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Philip's actions and Alexander's victories work together to spread Greek language and customs?	**Philip built an army and brought Greek city-states under Macedonian control. Alexander used that army to conquer territory where soldiers, merchants, and officials carried Greek language and customs east.**
2	What do the two examples of Hellenistic art show about cultural exchange and artistic expression? Explain why each example matters.	**Egyptian artists combined Greek styles with Egyptian religious images, showing that local traditions shaped Hellenistic art. Sculptors used twisting bodies and intense expressions to draw attention to human emotion.**
3	How did Stoic political thought offer a different idea of belonging from rule by Hellenistic kings, and what limit remained?	**Stoics described all humans as part of a wider moral community, while kings governed separate kingdoms with broad authority. That idea did not give ordinary people control of the kingdoms.**
4	Why was Eratosthenes' method an important scientific contribution? Use evidence from the passage.	**He used differences in the noon sun's angle and geometry to estimate Earth's circumference, showing how observation and mathematics could answer questions about the world.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Alexander inherited Philip's army, then won territory where Greek speakers settled near other peoples. This exhibit pairs a sculpture showing intense human emotion with an account of Eratosthenes estimating Earth's circumference. The scientific work had the wider impact because its use of observation and geometry offered a way to investigate questions beyond any one kingdom. The sculpture mattered too: it invited viewers to notice emotion. Art that blended Greek styles with Egyptian religious images shows that local people also shaped Hellenistic culture.

Accept other passage-supported judgments about a contribution's impact. For the museum label, check that students compare different fields, defend their judgment, and recognize exchange with local cultures.