Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Alexander the Great***

WORLD HISTORY

Unit Learning Target:

* I will analyze the effects of Alexander the Greats’ conquests in terms of cultural diffusion.

College Readiness CORE Targets

* I will determine the central ideas or information of a secondary source and provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop. (key ideas and details)
* I will determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social studies. (craft and structure)

**Directions:** As you read through the list of Alexander’s actions and the behavior of Greeks during his era below, **circle** those that believe are examples of cultural diffusion.

1. Alexander assumed the throne of Macedonia at age of 20 following the murder of his father,          the king.

2. Alexander imposed a common system of currency throughout his entire realm from Greece        to Asia.

3. Alexander established many new colonies and cities, many of which were named directly        after him.

4. Alexander founded the city of Alexandria, Egypt which he had designed by a Greek        architect to serve as the commercial center of the West.

5. Alexander used Greek, Macedonian, and Persians in his government and administration in        an attempt to unite East and West

6. Alexander adopted some Persian customs including dress which inspired many of his        troops to do the same.

7. Alexander married both Bactrian (people of Northern India /SW Asia) and Persian        princesses.

8. Alexander introduced some stability for and protection of trading systems which allowed        major commercial arteries to be formed, most famously the Silk Road.

9. Alexander exposed Egypt and Southwest Asia to Hellenistic ideas as well as introducing        Western money-based economies.

10. Alexander seized the wealth of the Persian kings and dispersed it into the money        economies of the Mediterranean city-states, which fueled a huge economic expansion in        the Mediterranean.

11. As a result of Alexander’s conquests, Greek became the international language of the day,        which facilitated communication for trade and for the exchange of ideas.

12. Thousands of Alexander’s Greek and Macedonian soldiers married Persian women and        children from these families experienced both cultures.

13. Alexander proclaimed himself a god-king in Egypt in the tradition of pharaohs.

14. Alexander proclaimed himself as a god-king in Greece where this was not a tradition.

15. Alexander brought Greek scientists on his expeditions who gathered information about        biology and geography to take back to Greece.

16. Alexander was known to have personally identified with the Greek hero Achilles from        Homer’s epic poem, the *Illiad* and the Greek hero Hercules.

17. As Alexander conquered regions he allowed the existing rulers to continue to govern in his        name without making changes.

18. Alexander’s empire set the stage for the eventual rise of Rome and Christianity.

19. As a result of Alexander Greece strongly influenced the near east politically for three        hundred years and culturally for one thousand years.

20. Alexander united an area of over 22 million square miles of territory.

21. Philip of Macedon (Alexander’s father) developed the Macedonian phalanx, a military               formation which allowed him to begin building an empire in Greece.

22. Alexander perfected the Macedonian phalanx and used it to build an empire stretching from        Greece to what is now Pakistan. Persian and other armies eventually adopted the use of        this military technique.

23. Alexander died at age thirty-three after a heavy drinking bout and swimming in a river from        which he caught a fever.

24. Little had been done to organize Alexander’s empire; no permanent institutions were        created to govern it and after his death it would go to the strongest among his generals.

25. Alexander earned and deserved the admiration and loyalty of his soldiers.

26. Aśoka an emperor in India (ruled 50 years after the death of Alexander the Great) issued        edicts and decrees in various languages including Greek by having them carved on giant        columns.

27. Art created during the reign of the Indian emperor Aśoka shows a blending of Greek,        Persian and Indian cultures.

28. Alexander and his armies marched for eleven years over a distance of 22,000 miles and        never lost even one battle despite facing the strongest foes of his time.

29. Alexander’s armies opened trade routes into what is now Afghanistan and established        many garrison towns which became major Hellenistic cities. Greek soldiers integrated        themselves into local populations, married local women, and brought to these cities many        characteristics of Greek cities—amphitheaters, gymnasiums, and marketplaces.

30. The kingdom of Bactria (northern Indian) which had been conquered by Alexander sent        elephants to the Greek armies in the west and Greek art and coins showed fascination with        elephants.

31. The kingdoms of Northern India were the first places where realistic human form sculptures        of Buddha appeared and they were modeled on Greek statues.

32. The kingdom of Bactria (northern Indian) and other Indo-Greek kingdoms in what is now        Pakistan and Afghanistan had coins with Greek inscriptions.

33. Some [Mahayana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahayana) Buddhist [ceremonial practices](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offering_%28Buddhism%29) (burning [incense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incense), gifts of flowers, and food        placed on altars) are similar to those practiced by the ancient Greeks in their religion.

34. The Greek concept of a [spherical earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spherical_earth) surrounded by the spheres of planets was adopted        in India and eventually supplanted the long-standing Indian cosmological belief of a flat and        circular earth.

35. Areas in lands initially conquered by Alexander remained Greek-speaking for centuries and        developed into Greek-style cities.

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**Directions:** Answer the following questions.

1. For each of the actions of Alexander the Great on the list which you identified as being examples of cultural diffusion, indicate what type of ideas were being spread by putting one of the following abbreviations next to the statement. If the example does not relate to cultural diffusion, leave it blank.

(P) **Political** – forms of government

(E) **Economic**– ideas related to currency, trade, or agriculture

(R) **Religion** – blending of religions or religious traditions

(A) **Arts and Culture** – events, art, traditions, education, and language

(M/S) **Military, Science and Technology** – military techniques and technologies

2. For each of the above category choose the best example from the list and write it in the                  space provided below and be prepared to defend your choices in a class discussion.

Political Cultural Diffusion:

Economic Cultural Diffusion:

Religious Cultural Diffusion:

Artistic Cultural Diffusion:

Military and Science Cultural Diffusion:

       3. Greek was a language that was diffused throughout Alexander’s empire and became the             language of trade and diplomacy (bullet #11). How is English fulfilling that role today?