ALEXANDER THE GREAT:

HERO OR VILLAIN?

**Directions:** Using the following lyrics from “Alexander the Great” written by the heavy metal band Iron Maiden, answer the questions that follow.

**Questions:**

1. Who was the father of Alexander the Great?

2. Where was Alexander born?

3. At the age of 19, what did Alexander become?

4. What Persian leader did Alexander defeat?

5. What places did Alexander conquer?

6. When Alexander conquered a place, what culture spread?
Questions:

1. Alexander the Great was from Macedonia. What cultures did he come into contact with when building his empire?

2. Name three bodies of water that bordered Alexander’s empire.

3. Why would it be difficult to rule Alexander’s empire?

4. How would you describe the type of culture that flourished in Alexander’s empire?
YOU BE THE JUDGE:

Was Alexander the Great a hero or a villain?

Directions: Read the following primary source documents on Alexander the Great to determine if he was a hero or a villain.

Document #1:

“…When he came to Thebes…the city…was sacked and razed. Alexander’s hope being that so severe an example might terrify the rest of Greece into obedience…thirty thousand, were publicly sold for slaves, and it is computed that upwards of six thousand were put to the sword.”

-Plutarch, Greek Historian, 90 A.D.

1. According to this document, what did Alexander the Great do?

2. How does this document depict (describe) Alexander the Great?

Document #2:

“Alexander, by founding more than seventy cities among the barbarian tribes…suppressed their savage and uncivilized customs…Those whom Alexander conquered were more fortunate than those who escaped…(He desired to give) all the races in the world…one rule and one form of government, making all mankind a single people.”

--Plutarch, Greek Historian, 90 A.D.

1. How does this document depict Alexander the Great?

2. According to this document, what did Alexander the Great aspire to do?
Document #3:

“For I myself believe that there was at that time no race of mankind, no city, no individual (to whom) the name Alexander had not reached. And so not I can suppose that a man quite beyond all other men was born without some divine influence”

-Arrian, philosopher A.D. 171

1. Looking at the first sentence, what does this quote reveal about Alexander the Great and his actions?

2. Looking at the second sentence, how does this philosopher explain how Alexander the Great was able to become so powerful?

Document #4:

“He was…very heroic in courage…He was very clever in recognizing what was necessary to be done, when others were still in a state of uncertainty…In…ruling an army, he was exceedingly skillful; and very renowned for rousing the courage of his soldiers, filling them with hopes of success, and dispelling their fear in the midst of danger by his own freedom from fear. He was likewise very (dedicated to) keeping the agreements and settlements which he made.”

—Arrian, philosopher A.D. 171

1. How does Arrian describe Alexander the Great?

2. How does this description explain how he was able to conquer vast lands?