Humanities: Classical Era Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Document Analysis: Alexander the Great

*Focus Question: Based on his actions and his character, does Alexander III of Macedonia (356-323 BCE) deserve the title of “the Great?”*

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| **Document** | **How do I know if this is reliable information?** | **When was this document written? What was its purpose?** | **What is the author’s point of view about Alexander?** | **How can this document help me answer the focus question?** |
| Doc. 1: Images of Alexander III |  |  |  |  |
| Doc. 2: Anonymous, “Itinerarium Alexandri” |  |  |  |  |
| Doc. 3: Arrian – soldier, governor, philospher |  |  |  |  |
| Doc. 4: Diodorus – Greek historian |  |  |  |  |
| Doc. 5: Plutarch – historian, ancient Greece |  |  |  |  |
| **Document** | **reliable information?** | **When was document written? purpose?** | **author’s point of view about Alexander?** | **How can this document help me answer the focus question?** |
| Doc. 6: Alan M. Fildes – Egyptologist, author |  |  |  |  |
| Doc. 7: Michael Wood – archaeologist, historian |  |  |  |  |

**Background:** Alexander III of Macedonia lived from 356-323 BCE and ruled from the age of twenty until his death at the age of thirty-three. As a child, Alexander was taught by tutors including the Greek philosopher Aristotle, who taught Alexander much about Greek literature, philosophy and science. Alexander’s favorite Greek hero was Achilles, the warrior hero in the *Iliad*.

During his rule as King of Macedonia, Alexander conquered much of what was then the civilized world. He desired to create a world monarchy. First defeating the rebellious Greek city-states, Alexander then went on to invade the Persian Empire in Asia Minor as well as Egypt. His desire was to have the local culture in the regions he conquered co-exist with the Greek ideas and culture that he brought with him. In 323 BCE, while in Babylon, Alexander died, most likely of a fever. With his death came the collapse of his empire. It was divided into three kingdoms ruled by descendents of his commanders.