

## Glossary of Terms:

**Alexander “the Great”:** A Macedonian king who invaded and successfully conquered the Persian Empire before dying young in 323 BCE. The kingdom that he built soon disintegrated with various generals striving to control pieces of it.

**Antigonus:** One of the many rival military leaders who fought to take over from Alexander the Great. He at one time controlled from modern day Turkey to Afghanistan, but was defeated by a coalition of the other generals.

**Asia Minor:** This is the Western area of modern day Turkey, facing Greece across the Aegean Sea. It got its name because it is technically part of Europe, but is generally more connected with Asia.

**Assyria:** The major empire in northern Mesopotamia, near the headwaters of the Tigris. Its capital cities were Ninevah and Ashur, and both were eventually destroyed by the Medes and Babylonians.

**Babylon:** A relatively minor city until the fall of Ur III near 2000 BCE, where it became the dominant cultural, if not political or military, center of Mesopotamia. Babylon is located south of modern day Baghdad, just south of where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers are closest together.

**BCE/CE:** The current way of saying BC/AD. It is used in this curriculum not for political correctness but because Christ was not born at 1AD, and so the original chronological designations were imprecise and misleading.

**Canaan:** Is not a well defined area, but is generally the south half of the Eastern Mediterranean coastline, from Egypt in the south to modern day Lebanon in the North, and the Jordan River on the East. This area is the promised land of Israel.

**Cassander:** One of the generals of Alexander the Great. Cassander eventually came to control Macedonia and Greece but could not do much with them because so much of their population had already been used by Alexander and so were quite weakened when Cassander took over.

**Hittites:** A people group from modern Turkey who established an unstable but expansive empire from about 1650-1200. They were the primary rivals of Egypt at the time and were eventually destroyed by excessive war with Egypt weakening them to destruction by nomadic invaders from the Sea.

**Hyksos:** A people group unknown to history otherwise who invaded and controlled Egypt from about 1640-1530. They were the first outsiders to rule Egypt, though modern thinking is that they were at least partly helped by Egyptian slave revolts who rose up to help the outsiders against the native Egyptians.

**Judah:** One of the 12 tribes of Israel, became the name of the southern kingdom of the Jews when it split from Israel in 922 BCE.

**Lysimachus:** One of Alexander the Great’s generals who came into possession of Thrace on the West coast of the Black Sea. After joining with the other generals to destroy Antigonus he briefly ruled some of Asia minor before being defeated by the Seleucids.

**Maccabee:** A family of a father and five sons who led Israel in a successful revolt against the Seleucid kings, eventually becoming a line of kings and high priests over the independent Israel. Their line was broken with Roman rule and Herod the Great.

**Macedonia:** An area just north of Modern day Greece, made famous by Philip II of Macedonia who conquered Greece, and his more famous son Alexander the Great who conquered most of the Near East.

**Medes:** A people group from the mountains south and west of the Caspian Sea. They first appeared in history around the time of the Assyrian Empire and eventually rose up to join with the Babylonians in destroying the Assyrian Empire. They were eventually taken over by a different people group within their own nation, the Persians.

**Mesopotamia:** The land of Modern day Iraq, from the Persian gulf and north between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers up to their headwaters.

**Mitanni:** A nation that was founded from various Hurrian tribes in about 1500 BCE. It was quite powerful for several centuries, but we have little real information about it, and destroyed by the Hittites around 1360 BCE.

None:

**Parthians:** A people group from East of the Caspian Sea who rose to power in the last centuries BCE. They eventually controlled modern Afghanistan and Iraq, and were powerful enough to challenge and even beat the Roman Empire at times for several hundred years.

**Persians:** The Persians were people from modern Iran, who were a major part of the Median Empire. Eventually they became the leading force instead of followers and founded the Persian, or Achaemenid Empire.

**Ptolomy:** One of Alexander the Great's generals whose descendents controlled Egypt until the time of Rome.

**Romans:** An empire founded in modern day Italy that came to dominate the entire Mediterranean around the switch from BCE to CE.

**Samaria:** The capital of the northern kingdom of Israel after its' split from Judah in 922. It is also used to the entire area and the people who were imported there to fill the void after Israel was deported.

**Seleucid:** A kingdom based from Antioch on the Mediterranean Sea, founded by one of Alexander the Great's generals. At one time it was the largest empire in the world, but soon fell and was eventually destroyed by the Romans in the last century BCE.

**Upper Egypt:** The Nile river is Egypt's lifeline and is navigable all the way south to modern day Aswan. The area above those rapids is known as upper Egypt and Egypt's control is often measured by how many "cataracts" or rapids Egypt got to.