



Main Idea and Details

Directions: Read the passage. Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

It did not take long for Alexander to show his leadership qualities. In 334 B.C., just two years after he became king of Macedonia, Alexander successfully invaded the Persian Empire.

In a battle on the plain of Issus in Syria, Alexander showed a real genius for leadership. The much larger Persian army rained a storm of arrows down on Alexander's army. However, Alexander did not order a retreat. Instead, he ordered his army to attack.

When the Persians saw their opponents charging at them, they fled in terror. Alexander was triumphant.

Alexander then turned south. He conquered Syria and Phoenicia (fo NEE shuh).

In 332 B.C. he invaded Egypt, where the Persians had ruled for 200 years. The Egyptians quickly surrendered, and Alexander was given the crown of pharaoh.

Alexander now turned back to fight the Persians. In 331 B.C. he once again faced a much larger Persian army. The Persians sent their chariots charging at full speed toward Alexander's army. Alexander ordered his men to stand their ground. Then, at the last moment, his army separated into two groups. The Persian chariots passed right through them. Then Alexander's army closed the line, and the chariots were trapped. The chariots were destroyed. Alexander's army then wiped out the rest of the Persian army.

1. Which of the following is the best main idea of the passage?
 - (A) The Persian Empire had a great army.
 - (B) Egyptians were under the rule of the Persian Empire.
 - (C) Alexander was a brave and clever military leader.
 - (D) Chariots were a very useful weapon in battle.
2. Which of the following details is NOT true about Alexander's accomplishments as a military leader?
 - (A) Instead of fleeing from the larger Persian army, Alexander attacked.
 - (B) Alexander skipped Syria and Phoenicia to attack Egypt.
 - (C) Alexander was crowned pharaoh of Egypt after the Egyptians' surrender.
 - (D) In Alexander's second attack on Persia, he trapped and destroyed the Persian chariots.



Notes for Home: Your child learned how to identify the main idea and details of a passage.

Home Activity: With your child, recall a familiar fairy tale, such as "Little Red Riding Hood," "The Three Little Pigs," or another well-known short story. Then work together to identify the main idea and details of the story.