

**Skill:** Historical Causation

**Key Concept:** Development of States and Empires

**Theme:** State Building, Expansion, and Conflict

**Topic-Expansionist Empires from Period 2:** Cyrus the Great- Persia, 557-530BC, Shi Huangdi-Qin Empire, 221-210BC, Ashoka-Mauyran Empire-268-232BC, Alexander the Great, Greek (Hellenistic), 338-323, Julius Caesar, Rome, 49-44BC OR Augustus Caesar, Rome, 27BC-14AD, Aksum, 100-570AD OR Nubia, 300BC-100AD

Students will work in groups of six to fill out the chart with information on one or two of the assigned conquerors/empires. Use the research questions as a guide. Next, students will “jigsaw,” meaning one or two people from each group will form a new group and complete the chart with “experts” on the other leaders and empires. Upon completion, the groups should discuss the second set of questions regarding leadership and causation and be prepared to share their conclusions with the class. The entire activity should take about two class periods and could be used either as an activity during the unit or as review.

Research Questions:

1. What was the duration of the empire?
2. What were the methods of expansion used by the leader regarding political structure, economics, social systems and culture?
3. What were proximal and long term impacts of this leader and/or the empire itself? Consider longevity, war and peace, economic production, and cultural dissemination.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did leadership style impact the longevity and success of each empire? Be sure to use specific evidence in your analysis.
2. Can the quality of leadership be deduced by examining the short and long term impacts of an empire? If so, what type of leadership brought the most success, and if not, what discuss other factors that determined the course of an empire.
3. Which of these leaders, or which policies and actions of the empire, most directly caused the success or failure of the state?

Possible Extensions

1. Students debate the impacts of a particular leader as positive or negative in groups or one on one.
2. Students write a continuity and change over time essay on one of the leaders and their empire.

## Empire Chart 600 BCE to 600 CE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Empire, Leader, Date, Location	Political	Economic	Social/Cultural/ Religion	Short Term Effects	Long Term Effects
1.Persia-Cyrus the Great					
2.Maurya-Ashoka					
3. Gupta-Chandra Gupta					
4. Qin – Shi Huangdi					
5. Greece- Alexander the Great 338-323 Greece – Egypt-Persia- India	Autocratic, Regional Governors, Unification of huge empire	Expansion of trade- east to west, common currency	Hellenistic Culture-fusion of Greek, Egyptian, Persian & some Indian traditions, religions, & achievements, spread Greek genetics	After he died – political fragmentation	Urban centers of trade, Hellenistic culture set stage for Roman Empire
6. Rome-Julius or Augustus Caesar					

<b>Empire, Leader, Date, Location</b>	<b>Political</b>	<b>Economic</b>	<b>Social/Cultural/Religion</b>	<b>Short Term Effects</b>	<b>Long Term Effects</b>
7.Han- Liu Bang or Emperor Wu					
8. Aztec- Moctezuma					
9. Maya					
10.Nubia					
11. Tang Dynasty-Li Shimin					

