

Q: Was there an important center for the Hellenistic empire, as Athens had been for classical Greece?

A: After Alexander the Great's death, his empire was divided, and therefore, several kingdoms and cities in different parts of the Hellenistic world can be considered central. The rise of Philip and Alexander the Great began in Macedon, on the Greek peninsula. Alexandria was founded by Alexander the Great and remained an important Hellenistic center in Egypt after his death. In Asia Minor, Pergamum, whose imposing acropolis was built for the Attalid kings, became the important center of an active kingdom. Another city, Antioch, founded by one of Alexander's generals in present-day Turkey, rose as a Hellenistic center in the Near East.

Tags: [Hellenistic Period](#)

Q: Were Hellenistic cities similar to Greek cities?

A: In their conception, Hellenistic cities were modeled on Greek cities, with spaces reserved for monumental and civic architecture, and an effort to impose regular plans on sites. However, the city itself didn't have the same role to its inhabitants as the city-states of Greece did to their citizens, and this tended to have an impact on the physical aspect of the city. Hellenistic cities were not independent; they were, rather, part of large kingdoms. It is often noted that a shift in consciousness took place from that of being a citizen of a civic entity in ancient Greece to that of being an individual with personal desires in Hellenistic society. This would explain the growing emphasis on lavish and comfortable interior spaces, both in royal courts and palaces and in private homes. The important cities of the different kingdoms also grew to be bigger than those of ancient Greece, and structures devoted to new roles, such as libraries, became part of the cityscape.

Tags: [hellenistic cities](#), [Hellenistic Period](#)

Q: How can we summarize the differences between the physicality of classical Greek cities and Hellenistic cities?

A: In general terms, Hellenistic urbanism took much from Greek city planning, such as the grid-based structure, but infused it with its own character. Public buildings tended to give off a more dramatic and grandiose aspect. Palaces of the ruling class were very impressive structures as well. Additionally, it has often been pointed out that Hellenistic cities constituted more urbanized, cohesive units than previous Greek cities. Public buildings became an inherent part city planning. Additionally, the contrast between public and residential areas lessened. Residential areas now also had their grid-like organization, and houses reflected a new emphasis on the comforts of domestic life.

Tags: [hellenistic cities](#)