

Scribbles

Bringing colour to your lives

Volume No. 7

March - April 2016

Issue No. 2

From the Editor's desk...

The last issue of Scribbles on the theme, "Together... One World," featured 25 countries one in each alphabet excluding X. We received a very positive feedback.

Our world today is experiencing volatility, uncertainty and ambiguity resulting in our living in a more complex situation than ever before. The pressure from the political system on the social and economic systems sometimes are working at cross purposes resulting in losses to mankind.

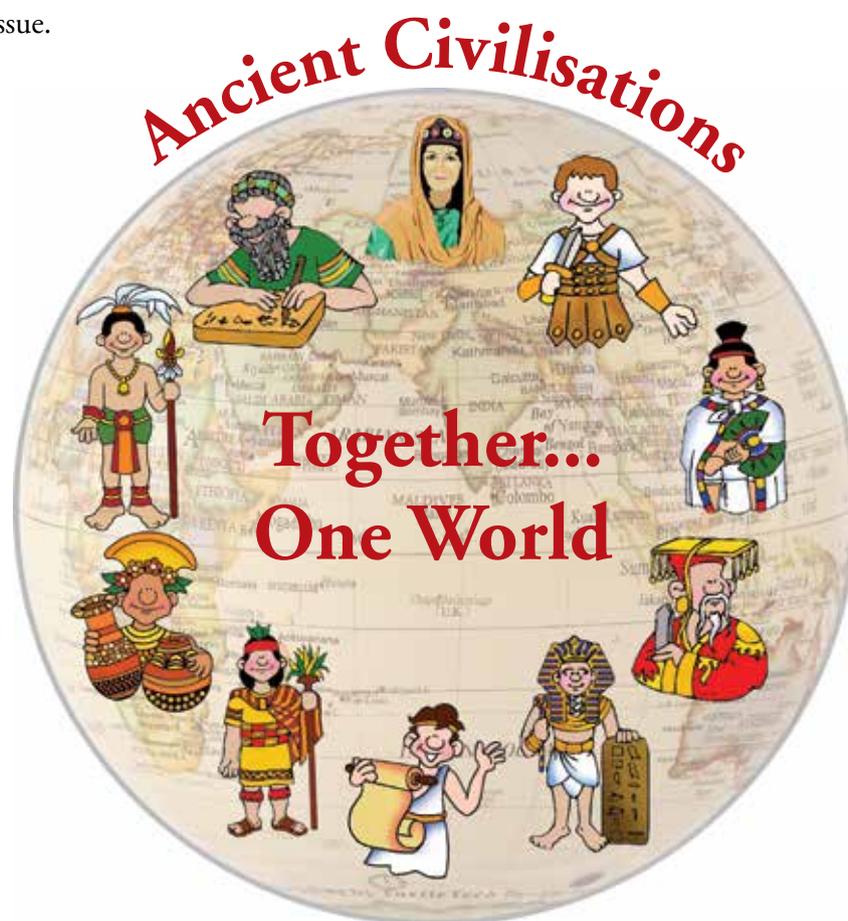
In this context it seemed appropriate to remember our glorious past - the ancient civilisations we come from. Our forefathers had actually built societies that were advanced in many ways. Should we not have leveraged on that?

Continuing on the theme, "Together... One World," in this issue we present ten ancient civilisations to you. Our contributors from the various Sanmartini teams have done a wonderful job extracting the juice on each civilisation and presenting them in 2-3 pages. Rama, Veena and Mathialagan have overworked their creative adrenalins to make the presentation interesting.

Let's reflect on the platforms that our forefathers and nation builders gave us to leap forward to create a unique World... the Earth... and live together... peacefully.

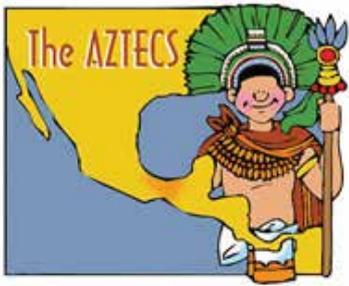
Ciao until the next issue.

Ananda Jagan

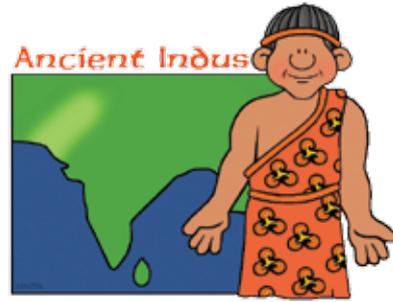


Guess Who?! Given at the bottom of alternate pages are tips that will lead on to the photo of the person on the last page.

The Civilisations



3



20



6



23



9



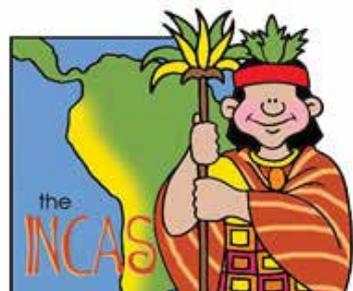
26



12



29



15



32

Aztec Civilisation

During the 12th & 13th century the Aztecs (who originated from an Island called Aztlan) straggled into the Valley of Mexico, led by their chieftain Tenoch. They were poor, ragged people who survived on vermin, snakes, and stolen food. They were hated and rejected by all the surrounding inhabitants of the valley, for their barbarous and uncultured habits and were driven from one location to another. They called themselves the Mexica.

By 1376, the Aztecs knew that they had to select an emperor of royal lineage, to gain respect of their neighbours. With political genius, they chose a man by the name of Acamapichtli who was related to the last rulers of Culhuacan as the emperor. With the selection of Acamapichtli as the Aztecs first true emperor, they were able to claim descendency from the great Toltecs.

Early in the 14th century, it is believed that Huitzilopochtli (God of war & symbol of sun) told Tenoch to lead his people to a place of refuge on a swampy island in Lake Texcoco. When they reached their destination, they were to look for

an eagle perched on a cactus, growing from a rock or cave surrounded by water. At that location, they were to build their city called Tenochtitlan, the city of Tenoch.

During the 15th century the military strength of the Aztecs increased. They grew from a small tribe of mercenaries into a powerful and highly disciplined military force. They also formed alliances with their powerful neighbours Texcoco and Tacuba, known as the Triple Alliance. It was a time for building and the city Tenochtitlan grew and prospered.

The city of Tenochtitlan was truly magnificent. Its crime rate was extremely low, and it was almost impossible to find waste in the city. The city's inhabitants were smart, and loyal to the city. The structures were amazing, including the Main Temple, the Great Pyramid, and many famous palaces. The Aztecs worked around things that were hard to come by, like food. Instead they maintained other jobs and traded with foreign countries. Everything about Tenochtitlan was wonderful, and the city stands out as one of the greatest empires of all time.



Aztec pyramid of the Sun, Mexico.

Aztec More about the Aztecs

The City - Tenochtitlan

Though wasn't the best land around, the leader designed the city to perfection. There were four huge dikes all going out from the centre of the city to separate docks and small islands. These four dikes made up four quadrants in the city. Each of the quadrants contained housing developments, and what were known as "floating gardens". The centre of Tenochtitlan was made up of many temples, the most important ones being the main temple, palaces, pyramids, and a great plaza.

Agriculture

Aztecs were an empire that prospered agriculturally, and they did so without the wheel or domestic beasts of burden. They had four main methods:

- a. Rainfall cultivation
- b. Terrace agriculture
- c. Irrigation farming
- d. Chinampas cultivation

Food

The principal food of the Aztecs was a thin cornmeal pancake called a *tlaxcalli*. (In Spanish, it is called a *tortilla*.) They used the *tlaxcallis* to scoop up foods while they ate and they wrapped the foods in the *tlaxcalli* to form *tacos*. They hunted deer, rabbits, ducks and geese for meat.

The Aztecs have been credited with the discovery of chocolate. The Aztecs made chocolate from the fruit of the cacao tree and used it for flavour and as an ingredient in various beverages and kinds of confectionery.

Art

Song and poetry were highly regarded; there were presentations and poetry contests at most of the Aztec festivals. There were also dramatic presentations that included players, musicians and acrobats.

Class structure

The Aztec society was divided into 3 classes: slaves, commoners, and nobility.

Economy

The Aztec economy can be divided into two:

- a. Political sector, under the control of nobles and kings, centred on the control of land and labour
- b. Commercial sector that operated independently and several types of money were in regular use. Small purchases were made with cacao beans.

Education

The Mexicas were especially interested in education. Teachers were greatly admired. During the first years of life, fathers educated boys, while mothers took care of girls.

Games and Sports

A game similar to handball was played by the northern and central Americans from 1500 B.C. most famously by the Aztecs as the Mesoamerican ballgame. They were very competitive and didn't like to lose.

War and Sacrifice

The Aztecs believed that their protector Huitzilopochtli needed human blood to fight the evil. This belief ensured war was a very important activity to organise for sacrificial prisoners.

A temple at the top of a great pyramid at Tenochtitlan (now an archaeological site in Mexico City) is the location for the sacrifices. Festivals and sacrifice were almost continuous in the Aztec ceremonial year.

Language and writing

The Aztecs spoke a language called Nahuatl (pronounced NAH-waht-l). The Aztecs used pictographs to communicate through writing. Some of the pictures symbolised ideas

Tenochtitlan





Aztec statue of Coatlicue, the earth goddess

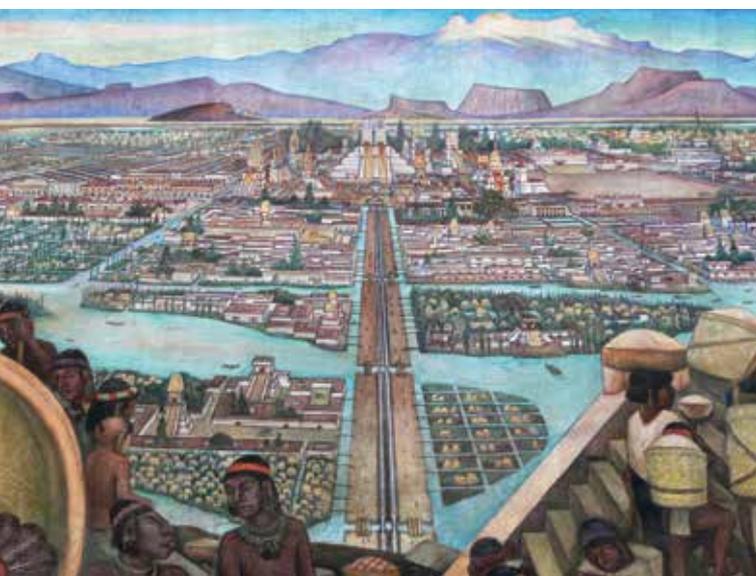
and others represented the sounds of the syllables. They made paper by taking strips of bark from fig trees and pounding it on hard pieces of wood.

Spanish conquest

The city fell in AD 1540, the Spanish defeated the Aztecs and the Catholics felt that it was their duty to destroy every trace of the Aztecs. Cortes built over Tenochtitlan, what is now known as Mexico City. The few Aztecs that remain have carried on their culture today. Although the city itself was destroyed, the memories and sheer beauty of the city will remain forever.

(Editorial Team)

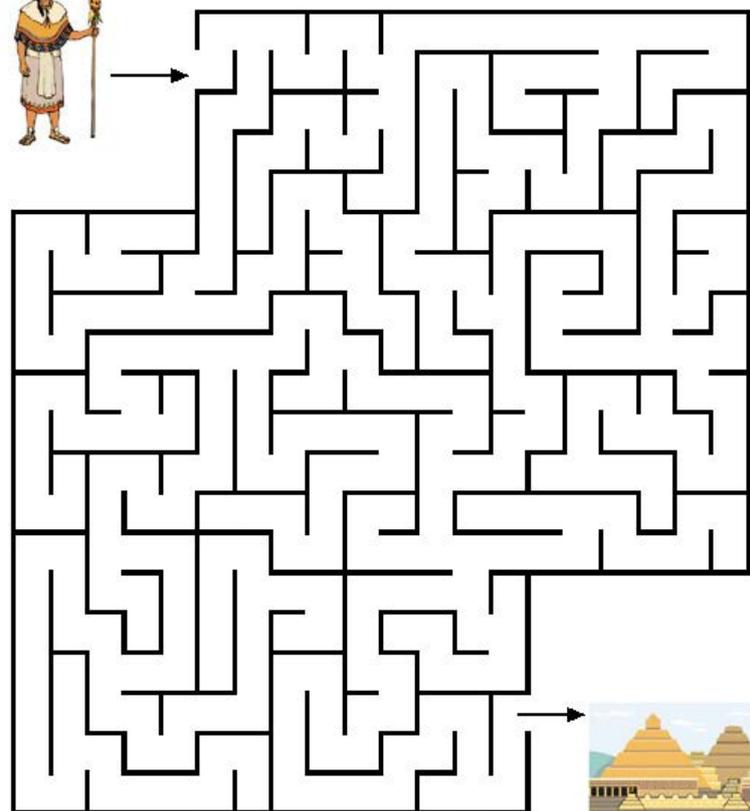
SS Rameshwari, HR, Chemplast Sanmar, HO.



Interesting Facts

- The name Aztec was actually made up by Europeans, they used to call themselves the Mexica.
- The Aztecs had mandatory schools separated between boys and girls – even slaves!
- They had an advanced system for writing and keeping records.
- The Aztecs had very strange burial customs. Their deceased were usually buried right under their house. Sometimes they killed a dog along with the deceased so that the dog could guide them to the after-life.
- Aztecs, along with other Central American civilisations, were the first to introduce chocolate to the Europeans.
- The Aztecs had a unique system for slavery. They would often sell themselves or their children into slavery to pay off their debts.
- Slaves who escaped their masters and made it to the Royal Palace would become freemen.
- The Aztec capital was called Tenochtitlan and it was built on an island lake Texcoco. Today it's known as Mexico City and the lake is mostly drained.
- It was an European disease that eventually defeated the Aztecs, not war.

Help the Aztec find the way to where he lives.



Chinese Civilisation

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Origin

The civilisation of ancient China first developed in the Yellow River region of northern China in the 3rd and 2nd millennia BC. It is said to be the oldest continuous civilisation in the world because other civilisations faded or were overtaken by other people.

Great Wall of China

Qin Shi Huangdi, the first emperor of China during Qin Dynasty, built it 2000 years ago. To defend off the invasions from northern invaders, Emperor Qin Shi Herang had all the walls joined up. Thus, the Great Wall came into being.

Various dynasties in imperial era:

Xia dynasty

It (2000 BC-1600 BC) was the first dynasty in Chinese history. It lasted around 500 years and included the reigns of 17 emperors. It is said that silk was invented during their reign.

Zhou dynasty

It lasted longer than any other dynasty in Chinese history.

Xia Taizong

During the Zhou, the use of iron was introduced to China, which started the Iron Age in China. Crossbow was invented in this period and was much feared by enemies.

Qianlong Emperor



Qin Dynasty

Ying Zheng, in 221 BC, established the first centralised, unified, multi-ethnic state in Chinese history under Qin dynasty. This dynasty designed standard currency, standard wheel axle size (to make roads all one size), and standard laws that applied to the entire empire. The famous 'Terracotta' soldiers belonged to this period of civilisation.

Han Dynasty

Emperor Han Wudi

It was established in 206 BC – AD 220 by emperor Wudi. The Han regime reached greatest economic prosperity in its period. Most Chinese citizens today claim “Han” as their ethnic background.



A system of competitive exams was started during this rule named Imperial exams. The paths of caravan traffic are often called the “Silk Road” because the route was used to export Chinese silk. The Han dynasty fortified the Great Wall to protect the Silk Road.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Art

The ability of bronze metal to produce low bubbles and higher fluidity was extracted by Chinese as long as 4000 years ago for making durable weapons and tools. Folk toys were seen as means through which Chinese people can express their hopes and desires. China also gave the world a highly stylish form of writing called Calligraphy. Painting was often inspired by poetry and combined with calligraphy.

Do you know writing poetry was so important in ancient China that it was a part of the civil services exam?

Art of making silk from silkworms deserves a special mention about Chinese skills. China never let this secret of art to be known to others as it made it very rich via enhanced trades.

Terracotta army, including sculptures of 8000 soldiers and 520 horses, is one of the greatest examples of ancient Chinese art. Each sculpture of soldier has been given a unique face. These sculptures were life sized.

Chinese opera is recognised as one of the three oldest dramatic art forms in the world. It is a combination of music, art and literature. Art is the reflection of human perception and Chinese civilisation reminds us those words.

Architecture

The most notable feature that pops in our head on hearing about Chinese architecture is their overhanging roofs with upturned eaves. The roof rests on a series of four-part brackets, which in turn is supported by other clusters of brackets set on columns. China had different styles of architectural models made for various sections of its population.

Emperors lived in palaces with images of dragons painted on yellow roof tiles. Dragons, symbolic of national pride, were exclusively used only in palaces. Houses of common men had a shrine at the centre, which was surrounded by bedrooms for elders of family. The houses were usually built in U shape with a courtyard suitable for farm work. Buddhism brought a new style of buildings named Pagoda into existence, which is derived from Indian stupa. Chinese had multi-storied buildings with many of the structures built in various shapes and patterns. Extensive amount of wood and stones were used in their style of architecture.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN ANCIENT CHINA

Science and technology forms the basis for the development of any country. Chinese civilisation boasts of many such significant achievements in its ancient stages. Some of the major scientific contributions of ancient China are Paper, Metallurgy, Natural gas, Compass, Silk, Acupuncture, Mechanical clocks, Gunpowder, Porcelain.

Chinese, though great observers, adopted an approach of pragmatism. Chinese didn't go for building curiosity behind their observed phenomenon. For example, Chinese had observed Halley's comet 31 times before Halley did it but were not curious to understand its average cycle. There is no record of any formal experiment done in order to unravel nature's physical behaviour and no mathematical interpretation was made.

CULTURAL ASPECTS OF CHINESE CIVILISATION

Food

Chinese food is popular all over the world. Rice probably originated in China. But in northern China it was too cold to farm rice so they farmed millet and sorghum. In ancient China vegetables were not affordable if you were poor. Fruits (like apricots and peaches) became the major diet for most of the poor men.

Doctors made a law that every weak person in the country would get free cubes of tofu. Tofu was preferred as an

economic substitute of meat for making up the protein deficiency in body.

Music

Huang Di, China's legendary first emperor, wanted to imitate the sound of phoenix. So he ordered bamboo pipes to be cut in required size. And thus they had the inception of music in China. Confucius put a great emphasis on music as an accompaniment for rites. Folk songs were recorded and preserved in imperial archives in Han Dynasty.

Dance

The art of Chinese dance traces its origins to a time before the appearance of the first written Chinese characters. It was a means to express their deepest emotions. Initially Chinese dance was divided into civilian dance and military dance.

In civilian dance, dancers held feather banners in their hands, which symbolised the distribution of fruits of the day's hunting or fishing. In the large group military dance, the dancers carried weapons in their hands and moved forward and backward in coordinated group motion. Later, these dance movements evolved into military exercises.

Literature

Some of the most important early texts include the I Ching and the Shujing. The Song dynasty was also a period of great scientific literature, and saw the creation of works such as Su Song's Xin Yixiang Fayao and Shen Kuo's Dream pool Essay.

(Team Socrates)

K Purushothaman, GET, Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur.

K Rajasekar, GET, Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur.

Mukul Kumar Jha, Technical Services, Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur.

J Krishnaraj, GET, Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur.



Interesting Facts

- China is the world's longest continuous civilisation.
- The oldest form of the Chinese written language was found in the Oracle Bone inscriptions carved on tortoise shells and mammal bones during the Shang dynasty
- Chinese is the world's longest continuously used written language.
- Humanoids have lived in China for hundreds of thousands of years.
- The Chinese name for "China" is "Zhong Guo" - which translates as "Central Nation" or "Middle Kingdom" - reflects their ancient worldview that China was at the center of the world.
- Throughout China's history, China's modern capital "Beijing" was once known as Yanjing, Dadu, Beijing, and most recently Peking.
- Under the First Emperor Qin, the Qin Dynasty built two of China's most famous tourist attractions: the first version of the Great Wall of China and the Terracotta Army.
- Mao Zedong was responsible for up to 70 million peacetime deaths - more than any other leader in history including Hitler and Stalin.
- However, during Mao's time in power, average life expectancy jumped from about 35 to 70 years. Illiteracy also dropped from about 80% to under 10%.
- Kite was invented by Chinese about 3,000 years ago
- First mechanical clock was built in China.
- The Chinese were responsible for the invention of paper and for the science of printing.
- The last Emperor of China became the ruler when he was only three years old. His name was Puyi.

Chinese Calligraphy

Calligraphy, the art of beautiful handwriting, was an art form in ancient China. Calligraphers have to practise for years to perfect their craft. In the Chinese writing system, each word has its own character or combination of characters. Over centuries, the characters changed from easily recognised pictures to more complex forms. In ancient China, these characters were made with ink and brush, so any mistake meant that the write had to begin again!

Students in China today have to learn to write several thousand characters accurately and beautifully. the strokes that make up these characters are either thin or thick, and they must be made in correct order.

Look at the characters below. First, trace the character with your finger. Then try writing the character in the space below it. Make your characters as beautiful as you can

man	moon	tree	earth
人	月	木	土

1 i (yee)	2 erh (ur)	3 san (sahn)	4 ssu (shu)	5 wu (woh)	6 liu (LYEE - ooh)	7 chi (chee)	8 ba (bah)	9 chiu (jyee - OH)	10 shih (sshu)
一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十

Egyptian Civilisation

Egypt is situated in the Nile Valley, in the north east of Africa. Its origins lay in Upper Egypt, at Abydos and Hierakonpolis, which then spread northwards towards Memphis and the Mediterranean. By 3000 BC, the unified Kingdom of Egypt occupied the entire Nile Valley south along the River Nile into present-day Sudan. Ancient Egypt occupied the land in all directions from the Syrian coast in the north, to the Red Sea in the east, down the Nile Valley to Nubia in the south, and spreading west inland into the Lybian Desert.

The civilisation of Ancient Egypt is one of the earliest and the longest lasting civilisations in world history. It is said to have begun around 3000 BC, By this date the only other people in the world to have a literate, urban civilisation were the Sumerians, in Mesopotamia.

Egypt was at the height of its powers in the reign of Ramesses II (1279-1212 BC), during the 19th Dynasty of Egyptian history. From 1070 BC onwards, under the 21st Dynasty, Egypt was split into two, the north ruled by the pharaoh, based in the new city of Tanis in the north-east of the country, and the south by the High Priest of Amun at Thebes (modern Luxor).

A short-lived national revival began with the accession of Shoshenq I around 945 BC as founder of the 22nd Dynasty. However, within a century, the country had split again, with Thebes now ruled not by High Priests, but by its very own line of pharaohs, the 23rd Dynasty, running in parallel with the Tanite (based in Tanis) northern king.

The Theban kings soon found themselves embroiled in a long-running civil war. This decline coincided with the

rise of a power to the south of Egypt in Nubia - spanning the borders of the modern states of Egypt and Sudan. This prosperous state was to be short-lived, as late in the reign of King Taharqa (690-664 BC), he became embroiled in a disastrous war with the Assyrians, who invaded and sacked many cities, including Thebes.

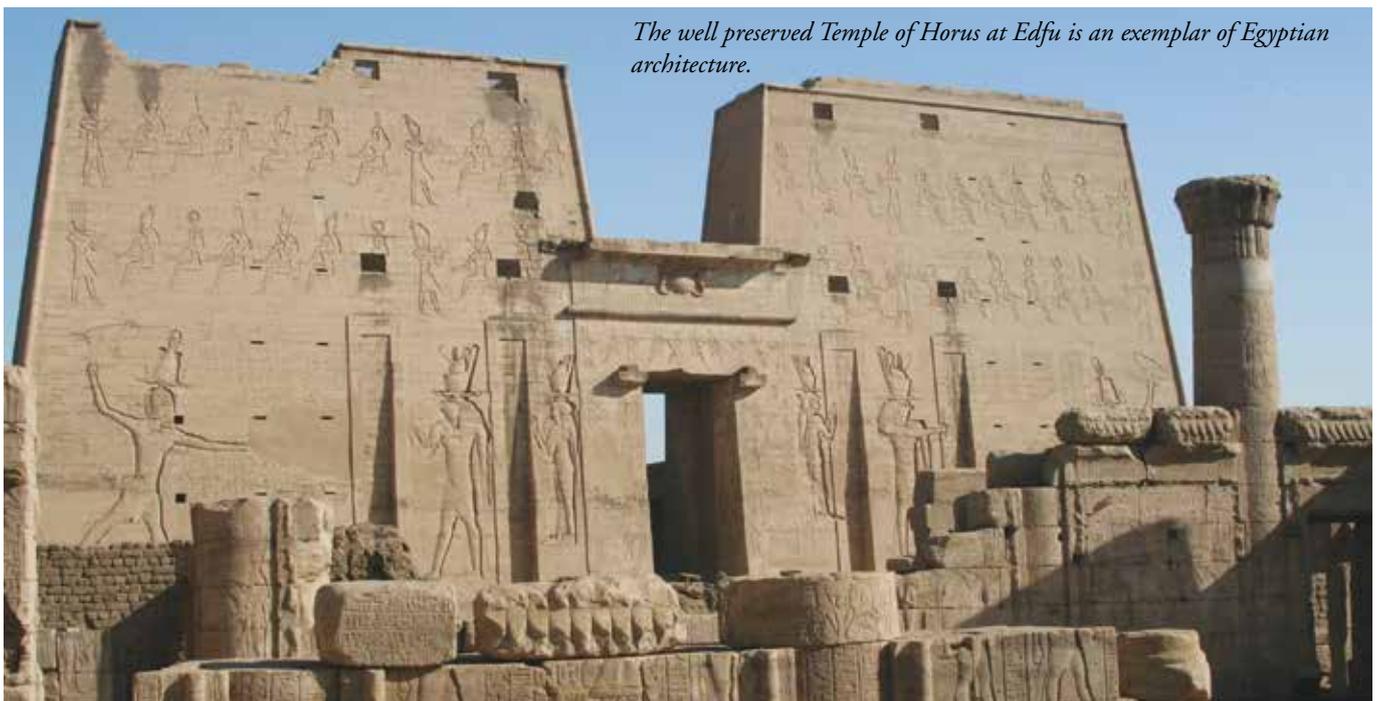
The Assyrian invasion indicated that Egypt's fate was now firmly tied in with the rest of the eastern Mediterranean world, in which it struggled to maintain its economic and military position. Egypt thus fell an easy prey to the expanding Persian empire in 525 BC, remaining under their dominion for over a century.

However, the new ruler, Ptolemy I, was a Macedonian Greek, and the ruling class of the state was now foreign, running the country as part of the Ptolemaic kings' wider Mediterranean agendas. The increasing internal struggles of the ruling house brought Egypt within the orbit of the still-growing Roman Empire, culminating in the defeat of the last of Ptolemy's ruling descendants, Cleopatra VII, and her Roman lover Mark Antony in 30 BC, resulting in the country's absorption into the empire that same year.

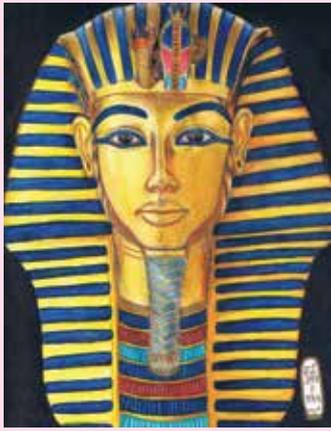
Christianity took early root in Egypt, doubtless, aided by its many similarities to the popular cult of Osiris and Isis. The association of the ancient hieroglyphic writing system with the old religion, together with the wide currency of the Greek language in Roman Egypt, led to the Christians beginning to write the native Egyptian language in an augmented version of the Greek alphabet.

(Team Apollo)

Priyamvada Raman, HR, Sanmar Corporate Divn., HO.



The well preserved Temple of Horus at Edfu is an exemplar of Egyptian architecture.



Tutankhamun, the 11th pharaoh of the 18th dynasty of Ancient Egypt, was unremarkable, but is famous due to the discovery of his completely intact tomb by the British archaeologist Howard Carter in 1922.

The discovery of Tutankhamun's mummy revealed that he was about 17 when he died and was likely to have inherited the throne at the age of eight or nine.

Interesting Facts

- The Egyptian kings were known as 'pharaohs' and built burial chambers called pyramids. The best known pyramid is the famous Great Pyramid at Giza.
- The ancient Egyptians forged one of the earliest peace treaties on record.
- Ancient Egyptians loved board games.
- Egyptian women had a wide range of rights and freedoms.
- Egyptian workers were known to organise labour strikes.
- Egyptian pharaohs were often heavy and would never let their hair seen.
- The pyramids were not built by slaves but by paid labourers.
- Both Egyptian men and women wore makeup.
- Egyptians believed that the earth was flat and round (like a pancake) and that the Nile flowed through its centre.
- The famous Great Pyramid at Giza was built as a burial place for King Khufu (2589-2566 B.C.) and took more than 20 years to build.

Egyptians and art of writing

Egypt has endured as a unified state for more than 5,000 years, and archeological evidence indicates that a developed Egyptian society had existed for much longer. Egyptians take pride in their "pharaonic heritage" and in their descent from what they consider mankind's earliest civilisation. Their method of writing had compelled the people of the world to raise their eyebrows.

Art of Writing

To express the thinking of their mind, the Egyptians invented the art of writing. Although from the very beginning they were not acquainted with the alphabets, still they were able to express their idea through different pictures. So, their writing was popularly known as 'Hieroglyphy' or 'sacred writing' because those were written by the priests.

At first, the Egyptians used pictures and then they used around 2000 pictographic signs. In due course of time their number was reduced and limited to 700 only. At last they invented 24 alphabets. They engraved those alphabets on stone. The 'Rosetta Stone' preserved in the



Pyramid of Giza Sphinx

Try drawing your name with this Hieroglyph keyboard.



British Museum in London is its classic example. Later on the Egyptians used pen and paper.

Paper, Pen, Ink and Inkpot

On the banks of Nile, a plant named 'Papyrus' was plentifully available. The leaves of Papyrus tree were joined through gum and the long roll was prepared. By polish such rolls were glazed. In a Papyrus roll of twenty to forty feet length and five to ten inches breadth the Egyptians wrote their idea. The modern name 'Paper', perhaps, has been derived from the term 'Papyrus'. The 'Papyrus' paper is still a famous one in Egypt among tourists.

They took juice of plants and prepared 'ink' by mixing gum and water with it. In several cases they also prepared ink by mixing gum with black particles found from kitchen house or lamps.

They sharpened the edge of the stem of a plant and prepared 'reed pen'. By dipping the pen inside the 'ink pot' they wrote on Papyrus. At last, pieces of Papyrus were rolled and preserved inside the earthen pots. Writing was indeed a noble invention of the Egyptians.

(Team Apollo)

Rajesh Jagan, *Purchase, Chemplast Sanmar, HO.*

The legacy of Ancient Egyptian civilisation

A human community with different elements converging into a sophisticated living is civilisation.

Exploring human civilisation is absolutely fascinating. Each aspect of human life – be it in the form of art, architecture, cultural beliefs, mythology, and their interpretation, unearth the marvels of human brain and its intricacies.

One of the most glorious civilisations and the most advanced in the world history is that of Ancient Egypt. It captures our imagination as its rich heritage permeates every emotion of mankind. It is usually believed to have begun around 5000 BC.

Here are some intriguing facts to activate your grey cells:

- Cleopatra took baths in donkey's milk to preserve the beauty and youth of her skin. Legend has it that no less than 700 donkeys were needed to provide the quantity of milk necessary for her daily bath! In India, we believe that donkey's milk builds immunity to the newborns!
- Egyptians loved honey. They didn't just eat it, they also used it for fly control. Pharaoh Pepi reigned for 94 years, the longest reigning monarch in all of human history.

Evidently, he lived that long by ingeniously avoiding flies! Pepi preferred dousing his servants in honey and letting the flies stick to them quite literally. That's one way to deal with pests!

- What do the Wizard of Oz and Ancient Egypt have in common? Hiring little people based solely on their looks! In Ancient Egypt, not only little people, but people with visibly unusual physical features were often hired for security sensitive jobs, such as gold workers. The thought behind it? If a worker absconded with bags of gold, they could easily be spotted out in a crowd and apprehended!
- One of the most curious math mysteries is the specific location of the Great Pyramid of Giza. It may seem that it's randomly positioned in the desert sands, but recent equations have shown us that the Great Pyramid is actually in the geographical centre of landmass on the Earth. The Ancient Egyptians had no access to a Mercator Projection map, which makes the location of the Great Pyramid even creepier!
- Egyptians loved pets of all kinds, but cats were the most sacred of all animals. They were considered so sacred that when a cat died, it was mummified and buried in a cat cemetery, along with mummified mice (presumably for Tom & Jerry style hijinx in the afterlife)! As you can imagine, the cat mummification business was booming! In 1888, a farmer uncovered 80,000 cat mummies in one large tomb. Imagine being that guy.

Overwhelming, isn't it? Ancient Egyptian civilisation was an inspiration to many that followed. The legacy they built is awe-inspiring, and the question that arises is, 'What kind of legacy are we leaving behind for our future generations?'

(Team Apollo)

Prameela Manoharan, *Corporate Communications, Sanmar Corporate Divn., HO.*



Hieroglyphs

Greek Civilisation

Ancient Greek civilisation lasted from the Archaic period of the 8th to 6th centuries BC to the end of Antiquity (600 AD) and it flourished during the 5th to 4th centuries BC, beginning with the repelling of a Persian. Because of conquests by Alexander the Great of Macedonia, it flourished from Central Asia to the western end of the Mediterranean Sea.

The Greek culture, especially philosophy, had a powerful influence on the Roman Empire, which carried a version of it to many parts of the world and is generally considered to be the seminal culture, which provided the foundation of modern Western culture.

Greece was divided into many small self-governing communities, a pattern largely dictated by Greek geography: every island, valley and plain is cut off from its neighbours by sea or mountain ranges.

A mercantile class arose in the first half of the 7th century, shown by the introduction of coinage in about 680 BC. The aristocratic regimes, which generally governed the polis, were threatened by the new found wealth of

merchants, who in turn desired political power. From 650 BC onwards, the aristocracies had to fight not to be overthrown and replaced. The Lelantine war is the earliest documented war of the ancient Greek period.

A growing population and shortage of land allowed a social revolution to occur.

Ancient Greek contributed many important developments to the field of mathematics, including the basic rules of geometry, the idea of formal mathematical proof, and discoveries in number theory, mathematical analysis, applied mathematics, and approached close to establishing integral calculus. The discoveries of several Greek mathematicians, including Pythagoras, Euclid and Archimedes are still used in mathematical teaching today.

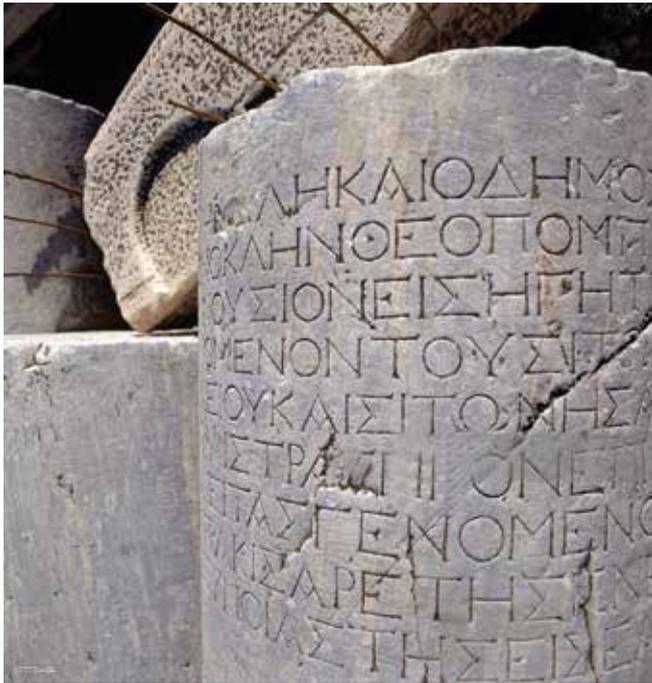
The Greeks developed astronomy, which they treated as a branch of mathematics, to a highly sophisticated level.

The ancient Greeks also made important discoveries in the medical field. Hippocrates was a physician of the Classical period, and is considered one of the most outstanding

The Parthenon



Column with Greek Inscription Acropolis of Athens Greece.



figures in the history of medicine. He is referred to as the “father of medicine”.

The art of ancient Greece has exercised an enormous influence on the culture of many countries from ancient times until the present, particularly in the areas of sculpture and architecture.

INFLUENCES OF ANCIENT GREEK CIVILISATION ON PRESENT CULTURE

Olympics

To celebrate the god Zeus, the first Greek Olympics were held in the city of Olympia in 776 BC and this is thought to have inspired the Olympic Games.

Idol worship

The Greeks put statues of their gods inside temples, the most famous of which is the Parthenon.

Pets

The Greeks loved their pets, especially dogs! Like most modern societies, dogs were the most common pet in ancient Greece.

Toys

Just like children of today, children in ancient Greece loved to play with a variety of toys. Archaeologists have uncovered all sorts of toys at sites in Greece.

Daily life

The ancient Greeks did live in highly organised cities like those we live in today.

Greek mythology is immensely popular with innumerable Gods and Goddesses. Take this quiz to test how well you know them.

1. God of the sun and light, god of music and healing
a. Athena b. Dionysus c. Apollo d. Ares
2. God of fire; blacksmith to the gods
a. Hermes b. Hera c. Hephaestus d. Zeus
3. Goddess of love and beauty
a. Aphrodite b. Athena c. Hera d. Artemis
4. God of the underworld
a. Hera b. Hades c. Zeus d. Ares
5. King of the gods
a. Hera b. Hades c. Zeus d. Hermes
6. Goddess of war
a. Ares b. Dionysus c. Artemis d. Athena
7. God of wine
a. Hermes b. Dionysus c. Hermes d. Hades
8. Goddess of agriculture
a. Dionysus b. Ares c. Demeter d. Hera
9. Goddess of marriage; wife of Zeus
a. Hera b. Demeter c. Artemis d. Athena
10. God of war
a. Ares b. Artemis c. Athena d. Apollo
11. Goddess of hunting
a. Apollo b. Demeter c. Artemis d. Zeus
12. Messenger of the gods
a. Hephaestus b. Hera c. Hermes d. Hades
13. God of the sea, earthquakes and horses
a. Hera b. Zeus c. Ares d. Poseidon

Answers

1. c. Apollo 2. c. Hephaestus 3. a. Aphrodite
4. b. Hades 5. c. Zeus 6. d. Athena 7. b. Dionysus
8. c. Demeter 9. a. Hera 10. a. Ares 11. c. Artemis
12. c. Hermes 13. d. Poseidon

Plays

The English words for tragedy and comedy come from the language of the Ancient Greeks.

Democracy

Of all of the contributions of ancient Greece to modern culture, arguably the greatest is democracy, which is itself a Greek word literally meaning “people power.”

SUPERSTITIONS IN ANCIENT GREEK CIVILISATION

Like in every culture, Greek people have their own superstitions. Though, some of them are very similar and even identical to many cultures. Here are some of the most popular ones.

Greeks are so superstitious that they wear a mati/ matakhi (protective eye like charm) around their neck to ward off evil spirits and they can't give a compliment without a ftou ftou ftou (spitting three times) at the end.

Wedding: Even before the wedding day is announced, the bride and groom must pick specific days on the calendar to make sure they harness all the best luck for their nuptials.

Christmas: According to tradition in Greece, especially the islands, the Greek people decorate ships instead of Christmas trees to celebrate the holiday season.

Leap year: There is a Greek superstition that claims couples have bad luck if they marry during a leap year.

Bread: In villages, bread is considered as a gift of God; old women bless the bread and make the sign of the cross with a knife before slicing it.

Sneezing: It means that someone is talking or thinking about you. You can ask someone to give you a 3 digit number. Count each digit together and then find the corresponding letter in the alphabet. This letter is supposed to be the initial of the person who is talking about you.

Mirror: If you break a mirror, you will have 7 years of bad luck. Many also believe that if you look at the mirror after midnight, great evil will find you.

Knives: Greeks never hand knives to someone who asks for it, for they consider that if they do that they will have a fight or argument with the person. Therefore they set it down on the table or somewhere and let the other person take it in her/ his hand.

Scissors: If a pregnant woman sits on open scissors unintentionally, she will give birth to a boy.

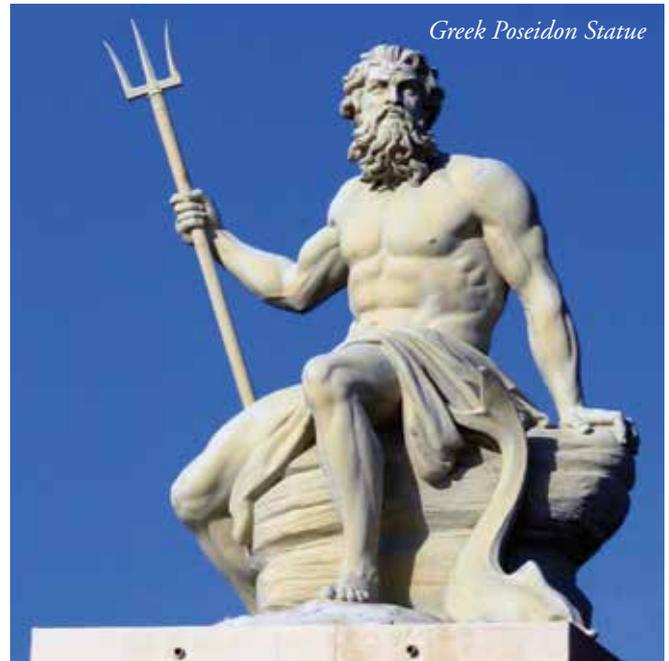
Black cat: If you see a black cat means that bad luck is waiting for you for the rest of the day.

Ladybug: It is the opposite of the black cat. It will bring luck if it lands on you.

Priest: Greek Orthodox priests (Pope) are very revered and the custom is to kiss a priest's hand in respect when meeting one. But it is believed that seeing a black cat and a priest during the same day is bad luck.

Salt: Makes unwelcomed visitors leave. All you need is to shoot a little behind their back.

Garlic: Garlic (*Allium sativum*) has been used for thousands of years for medicinal purposes. Sanskrit records show its medicinal use about 5,000 years ago, and it has



Greek Poseidon Statue

been used for at least 3,000 years in Chinese medicine. The Egyptians, Babylonians, Greeks, and Romans used garlic for healing purposes. Garlic is another way to ward off the evil eye, and one can sometimes see it hanging in a corner of some houses.

Ladder: It will bring bad luck if you pass under it.

Bat Bone: Bat bones are considered to be very lucky. The island folk carry a small bit of the bone in their pockets or purses with them wherever they go. The only problem is getting the bone as it is supposed to be a very bad luck to kill a bat.

Cactus: No Greek home would be complete without at least one cactus positioned somewhere close to the front entrance. Cactus with its thorny spikes, takes its place proudly warding off the evil eye from the property.

Crow: Crows are considered omens of bad news, misfortune, disease and death. When you see or hear a crow cawing, you say go well into the day and bring me good news (in Greek language "Sto Kalo, Sto Kalo, Kala Nea na me Feris")

Evil Eye: Amongst Greek superstitions, the evil eye is one of the oldest and widely believed myths. The Greek Orthodox Church also believes in the evil eye, and they refer to it as "Vaskania".

Closing Eyes: A superstition that being looked at by a corpse could threaten you and your kin. To aid this, pennies were sometimes placed on eyelids to keep them shut.

(Team Nyx)

E Arunkumar, HR, SFL, Viralimalai.

Vanaja Mathan Raj (W/o T Mathan Raj), Production, SFL, Viralimalai.

V Balaji, Marketing, SFL, Viralimalai.

Inca Civilisation

The Inca civilisation flourished in ancient Peru between c. 1438 and 1533 CE, and their empire eventually extended across western South America from Quito in the north to Santiago in the south, making it the largest empire ever seen in the Americas and the largest in the world at that time. Undaunted by the often harsh Andean environment, the Incas conquered people and exploited landscapes in such diverse settings as plains, mountains, deserts, and tropical jungle. Famed for their unique art and architecture, they constructed finely-built and imposing buildings wherever they conquered, and their spectacular adaptation of natural landscapes with terracing, highways, and mountaintop settlements continues to impress modern visitors at such world famous sites as Machu Picchu.

Historical Overview

As with other ancient Americas cultures, the historical origins of the Incas are difficult to disentangle from the founding myths they themselves created. According to legend, in the beginning, the creator god Viracocha came out of the Pacific Ocean, and when He arrived at Lake Titicaca, He created the sun and all ethnic groups. These first people were buried by the God and only later did they emerge from springs and rocks (sacred *pacarinas*) back into the world. The Incas, specifically, were brought into existence at Tiwanaku (Tiahuanaco) from the sun God Inti, hence, they regarded themselves as the chosen few, the 'Children of the Sun', and the Inca ruler was Inti's representative and embodiment on earth.

More concrete archaeological evidence has revealed that the first settlements in the Cuzco Valley actually date to 4500 BCE when hunter-gather communities occupied the area. However, Cuzco only became a significant centre sometime at the beginning of the Late Intermediate Period (1000-1400 CE). A process of regional unification began from the late 14th century CE, and from the early 15th century CE, with the arrival of the first great Inca leader Pachakuti ('Reverser of the World') and the defeat of the Chanca in 1438 CE, the Incas began to expand in search of plunder and production resources, first to the south and then in all directions. They eventually built an empire which stretched across the Andes, conquering such peoples as the Lupaka, Colla, Chimor, and Wanka civilisations along the way. Once established, a nationwide system of tax and administration was instigated which consolidated the power of Cuzco.

The rise of the Inca Empire was spectacularly quick. First, all speakers of the Inca language Quechua (or Runasimi) were given privileged status, and this noble class then dominated all the important roles within the empire. Thupa Inka Yupanki (also known as Topa Inca), Pachakuti's successor from 1471 CE, is credited with having expanded the empire by a massive 4,000 km (2,500 miles).

Government & Administration

The Incas kept lists of their kings (Sapa Inca) so that we know of such names as Pachakuti Inka Yupanki (reign c. 1438-63 CE),

Machu Picchu





Inca Farm

Thupa Inca Yupanki (reign c. 1471-93 CE), and Wayna Qhapaq (the last pre-Hispanic ruler, reign c. 1493-1525 CE). It is possible that two kings ruled at the same time and that queens may have had some significant powers, but the Spanish records are not clear on both points. The Sapa Inca was an absolute ruler, and he lived a life of great opulence. Drinking from gold and silver cups, wearing silver shoes, and living in a palace furnished with the finest textiles, he was pampered to the extreme. He was even looked after following his death, as the Inca mummified their rulers. Stored in the Coricancha temple in Cuzco, the mummies (mallquis) were, in elaborate ceremonies, regularly brought outside wearing their finest regalia, given offerings of food and drink, and 'consulted' for their opinion on pressing state affairs.

Although the Incas imposed their religion and administration on conquered peoples, extracted tribute, and even moved loyal populations (mitmaqs) to better integrate new territories into the empire, the Incas also brought certain benefits such as food redistribution in times of environmental disaster, better storage facilities for foodstuffs, work via state-sponsored projects, state-sponsored religious feasts, roads, military assistance and luxury goods, especially art objects enjoyed by the local elite.

Warfare

The Inca army was the most powerful in the area at that time, because they could turn an ordinary villager or farmer into a soldier, ready for battle. This is because every male Inca had to take part in war at least once so as to be prepared for warfare again when needed. By the time the empire had reached its largest size, every section of the empire contributed in setting up an army for war.

Cuzco

The Inca capital of Cuzco (from qosqo, meaning 'dried-up lake bed' or perhaps derived from cozco, a particular stone marker in the city) was the religious and administrative centre of the empire and had a population of up to 150,000 at its peak. Dominated by the sacred gold-covered and emerald-studded Coricancha complex (or Temple of the Sun), its greatest buildings were credited to Pachakuti.

Inca Religion

The Incas had great reverence for two earlier civilisations who had occupied much the same territory - the Wari and Tiwanaku. Inca rulers made regular pilgrimages to Tiwanaku and the islands of the lake, where two shrines were built to Inti the Sun god and supreme Inca deity, and the moon goddess Mama Kilya.

Inca Architecture & Roads

Master stone masons, the Incas constructed large buildings, walls and fortifications using finely-worked blocks - either regular or polygonal - which fitted together so precisely no mortar was needed. With an emphasis on cleanliness, trapezoid shapes, and incorporating natural features into these buildings, they have easily withstood the powerful earthquakes which frequently hit the region.

The Incas had an incredible system of roads. One road ran almost the entire length of the South American Pacific coast! Since the Incas lived in the Andes Mountains, the roads took great engineering and architectural skill to build.

Communication

The Incas recorded information on assemblages of knotted strings, known as Quipu, though we no longer know how. Originally, it was thought that Quipu were used only as mnemonic devices or to record numerical data. Quipus were also believed to record history and literature.

Inca Art

Although influenced by the art and techniques of the Chimú, the Incas did create their own distinctive style which was an instantly recognisable symbol of imperial dominance across the empire. Inca art is best seen in highly polished metal work (in gold - considered the sweat of the sun, silver - considered the tears of the moon, and copper), ceramics, and textiles, with the last being considered the most prestigious by the Incas themselves. Designs often used geometrical shapes, were technically accomplished, and standardised. The checkerboard stands out as a very popular design. One of the reasons for repeated designs was that pottery and textiles were often produced for the state as a tax.



The End

The Inca Empire was founded on, and maintained by, force, and the ruling Incas were very often unpopular with their subjects (especially in the northern territories), a situation that the Spanish conquistadores, led by Francisco Pizarro, would take full advantage of in the middle decades of the 16th century CE. The Inca Empire, in fact, had still not reached a stage of consolidated maturity when it faced its greatest challenge. Rebellions were rife, and the Incas were engaged in a war in Ecuador where a second Inca capital had been established at Quito. Even more serious, the Incas were hit by an epidemic of European diseases, such as smallpox, which had spread from central America even faster than the European invaders themselves, and the wave killed a staggering 65-90% of the population.

It was this combination of factors - a perfect storm of rebellion, disease, and invasion - which brought the downfall of the mighty Inca Empire, the largest and richest ever seen in the Americas.

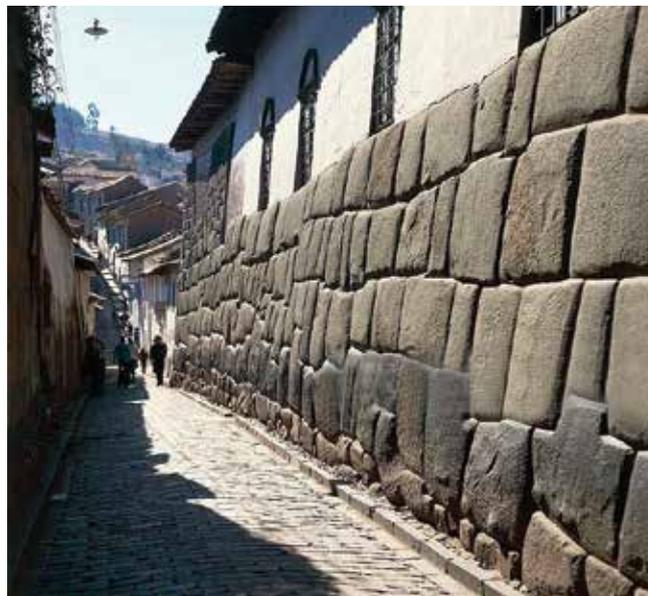
The Inca language Quechua lives on today and is still spoken by some eight million people. There are also a good number of buildings, artefacts, and written accounts which have survived the ravages of conquerors, looters, and time. These remains are proportionally few to the vast riches which have been lost, but they remain indisputable witnesses to the wealth, ingenuity, and high cultural achievements of this great, but short-lived civilisation.

(Editorial Team)

Veena Merrillina J, HR, Sanmar Corporate Divn., HO.

Interesting Facts

- 40,000 Incas governed a territory with 10 million subjects speaking over 30 different languages.
- Most splendid were the temples built in honour of Inti and Mama Kilya - the former was lined with 700 2kg sheets of beaten gold.
- The Incas had a type of postal system where relay messengers ran across rope bridges to deliver communications to the next team.
- The Incas performed successful skull surgeries.
- The Incas were the first to cultivate the potato in Peru.
- The Incas used a system of knotted and coloured strings, a 'quipu' for records, math and possibly even language.
- The Incas believed in reincarnation.
- The Incas used a dry masonry method to construct buildings without mortar using stones fit so perfectly together that nothing can slip between them and it proved to be extremely resistant to earthquakes.
- The Incas used advanced farming techniques such as canals and ditches to irrigate their crops in Peru.



Wall of the Inca building in Calle Hatunrumoic

In the early 1900s a town with about 200 buildings was discovered abandoned at the top of a mountain in South America. Archaeologists estimate it took about 80 years to build the town, but then it was just abandoned. No one is really sure why. This famous landmark is indeed known to most of us. But how much do we actually know of Machu Picchu?!

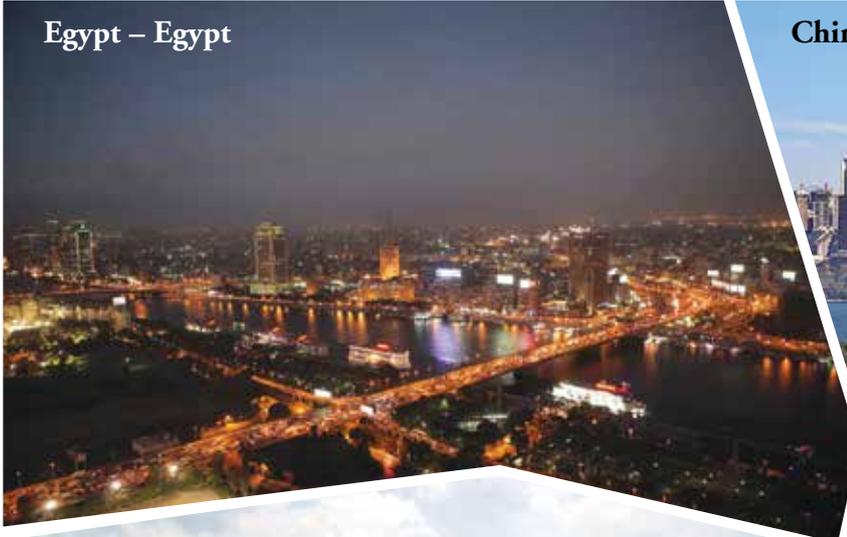
1. In what modern-day country is Machu Picchu located?
2. In what mountain range is Machu Picchu located?
3. About how many feet above sea level is the town located? (Hint: It is almost twice as high up as Denver, Colorado, in the U.S.)
4. In addition to its terraces, what architectural feature is Machu Picchu widely known for?
5. Approximately how large is the village? (Hint: There are approximately 200 residences in the village.)
6. What civilisation is thought to have built Machu Picchu?
7. When the Spaniards invaded South America in the 16th century, they conquered all the other villages in this empire. Why was Machu Picchu left alone?
8. Why was Machu Picchu abandoned?
9. The remains of Machu Picchu were discovered in which year? (Hint: The U.S. president at the time was William Howard Taft; Teddy Roosevelt would run for the presidency as the "Bull Moose" candidate the following year.)
10. What was the name of the archeologist who discovered the remains of Machu Picchu in the 20th century? (Two hints: He did NOT discover either King Tut's tomb or the ancient city of Troy.)

Answers

1. Peru 2. Andes 3. 9,000 feet 4. Precision stonework, with no mortar between stone joints 5. square miles 6. Incan
7. The Spaniards never found it 8. No one really knows, but these are all possibilities 9. 1911 10. Hiram Bingham.

Ancient Civilisations

Egypt – Egypt



China – China



Rome Southern, Western and parts of Minor and North Africa.



Aztec – Mexico



Mesopotamia – Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Kuwait.

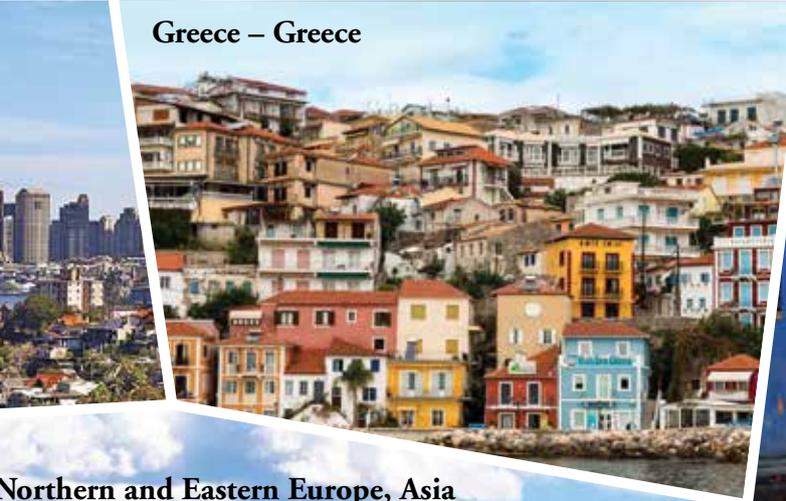


Persia - Iran

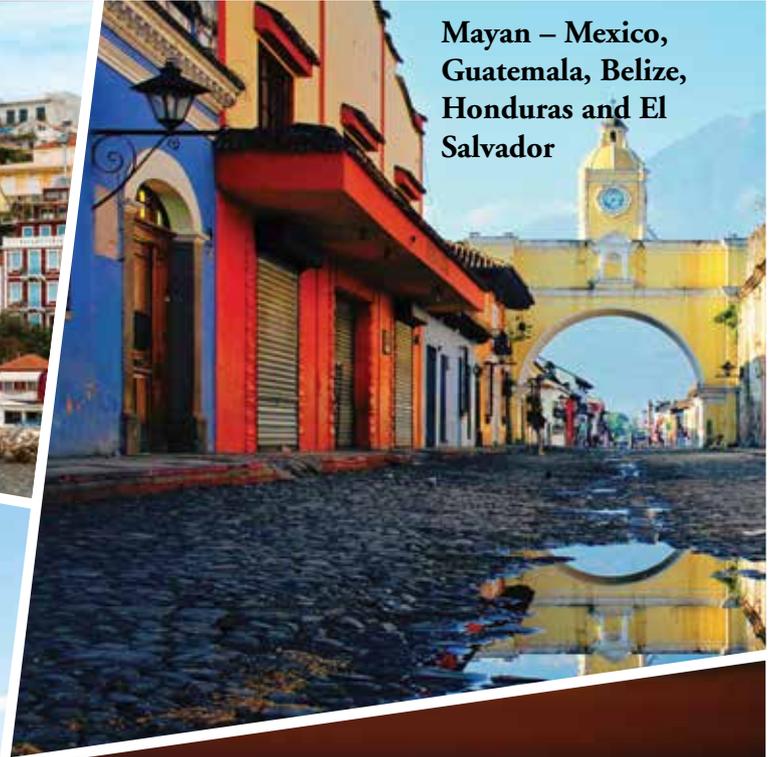


now

Greece – Greece



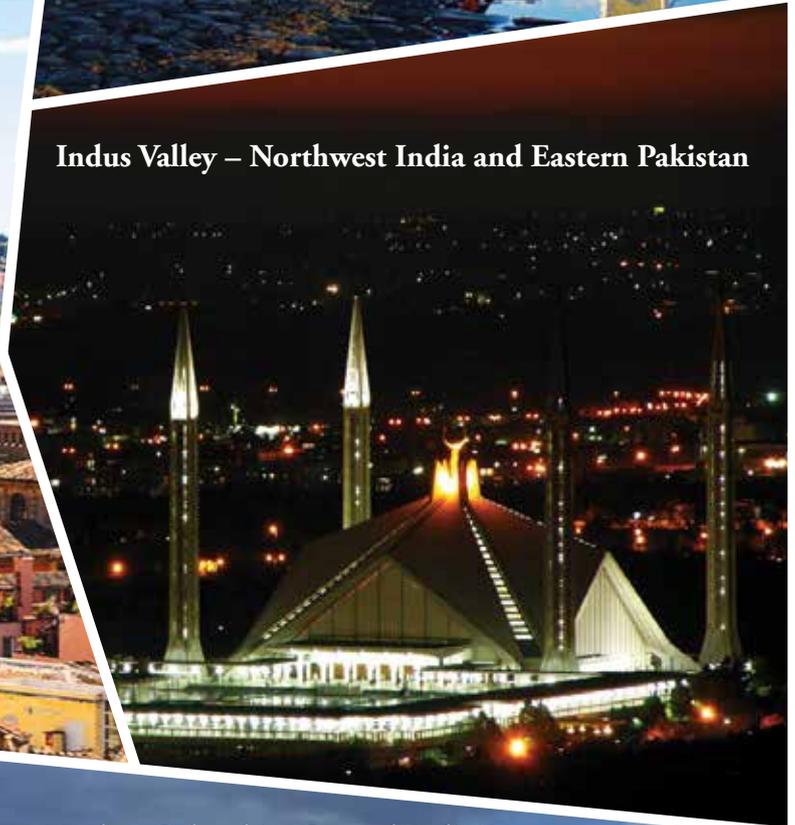
Mayan – Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador



Northern and Eastern Europe, Asia



Indus Valley – Northwest India and Eastern Pakistan



Inca – Peru, Ecuador, Columbia, Central Bolivia, Chile and North West Argentina



Guess Who? ! Clue No. 9: She captivated the two greatest Romans of her day, and because of the third she destroyed herself.

Indus Valley Civilisation

One of the earliest urban civilisations in India and in fact, the world, was the Indus valley Civilisation. Forgotten to history prior to its rediscovery in the 1920s, the Harrappan civilisation or Indus valley civilisation, as it is most commonly called, ranks with its contemporaries, Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt as one of the earliest of all human civilisations. Though Indus Valley civilisation was not the earliest of the three it still gains notoriety as the most geographically extensive of the three. Over 1000 settlements have been found along the Ghagar Hakra river which once flowed like the Indus along the Indus Valley.

Though the Indus Valley script remains undeciphered down to the present day, the numerous seals discovered during the excavations, as well as statuary and pottery, not to mention the ruins of numerous Indus Valley cities, have enabled scholars to construct a reasonably plausible account of the Indus Valley Civilisation.

Some kind of centralised state, and certainly fairly extensive town planning, is suggested by the layout of the great cities of Harappa and Mohenjodaro. The same kind of burnt brick appears to have been used in the construction of buildings in cities that were as much as

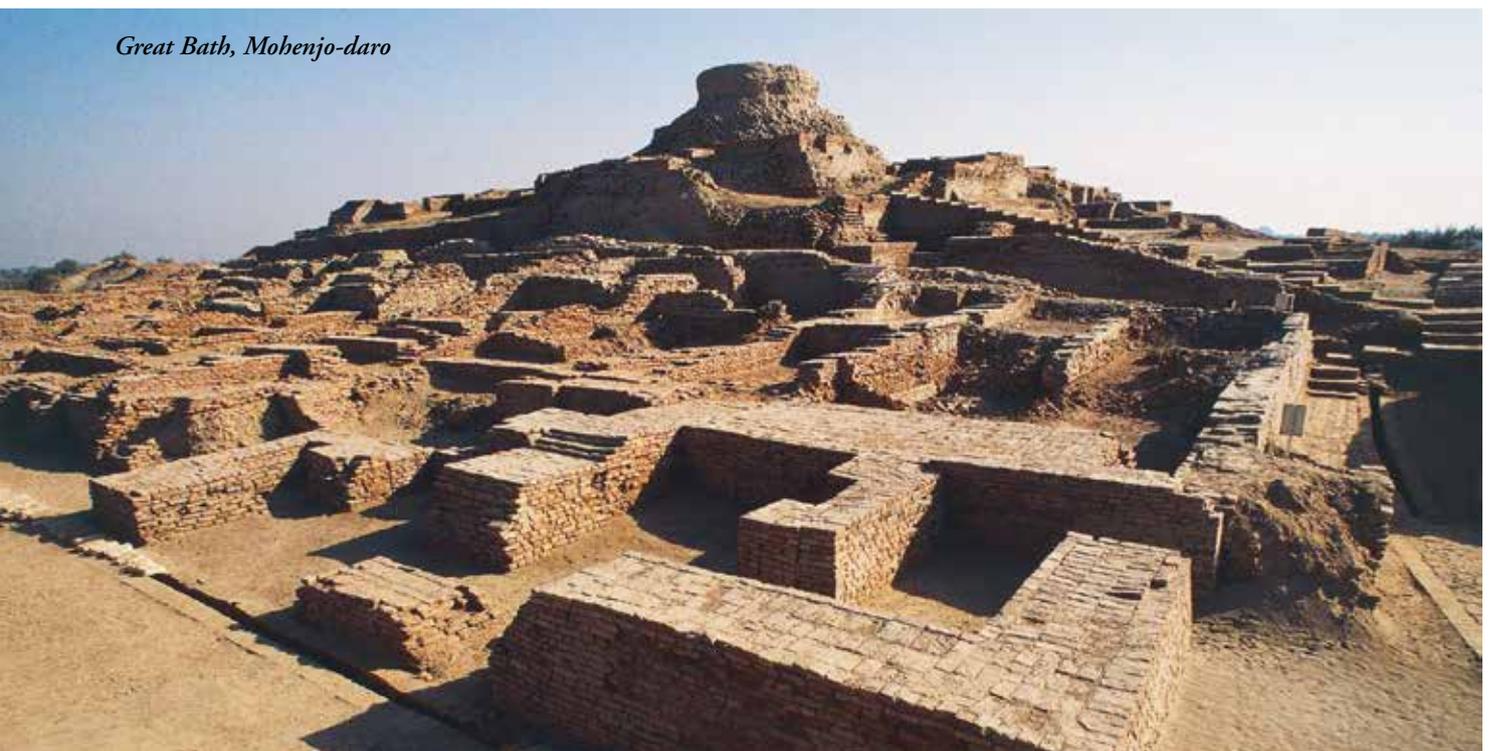
several hundred miles apart. The weights and measures show a very considerable regularity.

The Indus Valley people domesticated animals, and harvested various crops, such as cotton, sesame, peas, barley, and cotton. They may also have been a sea-faring people, and it is rather interesting that Indus Valley seals have been dug up in such places as Sumer in southern Iraq. In most respects, the Indus Valley Civilisation appears to have been urban, defying both the predominant idea of India as an eternally and essentially agricultural civilisation, as well as the notion that the change from 'rural' to 'urban' represents something of a logical progression. The Indus Valley people had a merchant class that, evidence suggests, engaged in extensive trading. In spite of all that we know, in actuality, for all its achievements, the Indus Valley Civilisation is one of the most poorly understood. Among the mysteries that lie buried along with these great cities are many fundamental questions that still remain unsolved like even the question of what language they might have spoken. All of these facts stand in stark contrast to what is known of its contemporaries.

(Team Rhea)

K Vignesh, Inside Sales, Xomox Sanmar, Viralimalai.

Great Bath, Mohenjo-daro



It was an ancient civilisation located in what is Pakistan and northwest India today, on the fertile flood plain of the Indus River and its vicinity. In 1857, the British engineers accidentally used bricks from the Harappa ruins for building the East Indian Railway line between Karachi and Lahore. In the year 1912, J Fleet discovered Harappan seals. This incident led to an excavation campaign conducted in 1921-22, in the ancient cities of Harappa and Mohenjodaro, pointed to a highly complex civilisation that first developed some 4,500-5,000 years ago, and archaeological research has now furnished us with a more detailed picture of the Indus Valley Civilisation and its inhabitants with the help of few thousand seals discovered. The Indus Valley people were most likely Dravidians, who may have been pushed down into south India when the Aryans, with their more advanced military technology, commenced their migrations to India around 2,000 BCE. The people of Indus Valley are believed to be amongst the first to develop a system of uniform weights and measures. Their smallest division was approximately 1.704 mm. The people of Harappa evolved new techniques in metallurgy and produced copper, bronze, lead and tin. The pottery, seals, figurines, ornaments, etc, of the civilisation show great similarities with those of Central Asia and the Iranian plateau, indicating trade with them.

As a matter of fact, the women portrayed on the seals are shown with elaborate coiffures, sporting heavy jewellery, suggesting that the Indus Valley people were an urbane people with cultivated tastes and a refined aesthetic sensibility. Despite considering its sophistication, it couldn't make an attempt to spread their horizon beyond the Indus valley. The most compelling historical narrative still suggests that the demise and eventual disappearance of the Indus Valley Civilisation, which owed something to internal decline, nonetheless was facilitated by the arrival of the Aryans in India. However, the major reasons of the decline of the civilisation are believed that it's connected.

(Team Rhea)

S Siva, Inside Sales, Xomox Sanmar, Viralimalai.



Indus Valley Artefacts

Word Search

Pick the appropriate words from the list given below.



Some archaeologists think that this bronze figurine may have been attached to a _____ and carried in a procession.

Some archaeologists think that this terracotta figurine shows a woman dressed for a _____



This elephant seal is about the size of a large _____

This plate is made of _____, which was a rare and expensive metal.



_____ used weights like this to measure goods.



This modern cart is made of _____. Full size _____ carts rotted away in the warm, damp climate of Mohenjo-daro.

This necklace is made of _____ beads and _____ beads, which were rare and valuable.



There is a boat on this terracotta tablet. The cabin the centre may have been used as _____ or a safe place for goods.

The most popular image that was carved on seals was a one-horned animal, like a _____. Archaeologists think that this was a mythical animal.



This necklace or belt is made up of _____ carnelian beads.

copper, special occasion, green stone, wooden pole, 42, gold, terracotta, unicorn, traders, postage stamp, wooden, sleeping quarters



Around five thousand years ago, an important civilisation developed on the Indus river floodplain. From about 2600 BC to 1700 BC a vast number of settlements were built on the banks of the Indus river and surrounding areas. The Indus Valley Civilisation was also called as Bronze Age civilisation. These settlements cover a remarkable region, almost 1.25 million kilometres of land which is today part of Afghanistan, Pakistan and north-western India.

The cities of the Indus Valley Civilisation were well organised. It is solidly built out of brick and stone. Their drainage systems, wells and water storage systems were the most sophisticated in the ancient world. They also developed systems of weights and trade. They made jewellery and game pieces and toys for their children. From looking at the structures and objects, which survive, we are able to learn about the people who lived and worked in these cities so long ago.

The people of the Indus Valley Civilisation also developed a writing system, which was used for several hundred years. However, unlike some other ancient civilisations, we are still unable to read the words that they wrote.

(Team Rhea)

J Naveen, Sales, Xomox Sanmar, Viralimalai.

A quick quiz to brush up our knowledge of our own civilisation

1. The main characteristic of the Indus Valley Civilisation was
(a) Town planning (b) Drainage system (c) Well laid out roads (d) Pucca houses
2. The main occupation of the people of the Indus Valley civilisation was
(a) Agriculture (b) Cattle rearing (c) Hunting (d) Trade
3. Which one of the following archaeologists initially discovered the Mohenjodaro site of the Indus Valley Civilisation?
(a) Sir John Marshall (b) Rakhal Das Banerji (c) Daya Ram Sahni (d) Sir Martimer Wheeler
4. The earliest evidence of silver in India was found in the?
(a) Harappan Culture (b) Chalcolithic cultures of Western India (c) Vedic texts (d) Silver punch – marked coins
5. The Indus Valley Civilisation is known as Pre Aryan Civilisation because of the evidence of ?
(a) art (b) copper (c) pottery (d) script
6. The script of Indus Valley Civilisation was
(a) Persian (b) Dravidian (c) Sanskrit (d) Undeciphered
7. The figure of the god that was depicted in the seal of Indus Valley people is ?
(a) Agni (b) Indra (c) Varuna (d) Pashupati

1. b 2. a 3. b 4. a 5. d 6. d 7. d

Answers

Protective walls around well in Harappa. An advanced drainage system was in place then.



Mayan Civilisation

The Maya civilisation was a Mesoamerican civilisation developed by the Maya people, and noted for its hieroglyphic script - the only known fully developed writing system of the pre-Columbian Americas and also for its art, architecture, mathematics, and astronomical system.

Geography

It occupied a wide territory of south-eastern Mexico and northern Central America; including the entire Yucatán Peninsula, and the modern countries of Guatemala and Belize, the western portions of Honduras and El Salvador. Most of the peninsula is formed by a vast plain with few hills or mountains and a generally low coastline.

History

The history of Maya civilisation is divided into three principal periods:

- Pre-classic
- Classic
- Post-classic

These were preceded by the Archaic Period, which saw the first settled villages and early developments in agriculture.

The Pre-classic period (2000 BC to 250 AD) saw the establishment of the first complex societies, and the cultivation of the staple crops of maize, beans, squashes, and chilli peppers. The first Maya cities developed around

750 BC, and by 500 BC these cities possessed monumental architecture, large temples and elaborate stucco façades.

Beginning 250 AD, the Classic period, the Mayas were raising sculpted monuments with Long Count dates. During this period the Maya developed city-states linked complex trade network. In the 9th century, there was a widespread political collapse. The post-classic period saw the rise of Chichen Itza in the north, and the expansion of the aggressive K'iche' kingdom in the Guatemalan Highlands. The island city of Tayasal is considered as the last independent Mayan Kingdom before submitting to Spanish rule in 1967 followed by mysterious eradication of the ancient Mayas.

Society

From the early pre-classic, Maya society was sharply divided between the elite and commoners. As population increased over time, various sectors of society became increasingly specialised, and political organisation became increasingly complex. A middle class may have developed, that included artisans, low ranking priests and officials, merchants, and soldiers. Commoners included farmers, servants, labourers, and slaves.

According to indigenous histories, land was held communally by noble houses or clans and was reinforced by the burial of the dead within residential compounds.



Chichen Itza

Mayan

Mayan children were named according to the day they were born. Medicine for the purpose of healing, foresight, and control over natural events was practiced only by well educated persons called Shanmans. Mayan people regularly used hallucinogenic drugs (taken from the natural world) as painkillers.

Maya blue or azul Maya has been seen at several architectural locations. Cacaxtla is a large palace with many vibrant coloured murals in Mayan style. This very gorgeous turquoise blue colour only survived to be seen because of the chemical characteristics that made it possible and the composition is still unknown.

Maya ball game was played for thousands of years throughout Mesoamerica, and had great religious significance. Contact with the ball was limited to any body part, except that the hands and feet were allowed. Kicking or throwing the ball was forbidden. In addition, the ball was not allowed to touch the ground. The ball was made of rubber and weighed about eight pounds. This made severe injury a definite possibility. The game ended when the first goal was scored.

People practiced and promoted blood sacrifice to their gods, especially of little children. This practice cannot be seen among the present Mayans descendants, however they still use cattle and chicken blood instead of human blood.

Mayan culture was extremely fond of jewellery made up of jade and gold. Families of the Royals and priests wore more sophisticated jewellery. The jade was worn in beads, bracelets, earrings and ear spoons.

Language, Writing and Literacy

Before 2000 BC, the Maya spoke a single language, dubbed proto-Mayan by linguists. The Maya writing system is one of the outstanding achievements of the pre-Columbian inhabitants of the Americas. The earliest inscription in an

Mayan Script



Mayan Calendar

identifiably Maya script dating back to 300–200 BC, in the Petén Basin is preceded by Epi-Olmec and Zapotec scripts. By about AD 250, the Maya script had become a more formalised and consistent writing system. Writing tools used to be a brush with a tip fashioned from pliable hair.

Mathematics

The Maya used a base 20 (vigesimal) system. The bar-and-dot counting system that is the base of Maya numerals was used in Mesoamerica by 1000 BC; the Maya adopted it by the Late Pre-classic, and added the symbol for zero. The earliest explicit use of zero occurred on monuments dated to 357 AD.

Calendar

The Maya calendrical system had its origins in the Pre-classic period and developed the calendar to its maximum sophistication, recording lunar and solar cycles, eclipses and movements of planets with great accuracy.

This end-date of the Long count calendar December 21, 2012 marks the coming of a truly rare cosmic event that Earth will cross the ecliptic path of the Sun. The world was talking about what will happen on this date and fortunately nothing had happened to world as predicted by Mayans.

Astronomy

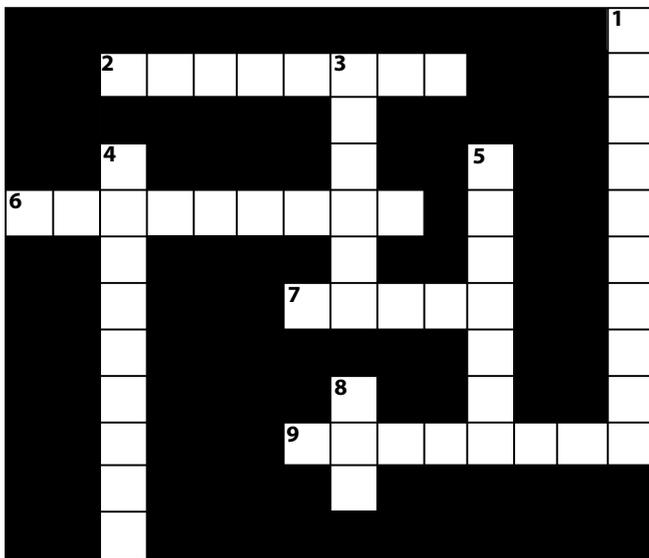
The Maya were keen observers of the sun, stars, and planets. The Maya made meticulous observations of celestial bodies, patiently recording astronomical data on the movements of the sun, moon, venus, and the stars. Maya astronomy was essentially for astrological purposes. Maya astronomy



did not serve to study the universe for scientific reasons, nor was it used to measure the seasons in order to calculate crop planting. It was rather used by the priesthood to comprehend past cycles of time, and project them into the future to produce prophecy.

(Team Atlas)

V Sriram Kumar, *Maintenance, Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur.*

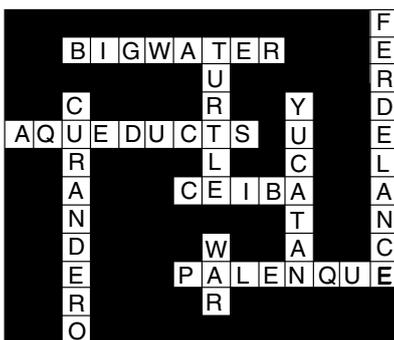


Across

- 2. Ancient Maya called Palenque L'akamha, which means?
- 6. Water flowed all over the city of Palenque because of a great system of _____
- 7. This giant tree was sacred to the Maya
- 9. Peter Lourie went on to Mexico to help excavate this ancient Maya city.

Down

- 1. One of the most poisonous snakes in Central America and in the jungles of Mexico.



Interesting Facts

- According to the ancient Maya, the world was created on August 11, 3114BC, which is the date their calendar counts from.
- The Maya never disappeared really, according to recent studies around seven million direct descendants of the Mayans live in the Americas today.
- According to scholars, the most distinctive Maya achievements were in abstract mathematics and astronomy.
- The Maya were literate and had a written language and even books.
- The Mayan system of hieroglyphics, one of the most complex systems on Earth, only began to be successfully decoded in the 1950s.
- The ancient Maya was one of the earliest ancient civilisation to use the number ZERO.
- Both Maya men and women tattooed their bodies with elaborate designs, making them one of the earliest ancient cultures to practice the art of “tattooing”
- The Ancient Maya were incredible engineers, constructing the peak of La Danta—according to researchers it is more massive than the Great Pyramid of Giza containing around 99 million cubic feet of rock and fill.
- The Maya were one of the first ancient civilisations to use the Sauna, sweat bath, or zumpul-ché.
- The island city of Tayasal is considered as the last independent Mayan Kingdom and it existed until 1696.
- Mayans were excellent beekeepers and raised stingless bees for honey.

- 3. The Maya thought of the earth as this animal.
- 4. If you are bitten by a fer-de-lance, only a local medicine man called _____ can help you.
- 5. The Maya around 900, moved farther north to the _____ Peninsula.
- 8. One of the reason Maya culture may have faltered.

Mayan Tablet

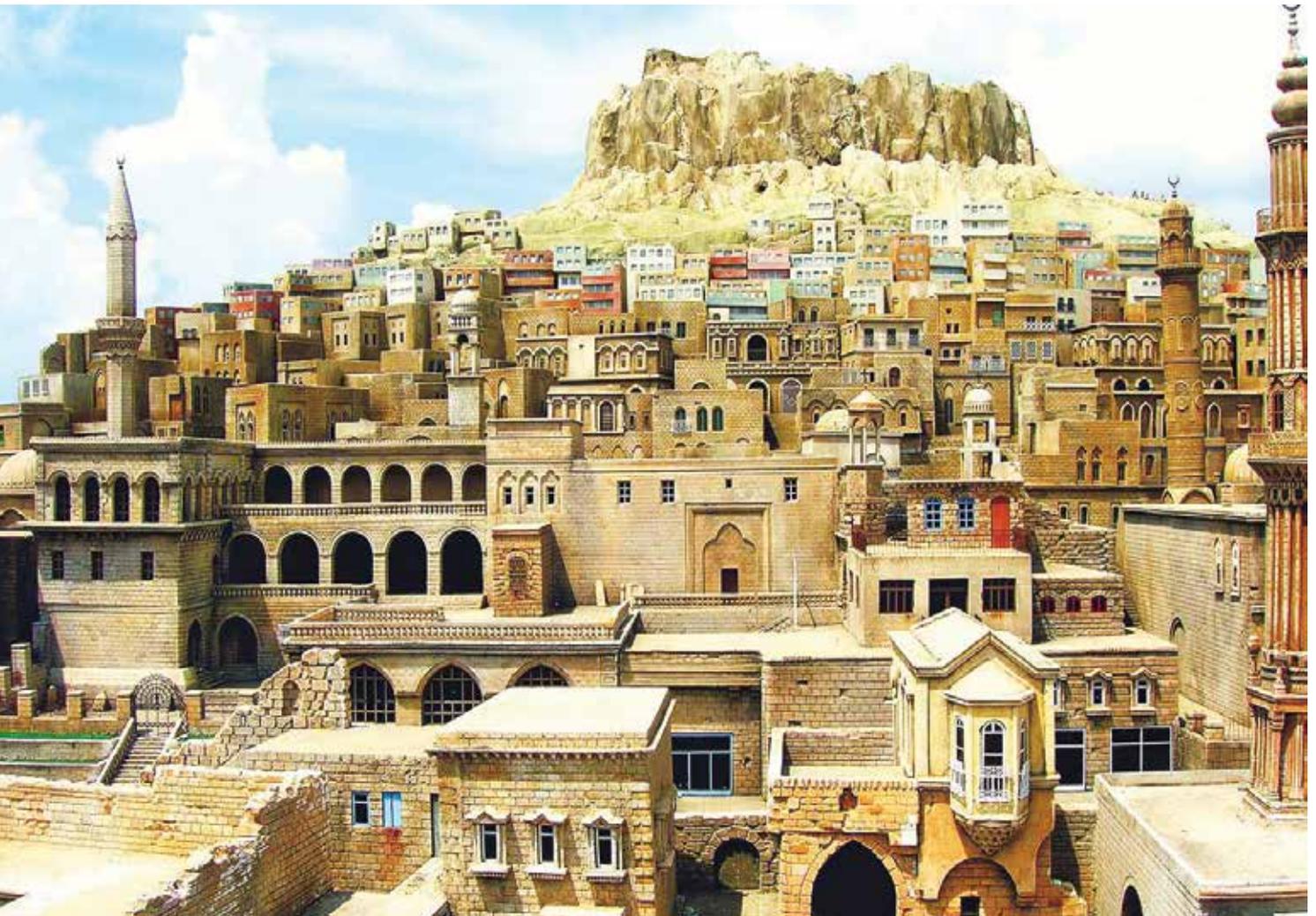


Mesopotamian Civilisation

“Mesopotamia,” the land between two rivers, the Euphrates at its southern and the Tigris at its northern border is one of the four largest and prominent Riverine Civilisations and the others namely the Indus Valley, the Yellow River, and the Nile of Egypt. It has long served as the cradle of civilisations nurturing the Sumerians, Akkadians, Babylonians and the Romans. The history of Mesopotamia starts as early as 4000 BC but the written recorded history actually starts only from later 3100 BC during which Mesopotamia was dominated by Sumerians and Akkadians. Their rule conferred prosperity in all fields like agriculture, medicine, mathematics, architecture, science in Mesopotamia. The rule of Sumerians was dominant and came to an end only in 539 BC by the fall of Babylon in the conquest by Achaemenid Empire. Later in 332 BC the land was under the rule of Alexander the great. Then Mesopotamia came under the rule of Romans and Parthians as a part of their extended territory. In the middle of 7th century, Mesopotamia was conquered by Muslim Kings of Persia and Sasanian Empire. Finally all these invasions have transformed the piece of land into the Modern “Iraq” with various ethnic groups living together.

Mesopotamian civilisation had given birth to one of the Oldest Cities of the world namely, “The Eridu” which is even more older than most of the other civilisations. The early Mesopotamians were very much interested in developing new techniques of doing things in an easier way. They had used wheels, wind energy, ropes to simplify their daily job. Mesopotamian people invented many technologies including metal and copper-working, glass and lamp making, textile weaving, flood control, water storage, and irrigation. They were also one of the first Bronze Age societies in the world. They developed from copper, bronze, and gold on to iron. Palaces were decorated with hundreds of kilograms of these very expensive metals. Also, copper, bronze, and iron were used for armor as well as for different weapons such as swords, daggers, spears, and maces.

Mesopotamians had found to make glass and use it for fancy articles and articles that had now turned to be the artifacts of the Iraq museums. They planted wheat, flax, vegetables, fruits and sesame and had raised goats, pigs and cattle for food.





Mesopotamian king Ashurnasirpal

The cultural background of Mesopotamians have roots in Paganism since they had followed multi-God worship. They had followed the Trinity concept similar to the Indus valley concepts of divinity. The three powerful Gods were called:

“Nanna” – The Moon God

“Utu” – The Sun God

“Anu” – The Father of Gods

Ancient Mesopotamian religion was the first recorded. Mesopotamians believed that the world was a flat disc, surrounded by a huge, holed space, and above that, heaven. They also believed that water was everywhere, the top, bottom and sides, and that the universe was born from this enormous sea. In addition, Mesopotamian religion was polytheistic. Although the beliefs were held in common among Mesopotamians, there were also regional variations. The Sumerian word for universe is An-ki which refers to the god An and the goddess Ki. Their son was Enlil, the air god. They believed that Enlil was the most powerful god. He was the chief god of the pantheon.

There were 3000 other gods who were revered and pacified by the Mesopotamians for their blessings to lead a happy life. Even a Sickles was personified as godly being and people who got hurt by it unknowingly were considered to be under the wrath of the god of sickles.

The Mesopotamians believed their kings and queens descended from the City of Gods, but, unlike the ancient Egyptians, they never believed their kings were real gods. Most kings named themselves “king of the universe” or “great king”. Another common name was “shepherd”, as kings had to look after their people.

City-states of Mesopotamia created the first law codes, drawn from legal precedence and decisions made by kings. The codes of Urukagina and Lipit Ishtar have been found. The most renowned of these was that of Hammurabi, as mentioned above, who was posthumously famous for his set of laws, the Code of Hammurabi (created in 1780 BC), which is one of the earliest sets of laws found and one of the best

preserved examples of this type of document from ancient Mesopotamia. He codified over 200 laws for Mesopotamia.

The language of the Mesopotamians were mostly the Sumerian and Akkadian local languages. Most of the people were bilingual and spoke “Asprachbund” - a classic mixture of both the languages, since there were close interactions and mutual influence between the two empires of the valley land. But as time proceeded, Sumerian language gained dominance in the entire land due to greater influence of Sumerian kingdom. Until 1st century AD, Sumerian language remained to be the sacred, ceremonial, literary and scientific language of Mesopotamia. Both women and men knew to read and write their local language. The earliest written recorded language was the Sumerian which was also called the “Cuneiform” – which means the “wedge shaped”. The language got its name from the sharp tip of the stylus which was used to impress signs on the wet clay. The epic of Gilgamesh was the first ever epic written which briefed the Mesopotamian concepts of astronomy.

Mesopotamian society across its history became more and more a patriarchal society, one in which the men were far more powerful than the women. For example, during the earliest Sumerian period, the “en”, or high priest of male gods was originally a woman, that of female goddesses, a man. As for schooling, only royal offspring and sons of the rich and professionals, such as scribes, physicians, temple administrators, went to school. Most boys were taught their father’s trade or were apprenticed out to learn a trade. Girls had to stay home with their mothers to learn housekeeping and cooking, and to look after the younger children. Some children would help with crushing grain or cleaning birds. Unusual for that time in history, women in Mesopotamia had rights. They could own property and, if they had good reason, get a divorce.

(Team Midas)

R Karthik, Engineer, Xomox Sanmar, Chennai.

Sreejith Mohan, Engineer, Xomox Sanmar, Chennai.

R Saravanan, Engineer, Xomox Sanmar, Chennai.



Mesopotamian writing

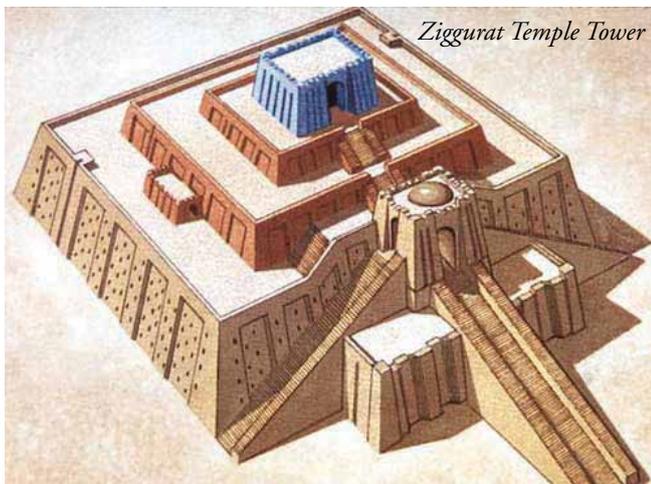
How to Build a Ziggurat

A ziggurat is a type of step pyramid developed by the Sumerians around 3000 to 2500 BCE. The structures acted as temples for the Sumerian gods and they resembled rectangular cuboids placed on top of each other. This simplistic architecture is what makes ziggurats easy to recreate with paper. The most famous ziggurat may be the tower of Babel.

Things you'll need:

- Yellow construction paper
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Tape

1. Design a 7-by-7-inch square on yellow construction paper. Create rectangles on all four sides of the square, measuring 2-by-7 inches (since one of their sides is actually the square's side). Cut out the whole template.
2. Fold the template on the square's sides and use tape to hold the rectangles (ziggurat's walls) together. Cut out a small rectangle on one of the walls to form the level's door.
3. Create an identically shaped template for the second level, with the square measuring 5-by-5 inches and the four rectangles measuring 2-by-5. Cut out the template, fold and stick the walls together and cut out the level's door. Place the new level over the initial one, with the doors facing the same direction.
4. Repeat the process to create the third level, with a 3-by-3 inch square and 1-by-3 inch rectangles, and the top level, with a 2-by-2 inch square and 2-by-2 rectangles. Cut out the templates, form the walls, create the doors and place them over the bottom two levels.
5. Measure each level's wall height and the door's width. Create a trapezoid for each level except for the top level, whose bottom side equals twice the height + the door's width, while its top side equals the door's width. Each trapezoid's height must equal the distance between the walls and the edge of the lower square (not applicable



Interesting Facts

- The land on the sides of the rivers was fertile while the general area was not and this led to irrigation techniques.
- Mesopotamia's major cities included Baghdad, Babylon and Nippur.
- Mesopotamians invented the wheel in approximately 3500 BC, changing transportation forever.
- Although most of the region that encompassed Mesopotamia is now desert, it often experienced flooding in ancient Mesopotamian times.
- The Mesopotamians invented the seeder plow which made it possible for farmers to plough and seed at the same time, saving time and energy.
- Every city in Mesopotamia had its own god.
- Eventually the pictograms became wedge-shaped signs that could be pressed into clay because it was difficult to draw on clay.
- The wedge-shaped writing is called cuneiform and was a great achievement because it allowed information to be transferred from place to place with accuracy.
- Ancient Mesopotamians were masters of brick and mud construction, and brick-making became a major industry in Mesopotamia.
- At the age of only 12 girls were considered to be ready to get married.
- Money did not exist in Mesopotamia so they used weight to buy and sell items.
- Mesopotamians were the first to grasp the concept of the number zero, and the first to begin experimenting with mathematical problems.
- It is believed that the Mesopotamians invented the sailboat.

for the bottom level's trapezoid, whose height should be twice the wall's height).

6. Draw two orthogonal lines, starting from the trapezoid's top side corners and reaching the bottom side. Fold the shape on these two lines to form each level's ladder. Stick the ladder right in front of each level's door (effectively covering it).

Tips & Warnings

If you cannot find a yellow construction paper, paint the paper yellow or orange to give the impression of mud (the main material used for the construction of ziggurats).

Persian Civilisation

The Persian Empire was one of the first major empires in the ancient world. Meet the major leaders and explore the history of the Persian Empire in this article.

A Major Empire

The Persian Empire was an empire that stretched from India to Europe from 550 BCE to 331 BCE. It was ruled by a series of monarchs. An empire is defined as a geographically extensive set of states or peoples that are ruled either by a monarch or by an oligarchy. Although they gained power by conquering local people, the Persian Empire marked a period of peaceful rule and extensive trading for much of the Middle East.

A Migrating People

The Persian Empire began with the migration of Iranians, a group of Indo-Europeans out of central Europe and southern Russia around 1,000 BCE. Persia is now part of the modern country of Iran, hence the name 'Iranians' for the larger migratory group that lived in this area. Their movement into the region was gradual and took part over several generations.

A Growing Society

The Iranians slowly settled into specific regions and began establishing their own societies. Eventually, two groups established themselves as leaders in the region. In the South, the Persians governed the area between the Caspian Sea and Persian Gulf and began establishing their own society. In the North, the Medes formed a state called Media and united themselves under one king in 710 BCE. Once the Medes had established the rule of a central government authority in the form of a monarchy, they began to expand into Persian territory while at the same time allying with the neighbouring Babylonian Empire to overthrow the Assyrian Empire in 612 BCE.

Zoroastrianism is the Official Religion of Persia (Iran).

Rise of an Empire

In 550 BCE, Cyrus the Great, king of the Persians, successfully conquered the Medes and united the Iranian people together for the first time. Cyrus continued to expand the Persian territory to the west and to gain

Persepolis





control of vital trade routes that crossed modern Iran. Persia was a land of towering mountains and flaming-hot deserts with a broad central plateau between the Tigris-Euphrates River Valley and the Indus River Valley. The high mountain peaks cut off the Persians from the sea and limited their ability to trade with neighbouring states. Gaining access to seaports was of crucial importance to Cyrus and the development of the Persian Empire.

Cyrus' armies swept along the coast of Anatolia, securing both ports for trading and subduing nomadic tribes who

Colour Esther, the Queen of Persia





Interesting Facts

- The name “Persian” comes from the people’s original tribal name Parsua. This was also the name they gave the land they originally settled which was bounded by the Tigris River to the west and the Persian Gulf to the south.
- The longest reigning Persian King was Artaxerxes II who ruled 45 years from 404-358 BC. His reign was a time of peace and prosperity for the empire.
- The Persian culture held the truth in high esteem. Telling a lie was one of the most disgraceful things a person could do.

- The capital of the empire was the great city of Persepolis. This name is Greek for “Persian City”.
- After Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon, he allowed the Jewish people to return to Israel and to rebuild their temple at Jerusalem.
- The Persians were the ones to shape the world’s first human rights charter.
- Persians built the earliest known vertical axis windmills.
- Persians were also known as pioneers in ventilation, cooling systems and refrigeration technology.
- Persians brought forth the concept of Paradise Gardens; and as such the English word ‘paradise’ comes from Old Iranian.
- A Persian boy was not allowed to see his father till the age of 5.
- The military culture of heavy cavalry lancers was transmitted to Romans via Persia.
- The Persian ‘Immortals’ also had their parallels in the Eastern Roman Empire.
- The Persians started the concept of uniforms for military forces, and also invented seamed coats.

lived in the area. When Cyrus moved his troops into the Babylonian Empire, the people of Babylon welcomed him as a liberator. Cyrus was an astute and benevolent conqueror. He allowed the people he conquered to continue to live according to their customs and restored sacred objects to religious minorities like the Jews, who had been treated cruelly under the Babylonians.

An Empire Expands

Cyrus’ son Cambyses continued his father’s method of benevolent conquest and expanded the Persian Empire into Egypt. Darius, Cambyses’ successor, conquered western India and created the Persian satrapy, or governorship, of the valley of the Indus River. Darius was succeeded by his son, Xerxes, who was unsuccessful in invading Greece in 480 BCE.

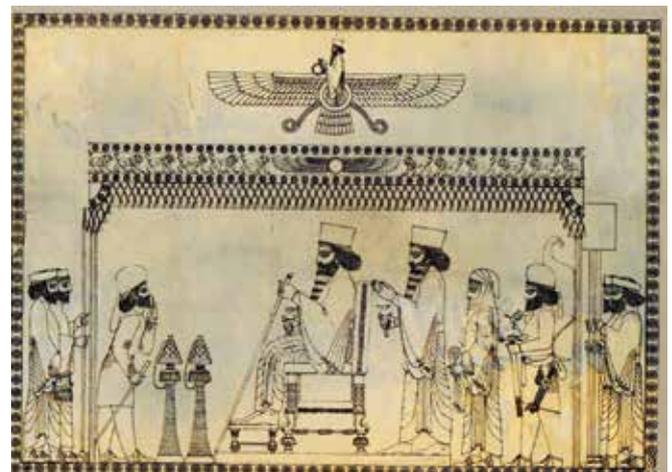
The End of an Empire

After the reign of Darius, the Persian Empire faced increasing rebellions by its citizens. The Persians and

the Greeks battled over territory throughout this period. Their Egyptian lands were in rebellion for several years before being reintegrated into the empire. The Persian Empire eventually fell before the armies of a Greek king, Alexander the Great, who conquered the Persian Empire in 331 BCE.

(Team Poseidon)

Ishaan Anand, Sales, Xomox Sanmar, Delhi.



Roman Civilisation

“Ave atque vale”, literally means Hello and Goodbye.

The Roman Empire (Latin: Imperium Romanum)

Ancient Rome was an Italic civilisation that began on the Italian Peninsula as early as the 8th century BC. Located along the Mediterranean Sea and centered on the city of Rome, it expanded to become one of the largest empires in the ancient world with an estimated 50 to 90 million inhabitants (roughly 20% of the world’s population) and covering 6.5 million square kilometers (2.5 million sq mt) during its height between the first and second centuries AD.

In its approximately 12 centuries of existence, Roman civilisation shifted from a monarchy to a classical republic and then to an increasingly autocratic empire. It came to dominate Southern and Western Europe, Asia Minor, North Africa, and parts of Northern and Eastern Europe and became one of the most powerful entities of the ancient world, often grouped into classical antiquity together with ancient Greece. Their similar cultures and societies are known as the Greco-Roman world.

According to the founding myth of Rome, the city was founded on 21 April 753 BC by twin brothers Romulus and Remus, who descended from the Trojan prince Aeneas and who were grandsons of the Latin King, Numitor of Alba Longa. Numitor’s daughter, Rhea Silvia, gave birth to the twins. Because Rhea Silvia was raped and impregnated by Mars, the Roman god of war, the twins were considered half-divine.

The new king feared Romulus and Remus would take back the throne, so he ordered them to be drowned. A

she-wolf (or a shepherd’s wife in some accounts) saved and raised them, and when they were old enough, they returned the throne of Alba Longa to Numitor.

The twins then founded their own city, but Romulus killed Remus in a quarrel which was about who was going to rule or give his name to the city. Romulus became the source of the city’s name.

The native language of the Romans was Latin, an Italic language the grammar of which relies little on word order, conveying meaning through a system of affixes attached to word stems. Its alphabet was based on the Etruscan alphabet, which was in turn based on the Greek alphabet.

While Latin remained the main written language of the Roman Empire, Greek came to be the language spoken by the well-educated elite, as most of the literature studied by Romans was written in Greek.

Ancient Rome boasted impressive technological feats, using much advancement. Roman civil engineering and military engineering constituted a large part of Rome’s technological superiority and legacy, and contributed to the construction of hundreds of roads, bridges, aqueducts, baths, theatres and arenas. Many monuments, such as the Colosseum, Pont du Gard, and Pantheon, remain as testaments to Roman engineering and culture.

One of the most famous buildings left by the Ancient Romans is the Colosseum - a huge amphitheatre in the centre of Rome. This is where members of the public would come to watch sporting events and games, including battles between Roman gladiators!

Romans started to use concrete widely. Concrete was invented in the late 3rd century BC. It was a powerful cement derived from pozzolana, and soon supplanted marble as the chief Roman building material. Concrete made possible the paved, durable Roman roads, many of which were still in use a thousand years after the fall of Rome. The construction of a vast, efficient travel network throughout the Empire increased the enormous economic significance, solidifying Rome’s role as a trading crossroads—the origin of the saying “all roads lead to Rome”.

(Team Zeus).

Dr Darshika Shah, W/o Nayan M Shah,
Flowerserve Sanmar, Vadodara.



Colloseum

The founding of Rome goes back to the very early days of civilisation. It is so old, it is today known as 'the eternal city'. The Romans believed that their city was founded in the year 753 BC. Modern historians though believe it was the year 625 BC.

Early Rome was governed by kings, but after only seven of them had ruled, the Romans took power over their own city and ruled themselves. They then instead had a council known as the 'senate' which ruled over them. From this point on, one speaks of the 'Roman Republic'. The word 'Republic' itself comes from the Latin (the language of the Romans) words 'res publica' which mean 'public matters' or 'matters of state'.

The senate under the kings had only been there to advise the king. Now the senate appointed a consul, who ruled Rome like a king, but only for one year. This was a wise idea, as like that, the consul ruled carefully and not as a tyrant, for he knew that otherwise he could be punished by the next consul, once his year was up.

The Roman Republic was a very successful government. It lasted from 510 BC until 23 BC - almost 500 years. In comparison the United States of America exists only since 1776 - less than 250 years.

Rome's most famous citizen was no doubt Julius Caesar. He was a Roman politician and general who, without having any orders to do so, conquered the vast territory of the Gauls to the north of his province in France.

In the year 49 BC Caesar crossed the small river between his province and Italy, called the river Rubicon, and conquered Rome itself which he then ruled as a dictator. His military campaigns also took him to Egypt where he met the famous Cleopatra. His life though was ended as he was infamously murdered in the senate in Rome.

So famous and respected was Caesar that a month of the year is still named after him and his heirs today - July (after Julius Caesar). Also the great English poet Shakespeare wrote a famous play called Julius Caesar about his famous murder.

After Caesar followed many emperors of Rome - and there were truly very many of them. Here are some of the most famous ones.	
Augustus	Rome's first emperor. He also added many territories to the empire.
Claudius	He conquered Britain.
Nero	He was insane. He murdered his mother and his wife and threw thousands of Christians to the lions.
Titus	Before he was emperor he destroyed the great Jewish temple of Solomon in Jerusalem.
Trajan	He was a great conqueror. Under his rule the empire reached its greatest extent.
Hadrian	He built 'Hadrian's Wall' in the north of Britain to shield the province from the northern barbarians.
Diocletian	He split the empire into two - a western and an eastern empire.
Constantine	He was the first Christian emperor. He united the empire again chose his capital to be the small town Byzantium, which he renamed Constantinople.
Romulus Augustus	He was the last emperor of Rome, nicknamed Augustulus which means 'little Augustus'.
Justinian	He was the last 'great' emperor. He conquered many territories, created the 'Justinian Code' and built the fantastic church Santa Sophia.
Constantine XI	The last emperor of Constantinople. He died defending his great city against the Turks.

Roman school



Roman

The Roman empire in the end was overrun by millions of barbarians from the north and east of Europe. It is believed to have happened two or three times in history that huge migrations took place across Europe, where peoples moved to settle in new territories. The great migration proved too much for the Romans to stem. Their armies were designed to defeat other armies, not entire folks and peoples flooding toward them. The collapse was completed when Rome itself was conquered by the Visigoth Odoacer and his men in the year AD 476.

But what is generally referred to as 'the Fall of Rome' doesn't include the eastern empire. This, with its centre in Constantinople, managed to cling on for almost another thousand years until it was eventually conquered by the Turks under their leader Mohammed II in the year AD 1453.

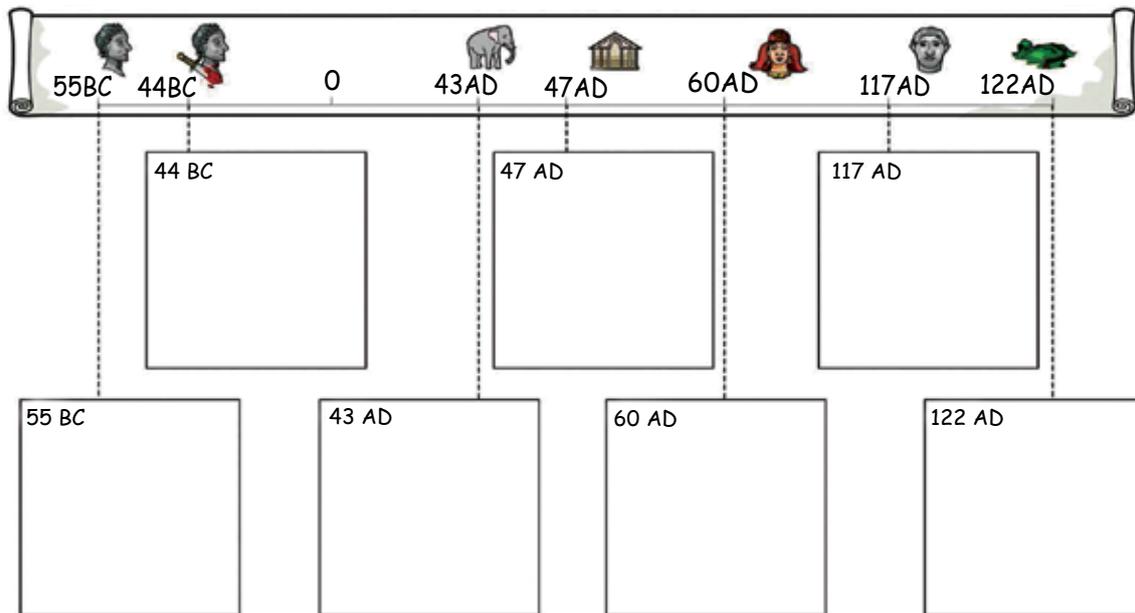


Interesting Facts

- Ancient Romans celebrated "Saturnalia", a festival in which slaves and their masters would switch places.
- Flamingo tongues were a delicacy in ancient Rome.
- In ancient Rome, it was considered a sign of leadership to be born with a crooked nose.
- Ancient Rome was eight times more densely populated than modern New York.
- Life expectancy in Ancient Rome was from 20 to 30 years.
- Paris was originally a Roman city called "Lutetia".
- The Roman Emperor Gaius Caligula made his horse a senator.
- At its peak, the Roman Empire comprised only 12% of the world's population.
- Two Roman dams in Spain are still in use after 1900 years.
- After the fall of the Roman Empire, the technology to make concrete was lost for 1000 years.

Roman Timeline

What was happening in Rome on these dates? Fill in the boxes with the important points.



Timeline Answers:

55BC Julius Caesar made his first attempt to invade Britain and again in 54 BC, but was put off by the British warriors and the terrible weather. Julius Caesar was murdered by a group of senators who said he had too much power.

44BC Julius Caesar sent in another Roman army and this time they were successful. Claudius came to Britain to lead the final attack with elephants; Roman Britain began.

47AD First Roman town was set up at Colchester. The Romans settlers 'taxed' the British in order to get money to build roads, baths and towns. I a British tribe revolted against the strict rule of the Romans. These battles were led by a lady called Boudicca. Although she had more soldiers, the Romans were well trained and the Britians were again defeated. In the end Boudicca poisoned herself.

117AD Hadrian was made Emperor. He had plans to conquer Scotland.

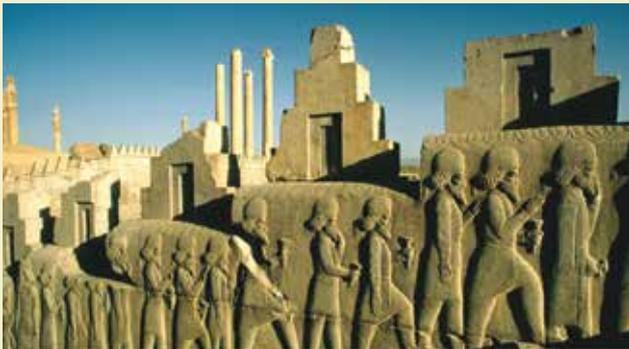
122AD Hadrian ordered the building of a great wall to defend his forts in York. We now know this as Hadrian's Wall. It took 8 years to build and is 115km long.

Find the suitable word(s) from the description given.

1. Planned series of ditches to control flooding and to better water land
2. A city and the surrounding country-side
3. Sumerian form of writing using wooden triangular shaped sticks in the form of hundreds of different wedge-shaped markings on moist clay tablets
4. Group of lands under one ruler
5. Area formed from soil deposited by a river at its mouth
6. Ruler in Ancient Egypt
7. Believing in more than one god
8. To treat dead body to protect from decay
9. Form of government in which one person ruled as both religious leader and king
10. Culture that includes certain elements such as a system of writing, cities and specialised work force

Answers: Words
 1. irrigation system 2. citystate 3. cuneiform 4. empire
 5. delta 6. pharaoh 7. polytheistic 8. embal
 9. theocracy 10. civilisation

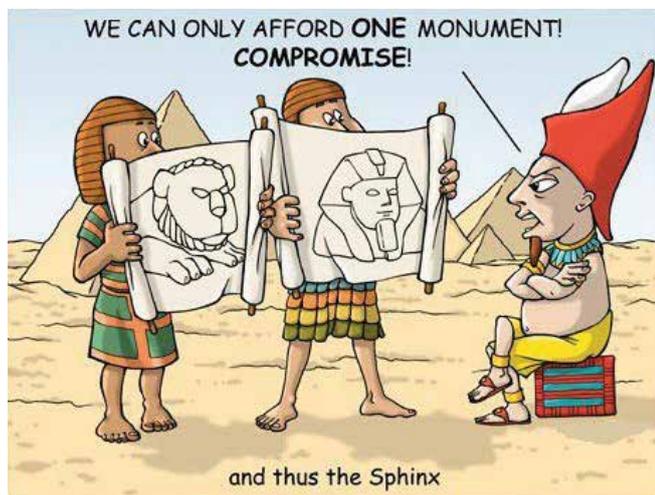
Guess What? Where?



Where is this well-known ruins ?
 Clue: This was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire.

Write in to scribbles@sanmargroup.com

Prize awaits the first correct entry.



The Ancient Civilisations IQ Test

- 1) The 2,000 year old Great Wall of China:
 - a) Is 2,150 miles long
 - b) Was built by the Huang He dynasty
 - c) Was built over the span of five generations
- 2) What is a Ziggurat?
 - a) A Chinese pyramid
 - b) A form of money used in the Crusades
 - c) A Sumerian temple
- 3) What was Hybornea, also known as Hyperborea?
 - a) The first root race of man
 - b) The original Egyptian name for the great pyramid
 - c) A civilisation which pre-dated Atlantis and Lemuria
- 4) Who built Stonehenge?
 - a) Welch Norsemen
 - b) The Druids
 - c) The Celts
- 5) What is the Shroud of Turin believed to be?
 - a) Cleopatra's tithe to Anthony
 - b) The burial cloth of Jesus
 - c) The cursed uniform of Napoleon
- 6) What caused the Great Flood?
 - a) The thousand year astronomical cycle
 - b) Violent volcanoes and earthquakes in South America
 - c) The collapse of the firmament
- 7) Which ancient artifact enabled researchers to decipher ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics?
 - a) The code of Hammurabi
 - b) The Rosetta Stone
 - c) The Obelisk of Philae
- 8) What South American country is home to the Nazca Plateau (the plateau known for huge ancient images visible only from the sky)?
 - a) Chile
 - b) Peru
 - c) Machu Pichu
- 9) In the Southwest of the United States, which native American Indian tribe vanished mysteriously at about 1000 A.D.?
 - a) The Anasazi
 - b) The Black Hawk
 - c) The Cherokee
- 10) Which of the following is reported to contain the wisdom of the ages?
 - a) The Ark of the Covenant
 - b) The Akashic Hall of Records
 - c) The right paw of the Sphinx

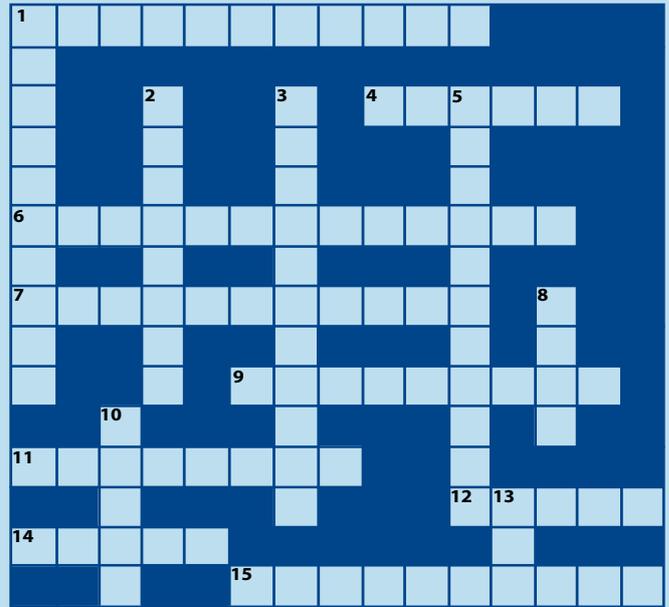
Answers: 1) a) 2) c) 3) c) 4) b) 5) b) 6) c) 7) b) 8) b) 9) a) 10) b)

Answers:

Sudoku

							1	
5		6		4			2	
2	4		8	1				5
					2			6
		1	9		7	2		
3			6					
9				6	1		5	2
				2		3		8
	3							

Crossword



Across

- The Huang He is also known by this name (2 words)
- Belief in a universal guiding force
- Rise and fall of ruling families (2 words)
- Term describing farm production regardless of crop
- Overland trade routes (2 words)
- Book of Confucius' teachings
- Dynasty of first writing system
- They spread because of trade
- In 221 B.C., he began unifying China (2 words)

Down

- The balance of forces that interact with each other (3 words)
- Belief in strong government
- Respect for parents (2 words)
- Early Chinese kings believed they contained messages from the gods (2 words)
- The Martial Emperor
- Invention that made books available
- Dynasty that set up a bureaucracy

Guess Who? !



Cleopatra VII Philopator (69-30 BC) known to history simply as Cleopatra, was the last active pharaoh of Ptolemaic Egypt, shortly survived as pharaoh by her son Caesarion. Regarded as a great beauty, even in the ancient world and romanticised in modern times

as the lover of Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, after her, Egypt became a province of the then-recently established Roman Empire.

Winner

('Famous landmarks across the world' contest announced in Jan-Feb 2016 issue)

N Ramachandran, Accounts, Chemplast Sanmar, HO.

(who got at least 13/14 correct answers)

Answers:

- The Statue of Liberty, New York, USA,
- Christ the Redeemer, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,
- Big Ben, London, UK,
- Eiffel Tower, Paris, France,
- St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow, Russia,
- Petronas Twin Tower, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
- Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico,
- Capitol Hill, Washington DC, USA,
- Table Mountain, Cape Town, South Africa,
- Colosseum, Rome, Italy,
- The Great Pyramid of Giza, Al Haram, Egypt,
- Taj Mahal, Agra, India,
- Imperial Palace, Forbidden City, Beijing, China,
- Opera House, Sydney, Australia.

1	6	9	8	7	5	2	3	4
8	7	3	9	2	4	5	1	1
2	5	4	6	1	3	7	8	6
7	9	1	4	5	6	8	2	3
3	4	2	7	8	1	9	5	6
6	8	5	2	3	1	4	9	7
5	3	7	6	1	8	9	4	2
9	2	8	3	4	7	6	1	5
4	1	4	5	6	9	2	3	8

Editorial team: Sarada Jagan, Ramadevi Ravi, Shilpa Senthilkumar, SS Rameshwari, Veena Merrilina J

Designed by Kalamkriya Limited, 9, Cathedral Road, Chennai 600 086. Ph: + 91 44 2812 8051/ 52

For Internal Circulation Only.

Source: Web search and printed materials