

Expansion of Civilizations 2

Greece



Map 2.1 Location of Greece

As shown on the map, the name ‘Greece’ is used to denote the peninsula situated between the Ionian and the Aegean seas projecting towards the Mediterranean sea and the group of Islands to the south of it including Crete.

Greece is a mountainous country. Apart from the mountains, the valleys, a serrated coastal line, mild climate etc. have provided a large number of economic benefits to Greece.

Origin and Expansion

Sources

- * Legends
- * Homer's Iliad and Odyssey
- * Hesiod's Works and Days
- * Archaeological sources

According to these sources of information, Greek civilization started in about 1000 B.C. Its earliest settlers are believed to be the Aryan tribes who had migrated from Central Asian steppes.

Government

At the start, the Aryan tribes who migrated into Greece established settlements in the form of small villages. These villages which were located in valleys between mountains eventually developed into cities. Later, they came to be known as 'city states.' Greek civilization was built with the city as its centre. Accordingly, the system of city states can be considered as the main feature of the Greek civilization.

City states were independent political units that carried out the city centred administration.

Special Features of city states

- * Very small land area.
- * Built with the city as its centre.
- * Population consisted of four groups known as, citizens, women, foreigners and slaves .
- * Only the Greek men were treated as citizens.
- * Citizens were considered as the highest group in the society while women, foreigners and slaves were accorded lower status.

- * The capital was known as Acropolis.
- * There was a trade centre in Acropolis.
- * People came to the trade centre to buy and sell their goods.
- * Every city state had a god or a goddess of its own.
- * A shrine had been built on the highest location in Acropolis for the Gods or Goddesses.

The Parthenon shrine built in Athens for its goddess Athena is an example.

* **Beginning of Democracy**

The City State of Athens is considered as the place of origin of democracy which has become a widespread system of government in the modern world. According to Greek democracy, only the adult men were considered as citizens. Since the city state was very small there was only an extremely small group of citizens. It was not difficult for them to participate directly in state administration. This system of democracy that originated in Athens was known as Direct Democracy. As against the modern system of sending representatives elected by the people, all the citizens directly participated in government activities under this system.

Agriculture and Trade

The main livelihood of the Greeks was agriculture. Among the cereals cultivated by them, wheat and barley were the most important. In addition, olives and grapes too were grown. For use in agricultural activities and to obtain milk, they reared cattle, goats, sheep and such other animals.

Out of all the city states in Greece the commercial activities were centered mostly around Athens. The chief reason for this was that the good harbours situated there. Products of countries such as India, Sri Lanka and China were imported to Greece. It has been established that Ptolemy who was a Greek had obtained information needed to create his world map from foreign traders. The Greeks referred to Sri Lanka as Taprobane.

Free Thinking

The Greece has bequeathed a large number of philosophers and scientists to the world.

Philosophers

- * Socrates
- * Plato
- * Aristotle

Scientists

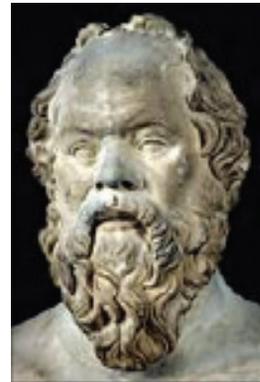
- * Hippocrates
- * Democritus
- * Euclid
- * Archimedes
- * Pythagoras
- * Heracleitus
- * Aristarchus

Philosophers

Socrates

* 470 - 399 B. C.

*A philosopher who accepted the fact that before coming to any conclusion or accepting any idea, it should be rigidly subjected to reasoning. He followed a special method of acquiring knowledge through a process of questions and answers rather than through discourses.

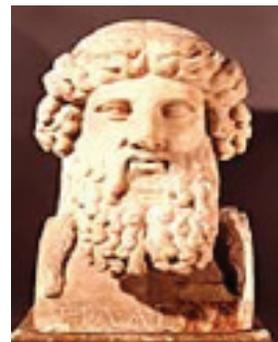


2.2 Socrates

Plato

* 428 - 347 B. C.

- * The best pupil of Socrates.
- * Followed the ideas of Socrates.
- * Compiled his famous book 'The Republic' with the intention of providing an idea about the ideal state.
- * Started the educational institution known as 'The Academy'.



2.3 Plato

Aristotle

- * 384 - 322 B.C.
- * The chief pupil of Plato.
- * Considered as the father of modern political science.
- * He was a philosopher, scientist and educationist.
- * Because of his extensive knowledge of a wide range of subjects such as Botany, Music, etc. he was considered to be a man of great wisdom.
- * Presented the idea that the earth is round in shape.



2.4 Aristotle

Scientists

Hippocrates

- * 460 - 377 B.C.
- * Considered as the father of western medicine.
- * Persons who join the profession of western medicine even today use the oath prepared by him.

Archimedes

- * 287 - 242 B.C.
- * A Greek intellectual who made mathematical innovations.
- * Discovered the principle known as Archimedes principle which establishes the fact that the volume of water displaced by an object emersed in that water is equal to the volume of that object.



Student Activity

Collect additional information and compile a small book with information about Greek Philosophers.

*Education : Education in the Greek civilization was provided mainly by individuals and schools run as private institution. Plato's Academy and Aristotle's Lyceum were prominent among them.

Religion

As found in many early civilizations in the world, the Greeks also deified natural objects and phenomena. Sun, moon, ocean etc. were among the most popular objects of worship.

There were several Gods worshipped by the Greeks.

Lord of the universe - Zeus

Zeus was considered to be the chief of all gods. His wife was Hera and Athena was his daughter. Greeks believed that a son of Zeus named Hercules carries the world on his shoulders. The Olympic games were initiated in the name of God Zeus.

Sun God - Apollo

The Sun God Apollo and the God of the Sea, Poseidon were the other important Gods worshipped by the Greeks.

Godesses worshipped by the Greeks

There is evidence to prove that the Greeks of that time worshipped not only gods but also godesses, the chief among whom were Hera and Athena.

Hera

She was a daughter of giant Titan and the wife of Zeus. Her son was Ares, the God of war.

Athena

The most favourite daughter of Zeus was Athena. The thunderbolt was her special weapon. Large number of shrines were built in her name and the most important among them was the Parthenon situated in Athens, a picture of which is shown below.



Figure 2.4 Parthenon

The Greeks constructed shrines for their gods and goddesses and worshipped them. According to their traditions,

Mount Olympus was considered to be the abode of their gods.

* Offering sacrifices was the most important of their rituals. It was their custom to consume the flesh of animals thus sacrificed to the gods.

Art and Architecture

Architecture

The Greeks hold an outstanding position in the field of architecture. They are very famous for the construction of buildings with well polished limestone and marble.

Most of the urban buildings were multi storeyed constructions and were replete with all facilities.



Figure 2.5 Statue of the 'Discus Thrower' by Miron

Greek Sculpture

The Greeks seem to have had an extremely special talent for sculpture. In the making of a statue in human form, they paid attention to every aspect and part of the human body such as the skeleton, muscles. The statue of the “Discus Thrower” is an example.



Student Activity

Collect information about other statues made by Greek sculptors and prepare a booklet containing information about each statue and the names of artists.

Life of the people

The smallest unit in the Greek society was the family. Majority of the people lived in villages. Since the use of luxury goods was very limited, a similarity was often seen in the life style of the Greeks.

Food, Houses and Dress

- * Majority of the people were farmers and their houses were very small.
- * There were multi storeyed houses in cities.
- * Rooms, kitchen and stores were located around a central court yard.
- * Dress was simple and plain.
- * Meat was consumed rarely. It was only on the occasions when the sacrifices to gods were performed.
- * Wine, mixed with water was a very popular drink.

The main food item was a porridge of barley mixed with salt, vegetables and fish.

Games and Sports

- * One of the most important elements of the Greek life was sports.
- * The Olympic games festival was initiated by the Greeks, and it was a grand event during that time.

- * Olympic games consisted of a large number of events, such as running, weight lifting, throwing the discus and swimming.

Greek Literature

Greek literature was rich in both poetry and prose. Evidence is there to show that they were at a very high level.

- * The Iliad : Contains the legends regarding the Trojan war (the war against the city of Troy conducted by the Greeks).
- * Odyssey : Odyssey contains the adventures of a prince after the Trojan war.

Prose Literature

Herodotus, who compiled history relating to the Greek and Persian wars, is considered as the father of history. He was also a prose writer of the first rank. Thucydides and Aristotle also were reputed prose writers.

Playwrights

Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes were famous playwrights as well as play producers. Most popular types of dramas of the period were tragedies and comedies. There was another tradition of drama named Satire.

Rise of Alexander the Great

Prince Alexander the son of king Philip of Macedonia who succeeded Philip built a vast empire. He was a great military leader and his first act was to put down the rebellious Greeks.

He brought a large number of areas such as Asia Minor, lands on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean, Egypt, Babylonia, Persia and North Western India under his rule. Alexander's expansion of the empire has brought about long lasting results.

- * Establishment of the city of Alexandria at the mouth of the River Nile.

- * Greece was united for the first time.
- * The influence of Greek art and crafts was spread upto the North Western parts of India.
- * A new civilization was born as a result of the interaction between Greek and Eastern civilizations.



Student Activity

- * Collect information about Alexander the Great from library books and prepare an article on him for a wall newspaper.
- * Make a list of legacies of Greek Civilization to the modern world.

Exercise

1. Name 5 city states in Greece.
2. Who were recognized as citizens in Greek city states?
3. In which city state did democracy first start ?
4. Write the names of 5 Greek Gods and Goddesses.
5. What were the popular games among the Greeks?
6. Name the two Epics of the Greeks.
7. Who created the first map of the world?
8. Write the names of two philosophers.
9. Who is the author of the two Epics ?
10. Who discovered that the earth was round?

Rome

Origin and Expansion

According to folk stories, Rome was built by Romulus, the twin brother of Remus. Therefore, it was named Rome. It was built around 753 B.C.

Rome came to be famous as the administrative centre and the capital of the Latin groups, who were considered to be Aryans scattered throughout Italy. For this reason, later the Italians came to be known as Latins.

Rome is situated near the coast of the Italian peninsula jutting out into the Mediterranean sea.

Note its following boundaries:

to the north----- The Alps mountain range

to the south----- The Mediterranean sea

to the east ----- The Adriatic sea

to the west ----- The Mediterranean sea

System of Government

At the beginning, the society was organised on the basis of tribes. However, soon after the establishment of the city of Rome, the government was handed over to a king.

About 300 years after the establishment of the monarchy, the members of the royal family began to act in a despotic manner. Romans who were disgusted with the situation expelled the kings and established a republic in 509 B.C.

Roman Republic

Under the republican system of government in Rome, power was in the hands of two officials known as ‘ consuls’. In the republican system of government, the senate also held an important position. The members of the senate were selected from among the elderly citizens.

The Roman Empire

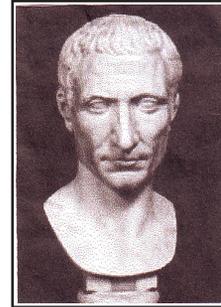
At the beginning, Rome owned only the area around the city. In 270 B.C. the Romans were able to acquire the entire Italian peninsula. Subsequently, they were able to capture a large number of countries such as Spain, England and North Africa.

Next, let’s learn about prominent Roman emperors.

Prominent Roman Emperors

Julius Caesar

- * Julius Caesar reigned from 59-44 B.C. and is considered the most famous ruler.
- * Before becoming the emperor, he held the post of governor of Gaul (modern France) and extended Roman power up to the river Rhine.
- * Pompey became jealous of his victories.
- * After the conquest of England, people of Rome conferred the position of Consul on Julius Caesar.
- * He devised a suitable system for the administration of the empire and increased the membership of the senate.



2.7 Julius Caesar



Student Activity

Collect information about Julius Caesar and prepare an article to a school magazine.

Emperor Augustus Caesar

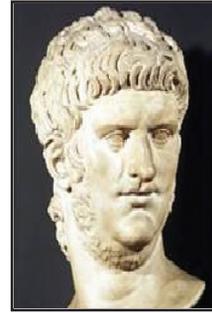
The Roman empire reached its golden age during the rule of Augustus Caesar. He is considered as the most powerful emperor and among his services the following are of special importance.

- * Launched many development projects.
 - * Among them the construction of public buildings, roads, bridges, water sprinklers, open air theatres etc. is of special importance.
- In addition, the Colosseum amphitheatre is of special importance.

Emperor Nero

- * He was born on 15th December 37 B.C.
- * He was the Roman Emperor during 54-68 A.D.
- * He became emperor after the death of Emperor Claudius in 54 A.D.

- * He accused the Christians about the burning of Rome and killed most of them in an inhuman manner.
- * However, he is famous as a music lover.



2.8 Emperor
Nero

Caracalla

- * Emperor of Rome between 188- 217 A.D. His real name was Marcus Aurelius Antonius.
- * He came to be known as Caracalla due to the fact that he introduced the costume of the people of Gaul known by that name to Romans. In 211 A.D. he granted Roman citizenship to every body lived in Roman territories.

The Emperor Constantine

Born in 274 AD, he became the emperor in 312 AD. He died in 337. Constantine the Great was the first Roman emperor to have become a Christian. The empire which had been divided into two regions for the convenience of administration was unified by him in 330 AD.

The Emperor Justinian

The Roman law can be considered a very special gift received by the modern world from the ancient Romans. It is based on the code of Justinian laws.

- * hearing of cases.
- * proof of evidence
- * the final decision to be made by a jury
- * the accused to be considered innocent until proven guilty
- * equality before the law

are some of the main characteristics of the Roman law.

The Dutch laws compiled on the Roman laws were introduced to Sri Lanka by the Dutch, after they established their power in the maritime provinces of the island. Therefore these laws came to be known as the Roman Dutch Laws.

Religion

Rome had no organized religion even up to its development to an empire. The Romans worshipped nature attributing divinity to the Sun, the Wind, the Rain, Lightning etc, as practised in other ancient civilizations in the world.

The following gods were of special significance among the pantheon of gods worshipped by them.

Jupiter	- god of the Sky
Minerva	- goddess of Arts handicrafts
Mars	- god of War
Ceres	- goddess of Fertility
Venus	- goddess of Love
Neptune	- the god of the Sea

Later on the emperors too were attributed divine power and worshipped as gods. By the third century AD, Christianity had spread to a very large area of the Roman empire. With the failure of the attempts made by the Roman emperors to destroy Christianity it became the state religion of the Roman Empire.

You can learn more about Christianity in the Roman Empire from Chapter 5.

Trade

Rome was well known as a centre of trade between the east and west Alexandria. It became the main commercial city with the development of the empire. Trade was done with countries like India, China, and Sri Lanka as well as the Mediterranean countries. Roman empire holds an important place among the countries with which Sri Lanka had trade connections during the Anuradhapura period. Items such as pearls, gems and ivory required by the Romans for manufacture of jewellery were obtained from Sri Lanka.

Similarly, the Romans earned huge profits by selling commodities obtained from China, India, Sri Lanka etc. in European countries.

They appear to have used coins to a very large extent in their trading

activities. A large number of Roman coins belonging to the fourth and fifth centuries have been discovered not only from the sea ports of Matota, Kalpitiya, Matara and Devinuwara but also from the cities in the centre of the country such as Anuradhapura, Mihintale and Sigiriya.



Student Activity

1. Prepare a map showing the ancient harbours used by the Romans in their trade connections with Sri Lanka.
2. Write an article to a school magazine on the trade activities between Sri Lanka and the Roman Empire.

Life Style of the People

Family was the most important unit in the Roman society. Father was the leader of the family unit and everyone obeyed him. The Roman society placed a high value on the parent-children relations and the obedience of children. That discipline appears to have helped in the creation of a society that respected noble human qualities.

In the Roman society,

- * the woman was held in high esteem.
- * mother was treated as a sacred person.
- * women received an honourable place both in the family and in the society.

Education

The Romans displayed a keen interest in education. In addition to reading, writing and grammar an important place was given to subjects such as Logic, Mathematics, Science, Medicine.

Scientific Knowledge

Romans paid special attention to medical practices. Qualified doctors were employed to treat patients. Hospitals were established at various places to provide residential treatment. The Romans preferred practical work and hence the Roman Civilization do not show a development in theoretical subjects such as Science and Philosophy.

Sosiginus was an astronomer in Alexandria. He is well known even today because he is the scientist who introduced the Julian calendar to the world. This is yet another evidence for the high level of scientific knowledge achieved by the Romans.

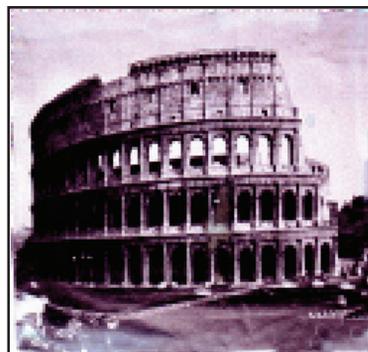
Julian Calendar

Considers the number of days in a year to be 365.25 resulting in a leap year once every four years.

Architecture

Romans had reached a very high level in the construction of large buildings. The arch and the dome are two outstanding features of Roman architecture. Romans believed in spending a comfortable life and this has influenced the construction of strong buildings rather than the artistic ones.

The shrine of Pantheon, Colosseum sports arena, the palace of emperor Diocletian, the commercial centre of Basilica etc. can be shown as immortal examples of Roman architecture. Romans were accomplished road engineers. The entire empire had been connected to the capital through a network of roads.



2.9 Colosseum

Literature and Arts

Roman literature seems to have been influenced by Greek literature to a great extent. The literary language used by them was Latin.

Romans also possessed a special talent for art. Pictures in the museum of Naples display that great attention was paid to the use of colours and appropriate light and darkness in drawing. Like the Greeks, the Romans also have used pictures to decorate clay vessels. In addition, they were capable of sculpturing statues to display special characteristics of the subjects.

Examples :

Statues of emperors Augustus and Trojan.

Reasons for the fall of the Roman empire

- * Absence of a clear cut principle on imperial succession.
- * Invasions of Germanic tribes.
- * Unlimited power enjoyed by the army and the lack of discipline among army personnel.
- * Reduction of grain production due to civil wars.
- * Appointment of inefficient individuals as rulers of the empire.
- * Excessive taxation.
- * Huge gap between the rich and the poor.

Exercise

01. Prepare a map showing the location of Italy.
02. What was the river in the neighbourhood of Rome?
03. Give a brief description of the Republic of Rome.
04. Write an essay on an emperor of your choice.
05. What were the articles exported to Rome from Sri Lanka?
06. Give three causes that led to the decline of the Roman empire.
07. Mark on a map of Sri Lanka the places where the Roman coins were found.

India

In this section, attention will be paid to the era from the Vedic age to the Magadha Empire.

The Age of Tribes

Sources

- * Vedic literature Rig, Yajur, Saama, Atharvan
- * The Brahmanas
- * Upanishads
- * Puranas
- * Epics such as Mahabharata and Ramayanaya

In ancient times India was called Bharat, Jambudveep etc. Vedic era was the first ever civilization after Indus valley civilization. The Aryans migrated to India and established settlements in about 1500 B. C. In this process of settlement, they were primarily organised on the basis of tribes. During the Vedic age the tribes got divided into principal and small tribes. Struggles for power arose among these tribes. As a result of these wars, the Bharata tribe came to occupy a leading position. The valleys of the two rivers Saraswathi and Drushadvati became the centre of the Bharata tribal area.



Student Activity

Make a list of other names used for India and give a brief account of how each name came to be used.

Age of the Sixteen Great Janapadas

Sixth century B.C. marks a remarkable period in Indian history. Instead of the tribal political system we studied earlier, sixteen monarchical Janapadas came into being during this period.

Mahajanapada	Capital
Anga	Champa
Magadha	Rajagaha
Kasi	Baranes
Kosala	Savat
Vajji	Visala
Malla	Kusinara and Pava
Chedi	Sukthimathie
Vatsa	Kosambe
Kuru	Indraptasta
Panchala	Kampilya
Matsya	Virata
Surasena	Mathura
Assaka	Potaliya
Avanthi	Udara
Gandhara	Taxila
Kamboja	Dvakara

As mentioned in Buddhist and Jain texts, there were two systems of government in the 16 Mahjanapadas:

- Republics
- Monarchies

Monarchies were ruled by kings.

- Republics
- * Governed by a 'sabha' (an association or a group of persons).
 - * Every one, young and old, assembled together and arrived at decisions.
 - * The leader was decided through election.
 - * Meetings were held in ' Santhagara shala' (assembly halls).

- * The advice of elders was respected and obeyed .
- * Principal states were divided in to smaller units.

This republican system was in operation in the state of the Lichchavies. For efficient government, they had divided the main state into many small units. Members of the small units had to participate in the main governing assembly. The Buddha also appreciated this supreme assembly that contained democratic features.

The Age of the Empires

Out of the 16 Mahajanapadas, the kingdom of Magadha was able to build an empire. There were several reasons that helped Magadha to become stronger than other Janapadas.

- * The capital of Magadha, the city of Rajagaha, was endowed with very strong natural protection.
- * The close proximity of the river Gangese helped it in commercial activities.
- * There were deposits of gold in the valley of Sone.
- * Its river valley was very conducive for agricultural activities.
- * The appearance of Buddhist and Jain sages in addition to Hindu and Brahmin sages.

King Bimbisara

It was king Bimbisara who took the first steps towards transforming Magadha into an empire. Crowned at the age of 15, he followed a peaceful and an efficeint policy.

To achieve this objective, he took following steps:

- * Became friendly with other Janapadas.
e.g. Sent his personal physician ‘ Jeevaka’ to treat king of Avanti.
- * Marital relationships
e.g. Married the sister of Pasenadi Kosol, the king of Kosala.
- * Proper implementation of law.
- * Systematic administration of villages.
- * Construction of a planned network of roads.

* Obtaining the assistance of competent officers of state.

Ajasat(Ajasatru)

Like Bimbisara, king Ajasat was also a very able ruler. He reannexed the Janapada of Kasi which happened after the death of his father. He tried to arrive at a peaceful settlement to the dispute that had arisen with the Lichchavis about a gem mine near the bank of the Ganges. At the same time, wherever appropriate, he employed advanced military equipment and methods of warfare. For instance, he had used catapults similar in shape to modern war tanks for throwing stones. Due to the efficient and effective policies followed by the father and the son, namely Bindusara and Ajasat the Janapada of Magadha expanded in an empire.

Growth of Religious Thoughts

Hinduism

Information about Hinduism can be collected from Vedic literature as well as from sources such as The Brahmanas, and The Upanishads. According to these sources, the ancient Indians seem to have deified nature. Gods have been classified into the following main groups:

- * Associated with the sky: Mitra, Varuna.
- * Associated with the outer space: Indra, Marut.
- * Associated with the earth : Agni, Soma.

Jainism

The founder of Jainism was Jain Mahavira alias Nighantanathaputta. It was divided into two sects.

- * Digambaras
- * Svetambaras

The jains followed an extreme form of non violence. They thought that minute living

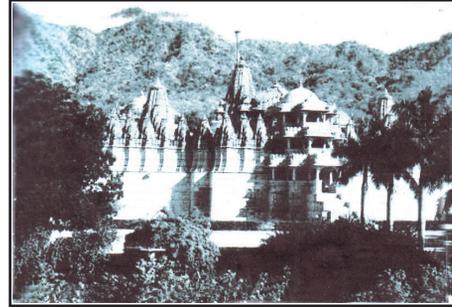


2.10

beings can get killed even when one is inhaling. Therefore they used a face mask as shown in picture 2.10

Buddhism

Lord Buddha's main aim was to present a good person to the society. He who was born under a saltree at Lumbini. The Enlightenment and demise are also said to have taken place in the shelter of trees. Like the Jain Mahaveera also rejected the animal and other



2.11 Jain Temple environment in Ranakpur

sacrifices. After attaining Buddhahood he travelled in all parts of India and brought solace to all beings. By following a middle path he brought a new light to the whole world.



Student Activity

Prepare a chart to compare and contrast the two religions, Buddhism and Jainism.

Literature and Art

Vedic Age (Early Vedic Age)

- * Rigveda was passed on from generation to generation by way of oral tradition.
- * It was documented at a later period.
- * Information can be obtained from the Githikas on the contemporary political social and economic situation.
- * Most githikas are devoted to Gods.

Post Vedic Period

- * Sama, Yajur, Atharvan Vedas belong to this period.

Epic Poems

- * Ramayana - Story of Rama and Sita
- * Mahabharata - War between Kuru -Pandya tribes.

Social organisation

At this time, there were four social groups in India.

- * Brahmin
- * Kshatriya
- * Vaishya
- * Shudra

Services performed and duties assigned to each of these groups were as follows:

Brahmin

- * Rendering advice and counsel to the rulers in the management of the affairs of the state.
- * Playing the leading role in religious activities.

Kshatriya

- * Administration of the state.
- * Protection of the people from enemies.

Vaishyas

- * Agriculture
- * Trade
- * Animal husbandry

Shudras

- * Serving all the other castes



Student Activity

Compose a short drama from the story of Rama and Sita.

Economy

Agriculture

- * Agriculture was the main livelihood of the people.

- * Water necessary for the cultivation of cereals was obtained from rainfall and irrigation.
- * Various rituals were held to ensure successful harvests.
- * Animal husbandry was practised to meet agricultural and food requirements.

Trade

- * Carts were used in trade.
- * Trading organisations of the time were known as guilds.
- * The Setthis who helped the king regularly were known as Situ.
- * Barter system as well as the use of currency were prevalent in trade.
- * Most of the people engaged in trade were Vaishyas, but there is evidence to show that members of the other groups except the Shudras were also engaged in trade in order to earn profits.
- * The economic condition of the people who were engaged in trade was very satisfactory.

Industries

At this time, carpentry held the supreme position among all industrial activities. Cart wheels and agricultural equipment were made by the carpenter. It is stated that one who turns out cart wheels is supposed to be very clever. Among the very common industrial activities of the time were manufacturing of hardware items such as kettles, weaving mats and cloth, fisheries, manufacturing of a jewellery and the manufacturing of garments using fur and skins of animals.

Education

Education is an essential necessity for a stable society. In the field of education much attention was paid to religion. At that time, knowledge must have been transmitted and maintained by memorising. Brahmins were responsible for imparting education. Residential facilities were provided at the teacher's place for students. The accepted method of education was to study in the

house of the teacher and learn from him. Children of kshatriya families as well as those of the wealthy came to Disapamok to receive education.



Student Activity

Prepare a booklet containing information about any Indian religion of your choice.

State the four Varnas that existed in India at that time and write an essay, giving your views.

After completing the education and after making the necessary offerings to the teacher students got permission to return to their parents.

From the Lichchavi's system of government, we can get good examples such as:

- * Obedience to elders
- * Obedience to leadership
- * Collective living
- * Respecting other people's ideas
- * Humility

Exercises

1. Mention five out of the 16 Mahajanapadas.
2. With which states did king Bimbisara have marriage relations?
3. Mention the two main religions of Magadha.
4. Give the names of the four books of Veda.
5. What were the industries prevalent in ancient India?

Arabia

Origin and expansion



2.12 Desert in Arabia

The above picture shows a desert in the arabic region. In this lesson we shall learn about the origin and expansion of the culture of the middle east which is an area consisting of many deserts.

Recognise the boundaries of Arabia in this way.

- West - The Red sea
- South East - Sea of Arabia
- North East - Oman and the Persian Gulf.
- North West - The Mediterranean sea.
- North - Turkey and Armania.
- East - Iraq

Main features of Arabia

- * Desert climate.
- * Low rainfall.
- * A sandy soil.
- * In certain areas the existence of oasis with trees.

From very early ancient times, Arabia had a developed culture. Until the advent of Islam, it had a monarchical system of government. There were constant power struggles among these monarchies. During the time of the Roman empire Arabia was under its domination.

Origin and Expansion of Islam

The religion of Islam was introduced to the Arab countries during the sixth century A.D. Its founder is Mohamed Nabi. Mohamed was born in 570 A.D. in the city of Mecca.

From the time he was a youth, Mohamed spent a religious life and sometimes, spent time in meditation. His followers have recorded in writing some of the declarations he had made while meditating on the mount Hegira near Mecca.

By the time he was 40 years old, Mohamed realised that he had received a message as the chosen person of 'God'. From that time, he started to spread the message of God 'Allah' among his followers. He had to face threats when he started to preach his new religion to the people of Mecca. As a result, in 622 A.D. he was compelled to retreat to Madina. The Muslims attach great significance to this incident which they refer to as 'Hajra'.

The Teachings of Islam

- * Abstention from telling lies.
- * Abstention from theft.
- * Helping others.
- * Treating every one as brothers.

The most important holy place connected with the life of Nabi is Mecca. Therefore, Muslim devotees hope to visit this holy place at least once in their life time. Further, according to the teachings of Muhammad,

- * The Muslims must engage in religious rituals at least five times a day.
- * On Fridays, they must visit the mosque and perform religious rituals.
- * Women are debarred from visiting mosques. However they must also perform religious rituals five times a day .
- * Once a year, during a period of one month, they must fast from day break to sun set and engage in activities for the betterment of the society.

* This is known as the Ramazan festival.



Student Activity

Collect information about the public religious festivals of Islam and prepare an essay to a wall newspaper.

Language and Literature

With the rise of Islam, there was a tremendous development in the language and literature of the Arabs. Their sacred book, the ‘Koran’ also has been written in Arabic. Compilation of books containing information about the incidents related to the life of Nabi and his teachings led to a progress in literature.

After embracing Islam, the Arabs built an extensive empire. They never forgot to learn from the lands under them and to teach their subjects (people) what they knew. Arabs showed a strong preference for narrative poetry.

eg

Arabian nights alias Thousand and one Nights
The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

Trade

From the earliest times, the Arabs were famous for trading activities. Absence of an environment conducive to agriculture was one of the most important factors that pushed them towards trade. The wide understanding about the deserts and the knowledge about stars became very important in trade activities. Arabian coins discovered in many parts of the world bear testimony for their foreign trade.

The Arabs had trade connections with:

India, Sri Lanka, China, Africa

Trade commodities obtained from Sri Lanka: pearls, gems, elephants, ivory, cinnamon, pepper.

Science and Medicine

The Arabs had developed an extensive knowledge on many subjects such as Geography, Mathematics, Chemistry and Astronomy. The decimal system obtained from the scientists who lived in the Gupta age in India was introduced to Europe under the Arabian numerical system. It is the Arabs who introduced the system of figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,.... to the world. Algebra was another branch of Mathematics developed by them.

The Arabs were particularly interested in astronomy and studied that field very widely.

Medical Science

- * Arabs learned about Greek medicine from Persia.
- * Developed the Arabic medical science based on Greek and Roman ideas.
- * Small pox was identified by Al- Rasi who lived in Arabia in 910 A.D.
- * They introduced various disease curing chemicals to the world.

Industries

- * Products of artistic value
- * Ceramicware
- * Hardware
- * Leather goods

During this time they maintained factories to manufacture the above mentioned products. They knew about the manufacture of paper. The use of paper was introduced to Europe by the Arabs.

Architecture

Main attention of Arab architecture was directed to the construction of religious buildings. Their special feature is the dome with a pointed top.

The large entrance to the mosques was shaped like an arch. A compulsory element of religious architecture was the pond in front of mosques. Buildings such as these are very common in cities like Samara, Damascus and Cordova.



2.14 King Abdulla's Mosque in Amman, Jordan

Life Style of the People

The earliest settlers in Arabia were tribes, who lived a nomadic life. Later small groups of people established villages which developed into cities. In the construction of cities, the Arabs were very particular about defence, and for this purpose, they built walls around them.

Milk, dates and meat comprised the staple diet of the Arabs. Garments made of cotton cloths were very popular. They wore a long robe with a belt around the waist. To cover the face and head a piece of cloth was used with a belt to hold it in place.



Student Activity

1. Draw a picture of a camel walking in the desert with a load of goods.
2. Present the special features of the Roman and Arabic civilizations in a table.

Exercises

1. Name the countries belonging to Arabia.
2. What is the chief mineral wealth of Arabian countries today?
3. Give a brief description on the following:
 1. The Holy Koran
 2. The period of Ramazan
 3. Mecca
4. What industries were prevalent among the Arabs?
5. Mark on a map the countries that had trade connections with the Arabs.

From the Arabs, we have inherited:

- * Architecture
- * Theoretical and practical knowledge relating to subjects such as:
Astronomy, Chemistry, Mathematics and Geography.
- * Core values of Islam.
- * Narratives such as the Arabian Nights. Some of which are very much interesting.