
Grade 11

History
Unit 2

UNIT TWO

PART 1

MAJOR SPOTS OF ANCIENT WORLD CIVILIZATIONS UP TO C. 500 A.D.

2.1. Ancient Civilizations in Africa

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2.5 The rise and spread of Civilizations

Learning outcomes

At the end of this unit, you will be able to:

- explain how the **major civilizations arose and fell**;
- **compare and contrast the achievements** of the major civilizations of the world;
- describe the changes that **Christianity brought** to the human outlook

INTRODUCTION

Cultural and Technological Advancements

- The ancient world saw significant developments that transformed daily life, influencing social structures, economies, and interactions.

Key Regions of Ancient Civilizations

- Africa: Recognized as a major centre of culture and civilization, contributing to early human development.
- Asia, Europe, and Latin America: Other vital regions where ancient cultures and civilizations flourished, each with unique contributions to human history.

INTRODUCTION

Neolithic/Agricultural Revolution

- This pivotal period marked the transition from **nomadic lifestyles** to **settled agricultural** communities, enabling the rise of complex societies.

Common Features of Early Civilizations

- **Organized Governments:** Established to coordinate food production and manage large-scale projects, fostering cooperation among people.
- **Specialized Departments:** Development of various governmental departments to oversee different societal functions, enhancing efficiency.
- **Complex Religions:** Predominantly **polytheistic** belief systems that played a crucial role in unifying communities and guiding moral conduct.

Cont..

- **Work Specialization:** Division of labor allowing individuals to focus on specific tasks, leading to **increased productivity and innovation**.
- **Social Classes:** Societies were generally **stratified into upper and lower classes**, influencing political power and resource distribution.
- **Arts and Architecture:** Flourishing of **artistic expression** and **monumental architecture**, reflecting cultural values and technological advancements.

2.1. Ancient Civilizations of Africa

2.1.1. Ancient Egypt

- Ancient Egypt is one of the most fascinating and influential civilizations in history, known for its rich culture, monumental architecture, and significant contributions to human development.
- “The Gift of the Nile”
- The ancient Greek historian Herodotus called Egypt “The Gift of the Nile.” This phrase highlights the essential role the Nile River played in the development of Egyptian civilization.



Importance of the Nile

- The Nile brought **nutrient-rich soil** and **water** making it fertile and suitable for agriculture
- The river also served as a **vital transportation route**, facilitating trade and communication
- The river enabled effective **governance** and **military movement**, helping to maintain **Egypt's Political Unity** (political cohesion and stability.)
- **Menes' Unification**: Around **3100 B.C.**, King Menes (from Upper Egypt) **united Upper** and **Lower Egypt**, establishing the first capital at **Memphis** and laying the foundation for a unified state.

Historical Periods of Ancient Egypt

Three Main Periods:

- Old Kingdom (c. 2686-2181 B.C.): This era is famous for the construction of the pyramids, including the Great Pyramid of Giza, and for establishing a strong centralized government.
- Memphis was the capital of the Old Kingdom
- Middle Kingdom (c. 2040-1730 B.C.): Marked by a resurgence in arts and literature, this period saw the expansion of trade and military campaigns, as well as significant architectural projects.

- **New Kingdom (c. 1550-1080 B.C.):** Known as the **height of Egyptian** power and culture, this period featured **powerful pharaohs**, extensive **territorial expansion**, and an explosion of **artistic** achievements.
- During the Middle and New Kingdom the capital shifted to Thebes to the south
- **Intermediate Periods:** These were times of **political instability and fragmentation**, characterized by a breakdown of central authority and invasions, which were followed by reunification and renewal.
- Ancient Egypt was divided into 42 provinces called nomes.

Pharaohs and Governance

- **Divine Role of Pharaohs:** Pharaohs were seen as both **political leaders and divine beings**. They were believed to be gods on Earth, responsible for maintaining order and harmony (ma 'at) in the kingdom.
- **Government Structure:** The pharaoh ruled with **absolute power**, owning all land and resources. To manage the vast empire, they relied on **a vizier**, who acted as the chief minister and **oversaw the administration of the state**.

Pharaohs and Governance

- **Bureaucracy:** Ancient Egypt had a complex **bureaucracy** with various officials responsible for different aspects of governance, including **tax collection**, **agriculture**, and **public works**. This system was essential for maintaining order and efficiency.

Pharaohs



Social Structure

Hierarchical Society: Ancient Egyptian society was highly stratified, with a clear social hierarchy:

- **Top: The Pharaoh**, who was considered **a living god**.
- **Middle Class: Merchants, scribes, and artisans** who provided essential services and contributed to the economy.
- **Bottom: Peasants and slaves**, who made up the majority of the population

Social Structure

- **Economic Role of Slaves:** They provided essential labor for agriculture and construction, forming the **backbone of the economy**.

Status of Women

- **Rights and Independence:** Women in ancient Egypt enjoyed a relatively high status compared to women in other ancient cultures. They could own property, manage businesses, and enter into contracts.
- **Roles in Society:** Many women worked as weavers, perfume makers, and even held positions as priestesses in temples. Some women, like Hatshepsut, rose to power as pharaohs.
- **Limitations:** Despite their rights, women were often excluded from formal education and high-ranking governmental positions. The majority of women did not have access to literacy, which limited their roles in public life.

Religion and Beliefs

- **Polytheism:** Ancient Egyptians practiced **polytheism**, worshipping a multitude of gods and goddesses, each representing different aspects of life, nature, and the cosmos.
- **Divine Right to Rule:** Pharaohs were believed to receive their authority from the gods, which reinforced their power and justified their rule. This divine connection was crucial for maintaining social order.
- **Key Deities:** Important deities included **Amon-Re** (the sun god), **Osiris** (god of the afterlife), and **Isis** (goddess of motherhood). Osiris, in particular, was central to beliefs about the **afterlife and resurrection**.

The Age of Pyramids

- **Tomb Construction:** The construction of pyramids served as **monumental tombs** for pharaohs, ensuring their **safe passage to the afterlife**. The pyramids were designed to protect the body and possessions of the deceased.
- **Great Pyramid of Khufu:** The largest pyramid, built for Pharaoh Khufu, stands as a testament to ancient engineering and remains one of the **Seven Wonders of the Ancient World**.
- **Cemeteries:** The necropolises near Memphis were significant burial sites that showcased the **Egyptians' architectural skills and their beliefs about the afterlife**.

The pyramid of Khufu at Giza



The New Kingdom

- **Powerful Rulers:** The New Kingdom was characterized by powerful pharaohs such as **Queen Hatshepsut**, who promoted trade and established successful diplomatic relations, and **Thutmose III**, known for his military conquests.
- **Territorial Expansion:** Egypt expanded its territory significantly, conquering lands in **Palestine, Syria, Nubia**, and beyond, making it one of the **most powerful empires** of the ancient world.

The New Kingdom

- **Cultural Flourishing:** This period saw remarkable achievements in art, literature, and architecture, including the construction of magnificent temples and monuments.
- Ancient Egyptians contributed a lot in the fields of architecture, writing system (hieroglyphic), medicine, mathematics, calendar, and irrigation agriculture.

Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphics



Decline of Ancient Egypt

- **Gradual Decline:** Starting around 1100 B.C., Egypt faced increasing invasions and internal strife, leading to a decline in central authority and stability.
- **End of Dynastic Rule:** The last native dynasty fell in 332 B.C. when Alexander the Great conquered Egypt, followed by its incorporation into the Roman Empire in 30 B.C.
- **Cultural Legacy:** Despite its decline, the contributions of ancient Egypt to art, architecture, and governance had a lasting impact on future civilizations.

Summary

- Ancient Egypt's achievements in architecture, writing, religion, and governance laid the groundwork for future civilizations and continue to be studied and admired today.
- **Lasting Legacy:** The cultural and historical significance of ancient Egypt endures, influencing modern society in various fields, including art, architecture, and governance.

2.1.2 Kush-Meroe

The Ancient Kingdom of Nubia

- **Location:** Nubia is a significant geographic region in north-eastern Africa.
- **Geography:** It stretches from the southern border of Egypt down to present-day Sudan.
- **Nile River:** The southern limit of Nubia is located south of the sixth cataract of the Nile River.
- **Climate:** Unlike Egypt, southern Nubia has a climate that provides more moisture, allowing farming to extend beyond the narrow Nile valley. This made agriculture more diverse and productive.

Cultural Connections with Egypt

- **Cultural Exchange:** Nubia had strong cultural and technological ties with Egypt, leading to mutual influences.
- **Art and Architecture:** Egyptian styles significantly impacted Nubian art and building designs, showcasing a blend of cultures.
- **Religion:** The Nubians worshiped several gods from the Egyptian pantheon, highlighting the spiritual connections between the two regions.

Cultural Connections with Egypt

- **Customs and Clothing:** Nubians adopted various Egyptian customs, including clothing styles, which reflected their admiration for Egyptian culture.
- **Writing System:** They developed a **hieroglyphic writing** system similar to that of Egypt, although it remains untranslated today.

Role of Women in Nubia

- **Significant Figures:** Women in Nubia, especially as queens, played crucial roles in governance and society.
- **Political Power:** The presence of powerful queens indicates a society where women could hold authority, influencing decisions and policies.



Kush's Rise:

- The kingdom of Kush began to rise in power around 700 B.C., establishing itself as a formidable force in the region.

Conquest of Egypt

- **Key Figure:** King **Piankhi** was a pivotal leader in Kushite history.
- **Military Campaign:** In 751 B.C., Piankhi launched a military campaign against the Egyptian city of Memphis, aiming to unify the two regions.
- **Rapid Expansion:** Within 15 years, Piankhi successfully conquered all of Egypt, demonstrating the military strength of Kush.
- **Dynasty Formation:** This conquest led to the establishment of **Egypt's 25th dynasty**, marking a unique period where Nubian rulers governed Egypt

Trade and Resources

- **Natural Wealth:** Nubia was rich in valuable resources such as ivory, animal skins, timber, and various minerals that were scarce in Egypt.
- **Trade Networks:** The wealth of Nubia facilitated a lively trade along the Nile River, connecting it with other regions in Africa and beyond.
- **Cultural Exchange:** The city of Napata became a significant centre for the spread of Egyptian goods and cultural practices to other trading partners.

Meroe as Capital

- **Capital Transition:** Around 590 B.C., Meroe replaced Napata as the capital of Kush, signifying a shift in political power.
- **Strategic Location:** Meroe was strategically located on the Nile and along trade routes leading to the Red Sea, enhancing its importance as a trading hub.
- **Resource Access:** The city had access to rich resources, including gold and iron, which were vital for trade and military strength.

Iron Smelting Technology

- **Military Lessons:** The defeat of Kush by the Assyrians in the 8th century B.C. highlighted the need for stronger weapons.
- **Technological Advancement:** As a result, the Kushites learned iron smelting technology, allowing them to produce iron tools and weapons.
- **Ideal Production Site:** Meroe was ideally located near iron ore deposits, making it an excellent site for iron production, which contributed to its prosperity.

Prosperity of Meroe

- **Economic Growth:** Meroe thrived economically, largely due to its extensive trade networks.
- **Main Exports:** Key exports included ivory, slaves, animal skins, ostrich feathers, ebony, and gold, which were highly sought after in other regions.
- **Cultural Flourishing:** During its height, from the middle of the 3rd century B.C. to the 1st century A.D., Meroe saw the development of unique art styles, the use of a distinct language, and a system of writing, along with the worship of local gods.

Decline of Meroe

- **Emergence of Rivals:** The decline of Meroe began in the middle of the 1st century A.D. due to the rise of the rival Aksumite Empire.
- **Invasion:** In the middle of the 4th century A.D., King Ezana of Aksum invaded Meroe, leading to its downfall.
- **Destruction:** The Aksumite army sacked and burned Meroe, marking the end of the ancient kingdom of Kush and its influence in the region.

Summary

- **Historical Significance:** The history of Kush and Meroe illustrates the complex interactions between cultures and the rise and fall of civilizations.
- **Cultural Legacy:** The contributions of Kush and Meroe in trade, culture, and technology left a lasting impact on subsequent societies in Africa and the Mediterranean.

2.2 Civilizations in Asia

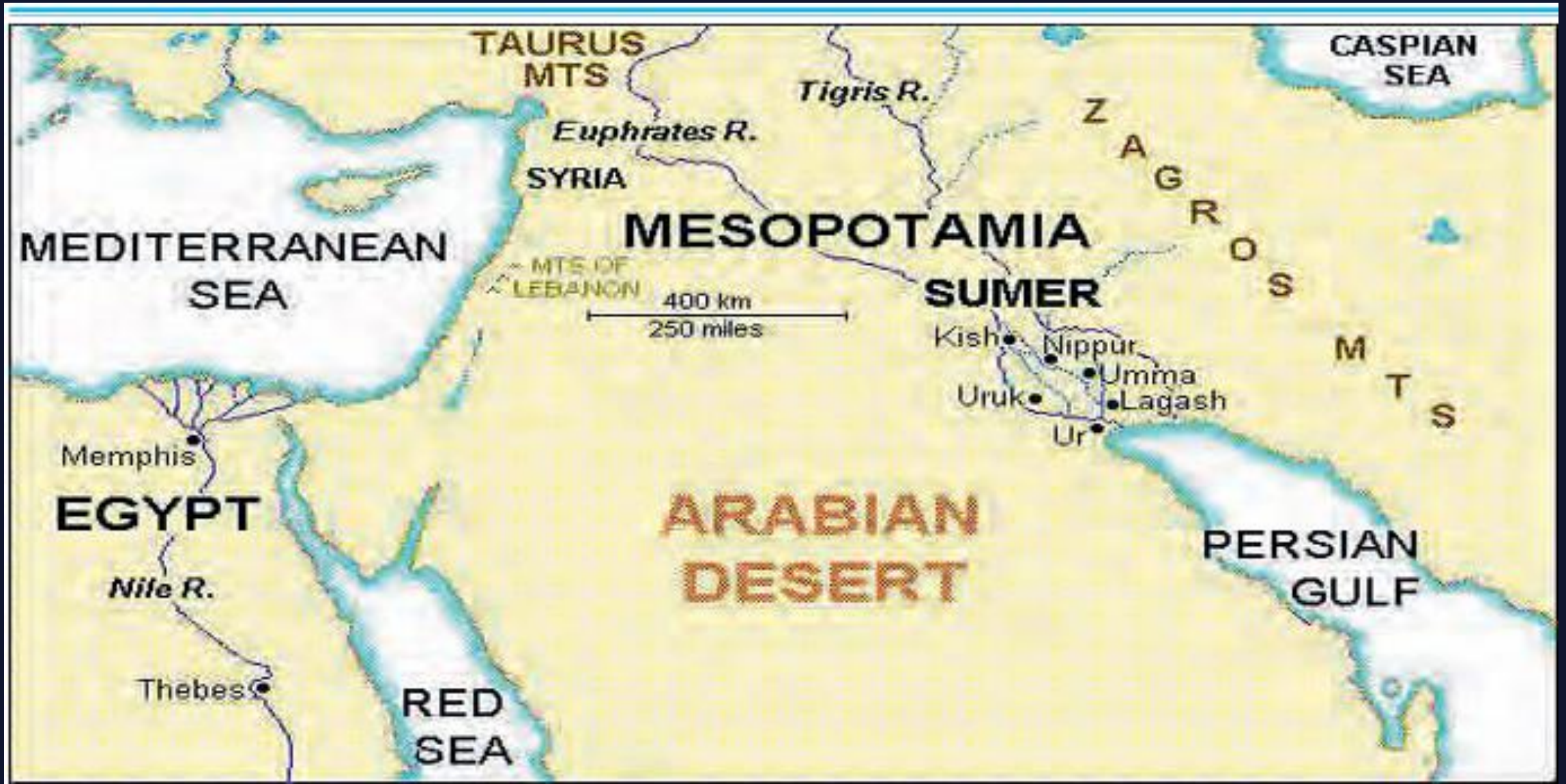
2.2.1 Mesopotamia

- Asia was home to several civilizations of the ancient world.
- Many of these earliest civilizations were based on city-states.
- By about 2900 B.C., civilization flourished in **Sumeria**, located in present-day Southern Iraq, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

What is Mesopotamia?

- The name "Mesopotamia" comes from a Greek word meaning "between rivers," referring to the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers that encircle this region.
- This geographical location was crucial for the development of agriculture and trade.

Mesopotamia



Rulers of Sumerian City-States

- The rulers of Sumerian city-states were absolute kings called **lugals**.
- The king ruled as the **representative of the city-state's chief god**. Unlike in Egypt, he was not considered a god himself.
- He was responsible for ensuring that the worship of the god was properly carried out, as it was believed that the prosperity and security of the state depended on this worship.

Life in the City-States

- Many inhabitants of the city-states lived within the walls of the cities.
- However, the majority were farmers who worked the land daily.
- Other inhabitants included
 - priests,
 - officials,
 - soldiers,
 - craftsmen, and
 - traders.

Trade and Resources

- The city-states imported various commodities, including **timber** and **metals**.
- Some supplies were brought in by military expeditions or obtained as tribute.
- Unlike Egypt, there were **no great monuments** built for the kings and numerous gods in Mesopotamia due to the **lack of stone and good timber** for construction.

Innovations in Agriculture and Writing

- The Sumerians are credited with several important inventions, including the **plough**, which allowed for more efficient farming.
- They developed a writing system known as **cuneiform**, which consisted of wedge-shaped characters.
- Cuneiform was created by pressing these shapes into soft clay tablets, which would then harden in the sun.
- This complex, **non-alphabetic** writing system was similar to **hieroglyphics** and allowed for record-keeping and communication.

Cuneiform writing on clay tablet



Contributions to Law, Arts, and Science

- The Sumerians made remarkable contributions to law, arts, and science.
- They conducted careful studies of celestial bodies, recognizing the difference between planets and fixed stars, which laid the foundation for modern astronomy.

The Rise of Babylon

- Babylon was a significant city located on the banks of the Euphrates River, near present-day al-Hillah, Iraq.
- It served as the capital of the kingdom of Babylonia and was an important trading and religious centre.
- The name "Babylon" means "**gate of the god**." Records first mention Babylon around 2200 B.C.
- King Sumuabum, the first important Babylonian ruler, founded a dynasty in **1894 B.C.** The best-known king of that dynasty was **Hammurabi**, who ruled from **1792 to 1750 B.C.** and is famous for developing a fair code of law.

Hammurabi's Code

- Hammurabi's code included **economic laws** that addressed buying, selling, and lending at interest, as well as the existence of private property.
- The **criminal laws** were noted for their harshness and discrimination across social classes and gender, with more severe punishments for ordinary people.
- Hammurabi's code became **a model for later legal systems**.

The Assyrian Empire

- In the struggle for power and empire by conquest, the Assyrians emerged on top and established the largest empire in the Middle East since the 9th century B.C.
- The Assyrians, often referred to as the "Romans of Asia," were great conquerors known for their excellent organization, weaponry, and tactics.
- Their capital was initially Ashur and later Nineveh, both located on the Tigris River. The king of Assyria ruled as the representative of the chief Assyrian god, Ashur.

Assyrian Military and Society

- The Assyrian army was **well-organized** and **efficient**, comprising **cavalry, chariots**, and **infantry**. They employed advanced siege techniques and used **iron weapons** instead of bronze.
- Assyrian society included
 - **nobles,**
 - **free small-scale landowners,**
 - **private traders,**
 - **hired laborers, and**
 - **a few slaves.**
- Trade was vital, contributing significantly **to state revenues through taxation.**

Decline of the Assyrian Empire

- The Assyrian Empire began to decline after the mid-7th century B.C. due to attacks from the Medians and Babylonians.
- In 612 B.C., Ashur and Nineveh were captured and destroyed, weakened by internal struggles for succession.

The New Babylonian Empire

- The Assyrian Empire was replaced by the **New Babylonian Empire**, which began in **626 B.C.** when Nabopolassar became king.
- Under **Nabopolassar** and his son **Nebuchadnezzar II**, Babylon achieved great glory, with significant rebuilding efforts, including walls nearly 26 meters thick.

Wonders of Babylon

- Nebuchadnezzar's reign (605 to 562 B.C.) saw the construction of the famous **Hanging Gardens**, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the **ziggurat**, often associated with the Tower of Babel.
- However, Nebuchadnezzar's successors were unpopular, leading to a weakened empire. In 539 B.C., **Persian invaders captured Babylon**, ending the New Babylonian Empire.

The Persian Empire

- Ancient Persia encompassed parts of modern-day Iran and Afghanistan. The name "Persia" comes from "Persis," the Greek name for the region.
- The founder of the Persian Empire was **Cyrus the Great** (557-530 B.C.), whose successors expanded the empire to become the largest of all ancient empires.
- The Persian Emperor ruled as an absolute monarch and **representative of the god Ahura Mazda**.

Persian Society and Economy

- The Persian Empire was divided into provinces called **satrapies**, each governed by an official known as a **satrap**.
- Early Persians were **farmers and traders** who utilized advanced irrigation techniques to cultivate crops. They also employed **underground tunnels** to conserve water.

Zoroastrianism

- Zoroaster (or Zarathustra) was a Persian prophet who lived in the sixth century B.C. He introduced the religion of Zoroastrianism, preaching the existence of two opposing principles: good and evil.
- The teachings of Zoroastrianism emphasized the importance of truth and righteousness in personal conduct.



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MAJOR SPOTS OF ANCIENT WORLD
CIVILIZATIONS UP TO C. 500 A.D.

Part 4

2.2.2. India

- The first Indian civilization began in the Indus Valley around 2500 BC and reached its height around 1500 BC.
- This civilization was established by the Dravidians, who were indigenous to northern India, marking one of the earliest urban cultures in the world.

Key Cities

- Archaeologists have uncovered two major cities: Mohenjo-daro and Harappa.
- Urban Planning: Both cities exhibit advanced urban planning with a rectangular grid layout, wide streets, and organized residential areas.
- Infrastructure: They had sophisticated water supply and drainage systems, indicating a high level of engineering and public health awareness.

Architecture and Urban Planning

- Buildings were constructed using **baked bricks**, which were more **durable** than sun-dried bricks.
- Evidence of **public baths** and **granaries** suggests a well-organized society with a focus on **hygiene** and **storage** of surplus food, which is essential for urban life.

Decline of the Indus Valley Civilization

The decline is attributed to several key factors:

- Environmental Degradation: Deforestation and soil erosion may have led to agricultural decline.
- Epidemic Diseases: Outbreaks of diseases like malaria could have reduced the population significantly.
- Changes in the Indus River's Course: Natural shifts could have disrupted water supply, essential for agriculture.
- Climatic Changes: Changes in climate may have caused droughts or floods, making the region less hospitable.

Indo-Aryan Migration

- After the decline of the Indus Valley civilization, the Indo-Aryans migrated from Northern India and Persia **into the interior of Northern India**.
- They conquered the **Dravidian populations**, leading to significant cultural and social transformations.
- The Indo-Aryans established the foundations for the **Vedic culture**, which is crucial for understanding later Indian civilization.

Religious Developments

- Hinduism: Developed from early Indo-Aryan beliefs, emphasizing concepts such as karma (the law of cause and effect), dharma (duty/righteousness), and the cycle of rebirth (samsara).
- A central belief is that one's actions in this life determine their future incarnations.
- Buddhism: Emerged as a reform movement founded by Siddhartha Gautama (c. 563 - 483 BC), advocating for the "middle way" to achieve enlightenment, avoiding extremes of self-denial and indulgence.

Contributions to Knowledge

Indian scholars made significant advancements in various fields:

- **Science and Mathematics:** Contributions included the development of concepts in **astronomy and geometry**, including calculations of **planetary movements**.
- **Medicine:** Indian physicians advanced **surgical techniques** and the use of **herbal remedies**, laying the groundwork for modern medicine.
- **Chemistry:** Innovations included techniques for **tanning leather, dyeing textiles**, and producing soap, cement, glass, and **finely hardened steel**.

Mathematics and Numerals

- Indian mathematicians developed the **decimal system**, which is fundamental to modern mathematics.
- The introduction of **zero** as a number was revolutionary, enabling complex calculations and advancements in mathematics.
- The use of **Arabic numerals** (1, 2, 3, etc.) originated in India, significantly influencing mathematics and commerce globally.

Cultural Impact

- The contributions of ancient India extended beyond mathematics and science to include **literature, art, and philosophy**, influencing various cultures.
- The epics of ancient India, such as the **Mahabharata and Ramayana**, have shaped Indian culture and values.
- Indian philosophy, particularly concepts found in **Hinduism and Buddhism**, has had a lasting impact on spiritual thought worldwide.

Summary

- Ancient India made profound contributions to civilization, influencing religion, science, mathematics, and culture.



Grade 12 Unit 2

MAJOR SPOTS OF ANCIENT WORLD

CIVILIZATIONS UP TO C. 500 A.D.

Part 5

2.2.3. China

Early Centres of Civilization

- The earliest centres of civilization in China were located in the northern region.
- Over time, Chinese civilization **expanded southward**, encompassing the entirety of present-day China.
- The **formation of states** marked the beginning of organized governance and societal structure.

The Shang Dynasty (c. 1700 – 1122 B.C.)

- The Shang dynasty was the first historically verified dynasty in China, centered in the Huang-He (Yellow) River valley.
- This period saw the rise of a highly developed society governed by a hereditary aristocracy.

Notable accomplishments of the Shang included:

- Creation of magnificent **bronze vessels** for ceremonial and practical use.
- Development of **horse-drawn war chariots**, enhancing military capabilities.
- Establishment of a **system of writing**, which was crucial for administration and culture.

Development of Chinese Writing

- The earliest forms of Chinese script were **pictographs**, where characters represented objects through drawings.
- As the writing system **evolved**, the characters became **more simplified and less pictographic**.
- The Chinese language consists of approximately **50,000 characters**, making it one of the most complex writing systems in the world.
- The writing system is **logographic**, meaning **each character represents** a word or a meaningful part of a word.

The Zhou Dynasty (c. 1122 – 256 B.C.)

- Around 1122 B.C., the Zhou (Chou) people overthrew the Shang dynasty and established their own rule.
- The Zhou dynasty lasted until 256 B.C. and is known for the "Warring States Period" (403-221 B.C.), characterized by intense conflicts among rival states.
- Despite the warfare, this era was significant for the development of Chinese literary classics and the emergence of philosophical thought.

Confucius and Confucianism

- Confucius (551-479 B.C.), known as Kong Qiu or K'ung Fu-Tzu (Great Master Kong), was the most influential philosopher in Chinese history.
- His teachings, known as Confucianism, emphasized the importance of moral character and responsibility.
- No writings exist from Confucius himself; his ideas were recorded by his disciples in a collection called the Analects.
- Confucianism became the official ideology of China from around 100 B.C. until the 1911 revolution.

Core Tenets of Confucianism

- Confucianism is primarily a secular philosophy rather than a religion, focusing on human reason and ethics.
- Confucius acknowledged the concept of “Heaven” but emphasized social harmony through proper conduct.



He identified **five** cardinal human relationships:

- **Ruler to subject**
 - **Father to son**
 - **Husband to wife**
 - **Elder brother to younger brother**
 - **Friend to friend**
- All relationships, except friendship, involve authority and obedience, promoting social order.

Mencius and His Contributions

- Mencius (372-289 B.C.) was a key early Confucian philosopher who expanded on Confucius's ideas.
- He believed that people are inherently good and emphasized nurturing the natural compassion within individuals.
- Mencius viewed the past as an ideal age, using it as a model for addressing contemporary issues.

The Qin Dynasty and Legalism

- In 221 B.C., the Qin (Chin) state emerged victorious, unifying China under the First Emperor, **Qin Shi Huang**.
- Qin Shi Huang adopted **Legalism**, which stressed the importance of:
- **Authority**: Strong central governance.
- **Efficient administration**: Bureaucratic systems for effective rule.
- **Strict laws**: Enforcement of laws to maintain order.
- The combination of **Legalism** and **Confucian** values helped sustain Chinese empires for over **2000 years**.

Innovations and Discoveries

The ancient Chinese made numerous significant discoveries and inventions:

- **Use of coal:** First introduced for fuel.
- **Porcelain:** Developed the art of making fine ceramics, known as chinaware.
- **Wheelbarrow:** An essential innovation for transportation and agriculture.
- **Varnish:** Created a glossy finish for wood and leather products.

Innovations and Discoveries

- **Silk:** The silk industry began with the cultivation of silkworms, leading to extensive trade.
- **Paper:** Invented around 150 A.D., revolutionizing communication and record-keeping.
- **Printing technology:** Developed techniques for printing, further advancing literacy and culture.

Summary

- Ancient China laid the foundation for one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations, characterized by rich cultural, philosophical, and technological advancements.
- The legacies of Confucianism, Legalism, and numerous inventions continue to influence not only Chinese society but also the broader world today.

Porcelain





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MAJOR SPOTS OF ANCIENT WORLD

CIVILIZATIONS UP TO C. 500 A.D.

Part 6

2.3. Civilizations in Europe

2.3.1 Ancient Greece

- Ancient Greece developed around 2500 B.C. as the earliest civilization in Europe.
- Unlike river valley civilizations, Greek civilization flourished in independent city-states.
- City-states (or polis) emerged during the 4th and 5th centuries B.C., functioning as small, sovereign countries.

The Parthenon in Ancient Greek



Characteristics of City-States

- Each city-state was centred around a single city, serving as the hub of **political, economic, and cultural** life.
- The term **polis** is derived from the **Acropolis of Athens**, which was the political centre.
- Governance was primarily through **oligarchy (rule by a few)**,.
- Some city-states began practicing **democracy** in the 5th century B.C., granting voting rights to citizens (excluding **women and slaves**).

Prominent City-States: Athens and Sparta

- Athens: The **largest city-state**, known for its strong **navy** and **cultural** achievements.
- Population reached **25,000 to 40,000** in the 5th century B.C.
- Relied on **imports for grain** due to limited fertile land.
- Sparta: Known for its **military** prowess and **austere lifestyle**.

Cultural and Intellectual Achievements

- Athens became the centre of Greek culture in the 5th century B.C.
- Philosophy flourished with key figures: Philosophy focused on the pursuit of truth through human reason, influencing many fields
 - Socrates (470-399 B.C.)
 - Plato (427-347 B.C.)
 - Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)
 - Pioneering advancements in medicine, physics, biology, and mathematics.

Direct Democracy in Athens

- Introduced the principle of **direct democracy** where adult **male** citizens participated in decision-making.
- Citizens could attend the **Assembly**, where laws were passed and policies determined.
- The Assembly also elected **generals** and made **key governmental decisions**

Contributions to the Arts

- Greek architects and sculptors made significant contributions, including the Parthenon on the Acropolis.
- Dramatists like Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides created enduring masterpieces.
- Historians such as Herodotus (Father of History) and Thucydides established proper historiography.

Medicine and the Hippocratic Oath

- Hippocrates (460-357 B.C.) is considered the father of modern medicine.
- The Hippocratic Oath, taken by graduating doctors today, originates from his teachings.

Historiography

- Historians like Herodotus (Father of History) and Thucydides established the foundations of historiography.

Decline of Athenian Power

- The Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C.) was fought between Athens and Sparta, leading to Athens' defeat.
- The war weakened the city-states, making them vulnerable to external threats.
- Macedonia, under Philip II, eventually conquered Greece in 338 B.C..

Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic Age

- Alexander the Great (336-323 B.C.) expanded Greek influence by conquering the Persian Empire.
- His conquests spread Greek ideas and language across Egypt and the Near East.
- After his death, the empire was divided among his generals, marking the beginning of the Hellenistic Age (323-30 B.C.).

The Hellenistic Age

- The Hellenistic Age was characterized by the blending of Greek culture with local traditions.
- This period saw significant advancements in arts, science, and philosophy, influenced by interactions with other cultures.
- It laid the groundwork for the later Roman Empire and the spread of Greek culture.

Summary

- Ancient Greece laid the foundations for modern political systems, philosophy, and the arts.
- Its legacy continues to influence contemporary society.



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MAJOR SPOTS OF ANCIENT WORLD

CIVILIZATIONS UP TO C. 500 A.D.

Part 7

2.3.2. Ancient Rome

- According to legend, Rome was founded around 753 B.C. by twin brothers **Romulus** and **Remus**. They established a settlement on the **Palatine Hill**, which is considered the heart of ancient Rome.
- Latins: **The Latins**, the first settlers of the region, had been living in this hilly area **since 1000 B.C.** Their **agricultural practices** laid the foundation for Rome's early economy.

Etruscan Influence

- Control: From the 7th century B.C., Etruscans from northern Italy dominated Rome, shaping its culture, religion, and governance.
- Contributions: They are noted for their architecture (roads, temples, public buildings), enhanced trade, and the introduction of a citizen assembly for public governance.
- Transition to Republic: Resentment towards Etruscan rule led to the monarchy's overthrow and the establishment of the Roman Republic in 509 B.C

Political Structure

- **Senate:** The Senate was the central governing body of the Republic, primarily made up of patricians (nobles). It handled law-making, managed foreign affairs, and controlled public finances.

Social Hierarchy:

- **Patricians:** The elite class, comprising Rome's oldest families, who held most political power and land.
- **Equites:** Wealthy non-nobles who often engaged in trade and owned land, playing a crucial role in the economy.
- **Plebeians:** The common people, including farmers, laborers, and artisans. They had limited political rights initially but gradually gained more influence.

Slavery

- **Social Mobility:** Although the social structure was hierarchical, **skilled slaves** could rise to positions of responsibility, such as **managers or teachers**, depending on their abilities.
- Slaves were rarely freed through **manumission (enfranchisement)**, which was primarily economic rather than humanitarian. Masters often freed skilled slaves to encourage good work.

Slavery

- **Slave Revolts:** Slavery was widespread, and while revolts were rare due to harsh repercussions, one notable uprising was led by Spartacus from 73 to 71 B.C. The revolt was brutally suppressed, with participants facing severe punishments, including crucifixion.

Military Expansion

- Italian Peninsula: Rome gradually expanded its influence over the Italian peninsula, offering protection and citizenship to conquered cities. In exchange, these cities provided soldiers for the Roman army.
- Punic Wars: Rome fought three significant wars against Carthage (204–146 B.C.) known as the Punic Wars. These conflicts were primarily over control of trade routes and the Mediterranean Sea, culminating in Rome's victory and dominance over the western Mediterranean.
- Conquest of Hellenistic Monarchies: Following the Punic Wars, Rome turned its attention eastward, conquering Hellenistic kingdoms, including Egypt, further expanding its territory.

Transition from Republic to Empire

- Julius Caesar: A key figure in this transition, **Julius Caesar** became a powerful leader and dictator. His reforms and military successes made him popular, but his growing power led to concerns among the **Senate**, resulting in **his assassination in 44 B.C..**
- Octavian vs. Antony: After Caesar's death, a power struggle ensued between **Octavian** (Caesar's adopted son) and **Mark Antony**. Their conflict culminated in **Octavian's victory** at the Battle of Actium in 31 B.C., leading to the **annexation of Egypt**.
- Augustus: In 27 B.C., **Octavian became the first Roman emperor**, adopting the title **Augustus**. He preferred to be called **princeps (first citizen)**, establishing a new form of governance.

Pax Romana

- Period of Peace: Augustus' reign marked the beginning of the Pax Romana (Roman Peace), a 200-year period of relative stability and prosperity across the empire.
- Cultural Contributions: During this time, trade flourished, and art and literature thrived. The Romans made significant advancements in engineering, architecture, and law, laying the groundwork for Western civilization.

Architectural Achievements

- Infrastructure: The Romans are renowned for their extensive network of **roads** and **aqueducts**, which facilitated trade and the movement of armies, as well as supplying **water to cities**.
- Famous Structures: Iconic architectural achievements include the **Roman Forum** (the center of political life), the **Temple of Venus and Rome**, and the **Colosseum**, which showcased Roman engineering prowess and served as a venue for public spectacles.

The Colosseum



Decline and Fall

- Division of the Empire: In 395 A.D., the Roman Empire was divided into the **Western Roman Empire** and the **Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire)** to improve governance and defence.
- Fall of the West: The Western Empire faced increasing pressure from invading tribes. In **410 A.D.**, the **Visigoths** famously **looted Rome**, and the empire officially **fell in 476 A.D.**, marking the end of ancient Rome.
- Survival of the East: The **Eastern Roman Empire continued** to thrive, lasting until **1453**, when it was conquered by the **Ottoman Turks**.

Summary

- The history of ancient Rome is characterized by its remarkable transformation from a small settlement to a dominant empire that profoundly influenced Western civilization.
- The establishment of the Republic introduced innovative governance and legal systems, while military conquests expanded its territory and cultural reach.
- Despite its eventual decline, Rome's legacy continues through its contributions to architecture, law, and governance, shaping the foundations of modern societies.

2.4 Civilizations in Latin America

- The Americas consist of two continents: North America and South America.
- Mesoamerica includes Mexico and Central America, a cradle of early culture and civilization.

Arrival of People in the Americas

- Scholars believe people arrived between 12,000 and 10,000 years ago.
- They migrated from **Siberia** and **Alaska** via the **Bering Strait land bridge**.
- Adaptation to diverse environments was crucial for survival

Domestication and Agriculture

- Major adaptations occurred with the domestication of plants and animals (8500 B.C. - 2000 B.C.).

In Mesoamerica, Neolithic peoples cultivated:

- Beans, sweet potatoes, peppers, tomatoes, squash, and maize (corn).
- In South America, crops included maize and cassava, with llamas domesticated for wool.

Development of Villages and Cities

- By 3000 B.C. in South America and 1500 B.C. in Mesoamerica, farmers settled in villages.
- Population growth led to the emergence of early cities.
- These cities became centres of culture and civilization.

Major Centres of Culture in Mesoamerica

Mesoamerica was home to several significant civilizations, including:

- The Olmec
- The Maya
- The Aztec
- Each civilization contributed to advancements in agriculture, architecture, and governance.

Cultural Contributions

Mesoamerican civilizations made notable contributions in:

- Art and architecture (**pyramids, temples**).
- Writing systems (**hieroglyphics**).
- **Mathematics and astronomy**

Summary

- Mesoamerica played a crucial role in the development of early civilizations in the Americas.
- The domestication of crops and the establishment of villages laid the foundation for future cultures

2.4.1 The Maya

- The Maya were among the **earliest to build large cities by 300 B.C.** in present-day Guatemala.
- The Golden Age (Classic Period) began around **250 A.D.**, with city-states flourishing from the **Yucatán Peninsula** through Central America.

Early Settlement and Farming

- Before large cities, Maya lived scattered across the land.
- Developed two farming methods to thrive in tropical environments:
 - Clearing forests for planting.
 - Building raised fields along riverbanks to avoid floods.
- Key Crops: Maize, beans, squash, fruits, cotton.

City-States and Trade

- Maya cities never formed a unified empire; instead, there were many city-states.
- Powerful city-states included Tikal and Calakmul.
- Frequent conflicts and wars among city-states.
- Trade was essential, involving goods like honey, salt, cotton, feathers, precious stones, and jaguar hides.

Social Hierarchy

- Distinct social hierarchy with each city having its own **male ruler**.
- Women **occasionally governed** or acted on **behalf of young sons**.
- Nobles had roles in military, public works, tax collection, and law enforcement.
- Scribes, painters, and sculptors were **highly respected**.
- Merchants formed a middle class; most Maya were farmers, with some slaves captured in war.

Cultural Achievements

- Impressive advances in learning and arts.
- Complex polytheistic religion with towering temples and palaces.
- Temples served as ceremonial sites and burial places for rulers and nobles.
- Developed a hieroglyphic writing system, recently interpreted by scholars

An Edifice of Mayan Temple



Mathematics and Astronomy

- Priests needed accurate **time measurement** for ceremonies.
- Became **expert mathematicians** and **astronomers**.
- Developed a **365-day** solar calendar.
- Invented a numbering system that included the **concept of zero**.

Decline of the Maya Civilization

- By 900 A.D., the Maya stopped building cities, leading to a decline.
- Reasons for decline are **unclear**:
- Possible overpopulation, disease, drought, or peasant revolts.
- By the time of the Spanish arrival in the 1500s, most Maya lived in farming villages.

2.4.2 The Aztecs

- As the Maya civilization weakened, the Zapotec and Toltec vied for control in Southern Mexico.
- The Aztecs entered the Valley of Mexico in the 1200s A.D.

Establishment of Tenochtitlan

- In 1325 A.D., the Aztecs founded their capital, **Tenochtitlan**.
- They expanded their territory by conquering neighbouring towns and cities.
- Conquered peoples were required to pay tribute in food, gold, cotton, and slaves.

The Aztec Empire Under Montezuma II

- The empire reached its height under Montezuma II (1502-1521).
- Collected tribute from 371 states, with the emperor holding supreme power.
- Appointed officials to manage justice and trade.

Infrastructure and Trade

- Built extensive **road networks** linking distant outposts **to Tenochtitlan**.
- Soldiers **protected merchants** traveling along these roads.
- Tenochtitlan was a bustling city with around **100,000** inhabitants.

Urban Development

- Expanded their island capital by constructing **walkways and roads**.
- Farmers created more farmland by **filling parts of the lake** and using floating gardens (chinampas).
- **Drainage canals** improved agricultural productivity.

Architecture and Society

- Dominated by a large pyramid temple and the emperor's palace.
- The palace functioned as a storehouse for tribute and housed the royal family and officials.
- Included a zoo and library for historical records.

Cultural Achievements

- Adopted **knowledge from conquered peoples**, including astronomy and mathematics.
- Developed a **365-day solar calendar** similar to the Maya.
- Medical practices included **herbal remedies**, setting **broken bones**, and **steam baths**.

Religion and Sacrifice

- Worshipped **multiple gods**, including those of corn, rain, sun, and war.
- The calendar served as a religious text, **detailing sacred months for each deity**.
- **Human sacrifices**, often of war prisoners, were performed to appease **the sun god**.

Summary

- The Aztec civilization was marked by military conquest, urban innovation, and rich cultural practices.
- Their contributions to agriculture, architecture, and medicine have had a lasting impact

2.4.3 The Incas

- Founded around 1450 A.D., the Inca Empire was **the last great empire** in the Andes.
- It stretched from present-day Ecuador through Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina.

Governance Structure

- The emperor was an absolute ruler, dividing the empire into provinces.
- Nobles were appointed as governors responsible for census-taking and taxation.
- The government prioritized the welfare of the aged, sick, and poor.

Religion and Beliefs

- The Incas worshipped gods and relied on **priests for divine guidance**.
- The emperor was considered **the son of Inti, the sun god**, leading them to call themselves "children of the sun."
- Ceremonies were performed in the Great Sun Temple in **Cuzco**, the empire's capital.

Technological Advances

- Advanced engineering allowed the Incas to divert rivers for gold mining.
- They developed a system of measurement and performed successful brain surgeries.
- Knowledge of quinine for treating malaria predates European discovery by centuries.

Architectural Achievements

- Constructed magnificent temples and palaces using precisely shaped stone blocks without cement.
- Their stone walls withstood violent earthquakes due to their flexible construction.
- Built extensive road networks linking distant provinces to Cuzco.

Agricultural Innovations

- Farmers created **terraces** on steep mountainsides for effective agriculture.
- This method maximized arable land and improved crop yields

Record Keeping and Oral Tradition

- The Incas had no written language; history was memorized and passed down orally.
- The government maintained records of census data, harvest sizes, and historical events.

Decline of the Inca Empire

- By the early 1500s, the Inca Empire reached its greatest size.
- Internal power struggles weakened the empire, making it vulnerable to Spanish conquest in 1532.

Summary

- The Inca civilization was marked by advanced governance, engineering, and agricultural practices.
- Their legacy continues to influence modern culture and history in the Andes region.

2.5. The Rise and Spread of Christianity

- In 63 B.C., Romans conquered Judea, allowing Jews religious freedom.
- Zealots called for revolt against Roman rule, anticipating a messiah.
- The Roman suppression culminated in 70 A.D. with the destruction of the Jewish temple.

The Emergence of Christianity

- Following the temple's destruction, Christianity arose among Jews.
- Jesus, a Jewish figure, emphasized love, forgiveness, and duty to God.
- His teachings were documented in the Gospels by St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John.

Jesus' Life and Death

- Jesus was welcomed by some, seen as a threat by Jewish priests and Roman authorities.
- Arrested around 30 A.D., he was tried and crucified, marking a pivotal moment for his followers.

Early Christian Communities

- The first Christians **were Jews**; **gentile** conversions increased over time.
- Gentile Christians eventually outnumbered Jewish Christians.
- Local communities were led by **bishops**, with **archbishops** and **patriarchs** emerging later.

Church Structure and Authority

- Five **patriarchates** established: Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, Constantinople, and Jerusalem.
- The **Pope** claimed leadership over other patriarchs.
- **Monasticism developed**, with monks living in communities under an abbot or as hermits.

Doctrinal Development

- Heresies were doctrines rejected by the Church, with heretics as their followers.
- Church councils, including the Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.), defined core doctrines like the Holy Trinity.
- The Trinity doctrine affirmed the equality of God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.

Persecution and Growth

- Early Christians faced **persecution** for refusing to honour the emperor.
- Despite this, **Christianity** grew in numbers and influence.
- The conversion of **Emperor Constantine** in 313 A.D. ended persecution with the **Edict of Milan**.

Christianity Becomes State Religion

- Theodosius I declared Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire (379-395 A.D.).
- Other faiths were repressed, solidifying Christianity's dominance.

The Great Schism

- By 395 A.D., Christianity split into the Western (Catholic) and Eastern (Orthodox) Churches.
- The Pope led the Western Church, while the Patriarch led the Eastern Church.
- The formal split occurred in 1054 A.D.

Summary

- Christianity evolved from a Jewish sect to a major world religion.
- Its structure, doctrines, and historical context shaped its growth and influence.

Unit Summary

- The ancient world significantly influenced **modern humanity**.
- Contributions **span across continents**: Africa, Asia, Europe, and America.

Agricultural Advancements

- Domestication of plants and animals crucial for nutrition.
- Introduction of irrigation agriculture complemented rain-fed practices.
- Innovations in farming techniques enhanced food production.

Political Systems

- Ancient governments provided foundational lessons for modern political systems.
- Development of justice administration influenced contemporary legal frameworks.
- Concepts of democracy and governance trace back to ancient civilizations.

Economic Foundations

- Trade, a major economic sector today, originated in the ancient world.
- The establishment of trade routes facilitated cultural and economic exchange.
- Early forms of currency and trade practices laid groundwork for modern economics.

Scientific and Technological Innovations

- Contributions in astronomy, mathematics, and medicine.
- Development of calendars, sculpture, architecture, and ironworking.
- Ancient knowledge paved the way for future scientific advancements.

Influence of Monotheistic Religions

- Judaism, Christianity, and Islam shaped moral and ethical foundations.
- These religions influenced laws, social norms, and cultural practices.
- The spread of these belief systems impacted global history and society.

Indigenous Knowledge

- Ancient indigenous knowledge is gaining attention for solving modern social issues.
- Use of medicinal plants and herbs for health treatments.
- Practices in surgery and wound treatment reflect advanced ancient medical knowledge.

The 365-Day Calendar

- The 365-day calendar, still in use today, originated in ancient times.
- Its adoption in the Christian world highlights the lasting impact of ancient innovations.

Summary

- The ancient world's contributions **continue to shape modern society.**
- Understanding these advancements helps us appreciate our cultural and technological heritage.



Thank you!!!