

Persian, Greek and Roman Civilizations

Students' Learning Outcomes:

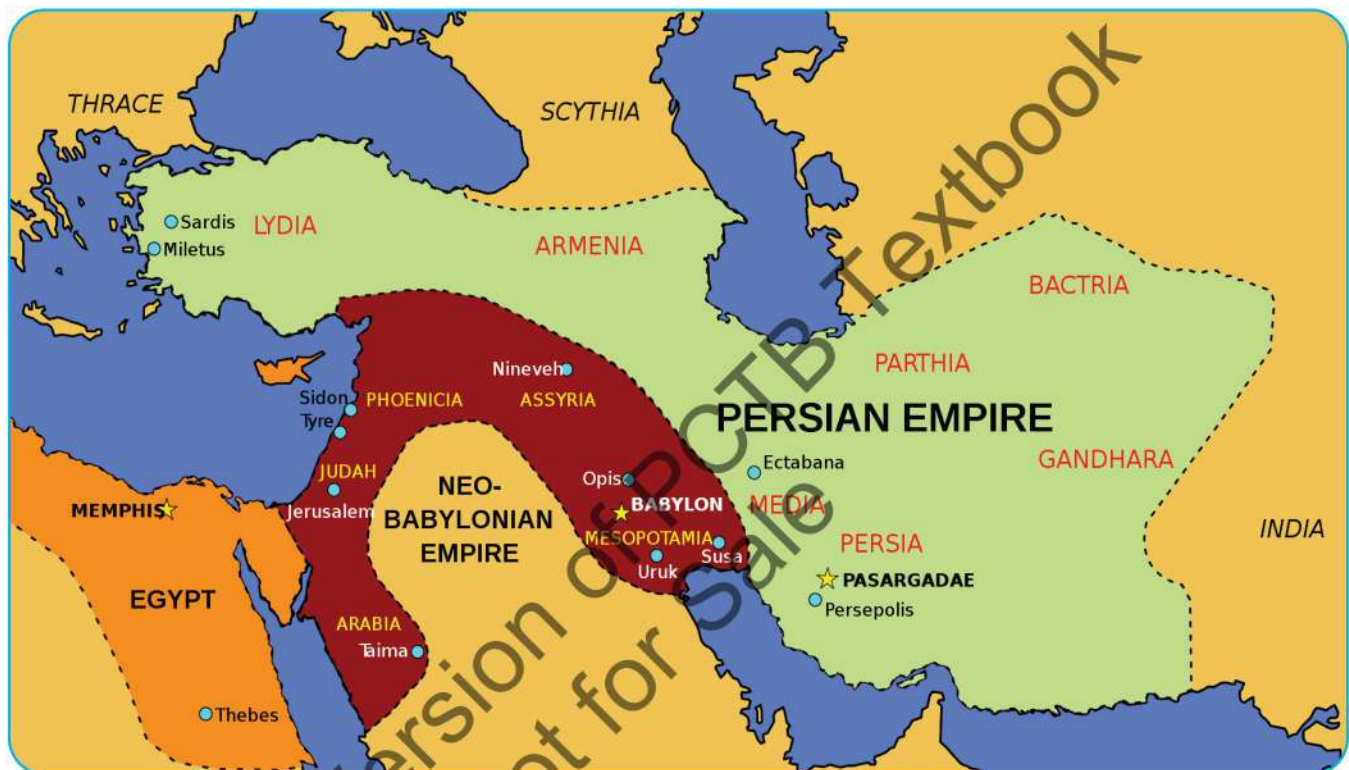
After completing this unit, students will be able to:

- Describe when, and how, the Persian, Greek and Roman Civilizations were formed.
- Analyze the daily life, and social customs of Ancient Persian, Greek and Roman Civilizations.
- Identify the connection between Greeks and Romans.
- Describe who Alexander was, and why he was called Alexander the Great.
- Enlist significant victories of Alexander.
- Outline the reasons for Alexander's plans to conquer India.
- Identify the relationship between Athens and Spartans.
- Describe how Rome developed into a republic.
- Compare the architecture of Greeks and Romans.
- Enlist some of the contributions of the Persian, Greek and Roman Civilizations to the world.



Ancient Persian Civilization

The Persian Civilization was one of the largest civilizations in the ancient world. It started as a collection of nomadic tribes. They raised goats, sheep, and cattle on the Iranian Plateau. This empire was founded by Cyrus the Great in 550 BCE. Cyrus was a leader of one of those nomadic tribes. They first took control of the Middle East after the downfall of the Babylonian Empire. The Persian Empire is also known as the Achaemenid Empire. They created the World's first ever human rights charter. It lasted from 550-331 BCE.



Ancient Persian Empire in 500 BCE

The Persian Empire was vast, stretching from Anatolia (Turkey) and Egypt across to the north of India and Central Asia.

The capital city of the Persian Empire was Persepolis which is situated in present day Southern Iran.

In the Persian Civilization, a technology known as Yakhchal was invented. It was quite helpful in preserving foods. Persian people are also credited with building the earliest known vertical axis windmills for grinding grain and pumping water.

They were the first people to establish the regular routes of communication between different



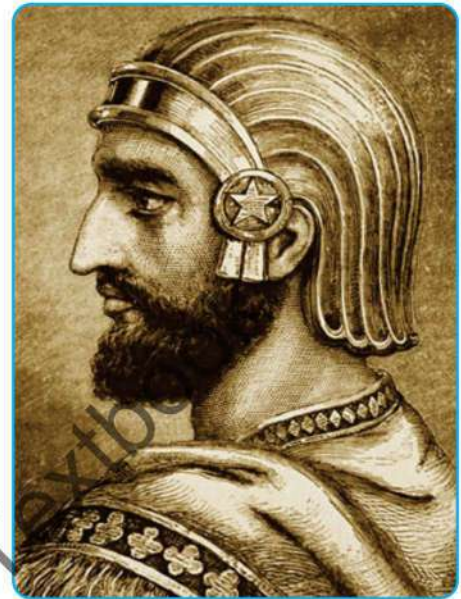
Yakhchal: Ancient Refrigerator

They were the first people to establish the regular routes of communication between different continents.

Cyrus the Great, allowed the people to speak their own languages and practice their own religions after being conquered. Many new roads were constructed during the Persian Civilization and also the world's first postal service was developed. The Persian Empire was characterized by the establishment of extensive trading networks.

The Persian Empire had a new religion, Zoroastrianism. Zoroastrianism is known as one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions. It was once the official religion of Sassanid Persia and played an important role in Achaemenid times.

Cyrus the Great, led a large grouping of different Persian tribes to defeat another tribe called the Medians. After this battle, Cyrus led his army to major conquests.



Cyrus the Great

Cyrus the Great, was not the typical ancient leader. He is known for his respect of different tribes and peoples. For example, Cyrus told the people that if they worked and paid tax in his kingdom, he would give them the freedom to live according to their own beliefs and customs. The Persians believed in worshipping only one god called Zoroaster.

Cyrus defeated the Lydians of western Anatolia. Later in 539 BCE, Cyrus's army defeated the Babylonian army to gain most valuable city for his empire. Cyrus had not yet conquered Egypt. He left this task to his son Cambyses who attacked and destroyed the Egyptian army in 525 BCE.

The traditional men's garment included the Shalwar, and Jameh combination, often with a wide belt called Kamarband, from which English gets the word "Cummerbund". Headdresses were also worn by men in traditional wear, known as the Sarband. Long robes and loin cloths were also worn by women and men in Persia.

After the death of Cambyses, Darius the Great, or Darius I, became the new leader of the empire. He had to deal with a series of uprisings in areas that had been conquered by Cyrus, but he managed to re-establish control.



Ancient Persian Dress

Darius the Great, created a new form of government to control his empire. He established 20 different provinces called satrapies. They were led by a Governor called a satrap who collected tax and maintained law. Darius the Great, appointed the satrap and he also nominated a military commander for each region to help keep order in his empire.

Darius the Great, had a massive royal road network available to him. This network had roads of around 12900 km (8000 miles) in total. It was crucial for connecting the empire and keeping it under control.



The Persian Royal road was highway started from Sardis in West Turkey and ended at Susa in Iran. The highway built by Darius-I (522-486 BCE).

Darius the Great, built a highway connecting the Persian Empire from Susa to Sardis. His aim was to ensure smooth and rapid communication across the vast empire. The distance between the western and eastern borders was around 2700 km. He used his postal service to keep close contact with all the provinces. On each road, there were postal stations where couriers would change horses as letters made their way to the king.

Finally, in 331 BCE, a new empire builder, Alexander the Great, conquered the Persian Empire.

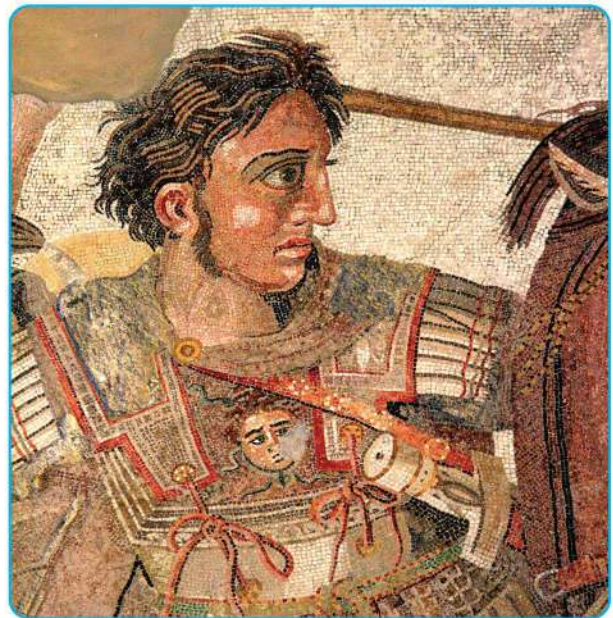
Brief Timeline of the Persian Empire

Date	Event
550 BCE	Cyrus II came to power and was soon attacked by the King of Media. Cyrus defeated the opposing kings and conquered Lydia.
539 BCE	Cyrus captured Babylon.
529 BCE	After invading India, Cyrus died in a battle.
522 BCE	After the death of Cyrus, his son, Cambyses came into power, and died in 522 BCE. Then Darius claimed the throne by defeating Bardiya (presumably Cambyses' brother).
490 BCE	The Persian Wars (490-479 BCE). The Greeks and Persians battled for territory for several years.
485-359 BCE	Leaders came and went including Xerxes and Artaxerxes.
331 BCE	The end of the Persian Empire. After Darius III took over, Alexander the Great of Macedonia invaded. After losing three battles with Alexander, Darius was defeated in 331 BCE and was murdered in 330 BCE.

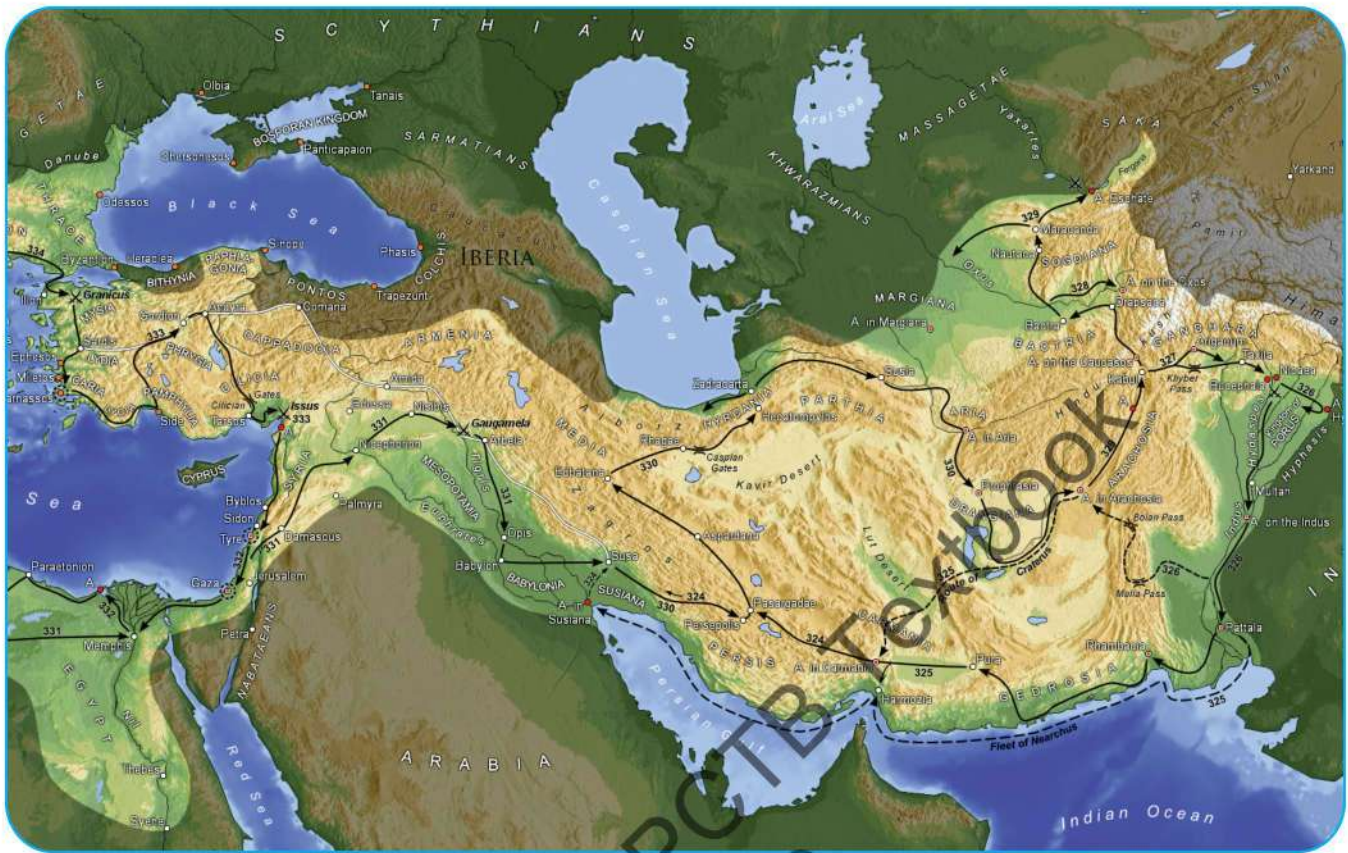
Greek Civilization

Ancient Greece was a civilization that dominated much of the Mediterranean thousands of years ago. At its peak under Alexander the Great, Ancient Greek ruled much of Europe and western Asia. The Greeks came before the Romans and much of the Roman culture was influenced by the Greeks.

Ancient Greece formed the foundation of much of western culture today. Everything from Government, philosophy, science, mathematics, art, literature, and even sports was impacted by the Ancient Greek.



Alexander the Great



Map of the Ancient Greek Empire

Periods

Historians often divide up the history of Ancient Greek into three periods:

1. Archaic Period

This period ran from the start of Greek Civilization in 800 BCE to the introduction of Democracy in 508 BCE. This period included the start of the Olympic Games and Homer's writing of the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad*, Ancient Greek epic poems.

2. Classical Period

This is the time that many of us think of when we talk about Ancient Greek. Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, Euripides, and Pericles, etc. were key people of Greece.

Athens was governed by a democracy. The great philosophers like Socrates, and Plato arose. There were wars between Sparta and Athens during this time. This period ended with the rise of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE.



Homer, a Greek Author

3. Hellenistic Period

The Hellenistic period lasted from the death of Alexander the Great, until 31 BCE when Rome defeated Egypt in the Battle of Actium. The name Hellenistic comes from the Greek word "Hellas", which is the original word for Greek.

Athens and Sparta

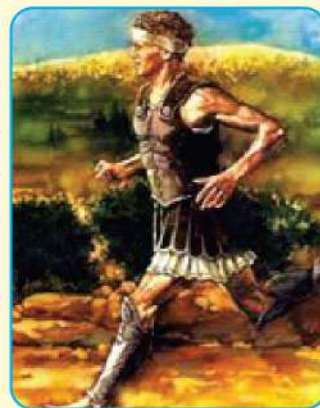
Athens and Sparta were the two main city-states that ruled much of Ancient Greece. They were often rivals and fought each other in the Peloponnesian Wars. At other times, they united together in order to protect the Greek lands from invaders. The cultures of the two cities were very different. Sparta was almost entirely focused on war and how to fight, while Athens focused on the art and learning.



Facts about Ancient Greek

Pheidippides was a Greek hero who ran about 240 km (150 miles) from Marathon to Sparta to get help against the Persians. After the Greeks won the war, he ran 40 km (25 miles) from Marathon to Athens to announce the victory. This is where the Marathon Race gets its name.

The Greeks invented the yo-yo which is considered the second oldest toy in the world after the doll.



Pheidippides

Clothing for both women and men consisted of two main garments, a tunic (either a peplos or chiton) and a cloak (himation or toga). Both women and men wore sandals, slippers, soft shoes, or boots, although at home they usually went barefoot.

Greek's society was similar to the society that most of us enjoy today because it was full of rich culture. This means that Ancient Greece could enjoy exotic foods, good music, and read literature, just as we do today.

The daily life of an Ancient Greek was very similar to our lives today. They lived in highly organized cities, where they could go see a play or a sporting event, or attend a number of different schools, or could join the army and become a soldier.

Do You Know?

- Olympic Games, athletic festival that originated in Ancient Greece, revived in the late 19th century.

Greek society was also governed much like ours is today. Most early cities were called city-states, which had their own Government. The head of the Government (called the Polis) was located in the center of the city, which usually surrounded the acropolis, which was a high area that held a temple and religious shrines.



Greek Temple, the Parthenon

Greek cities also had an Agora, which was a central marketplace where people could go to shop, perform business transactions, or meet other people and socialize. These were a lot like shopping malls or marketplaces today. Both Greek men and women were the citizens of the state. They could enjoy privileges like protection from violence.

Athens was one of the biggest cities in Ancient Greece. At the height of the Athenian Empire, there lived around 200,000 people. Most of the people in Ancient Greece had jobs much like we do today. Many people were farmers, who sold or traded their fruits and vegetables at markets in order to get what they needed to take care of their family.

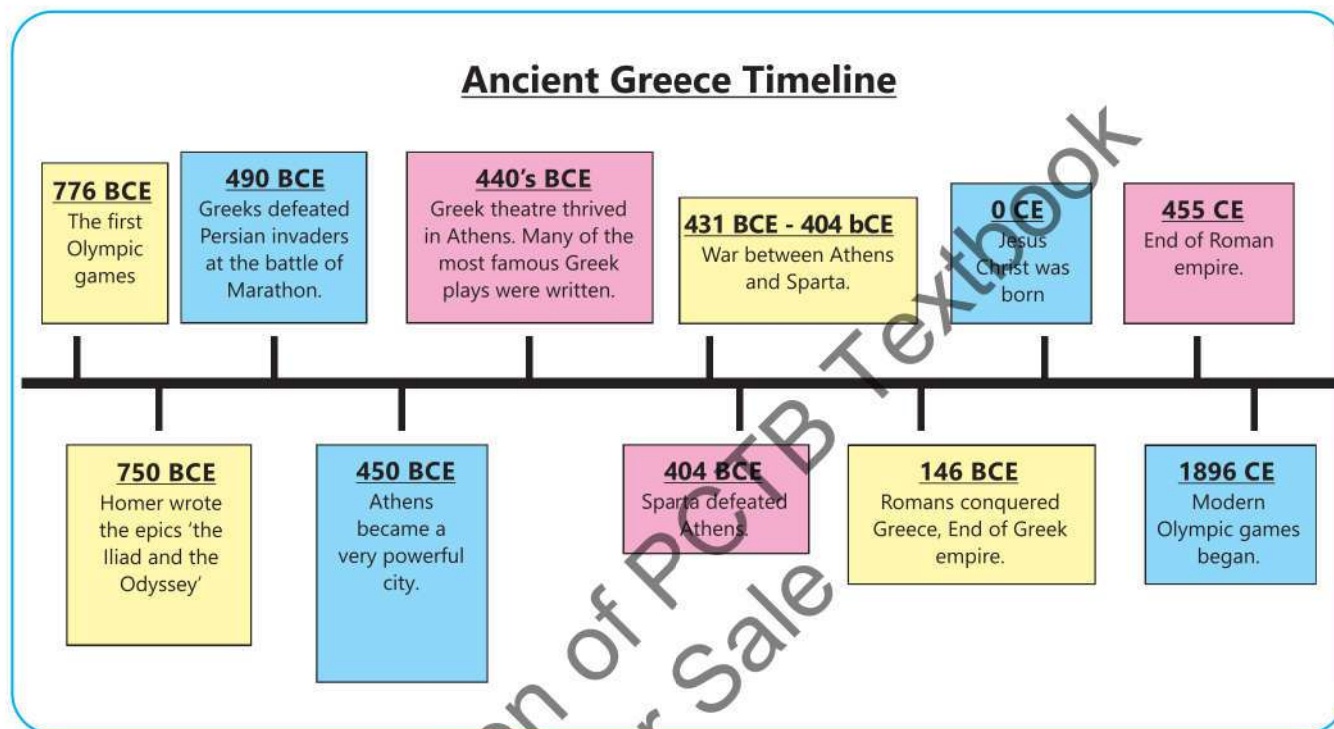
There was also a wealthy class of Greeks, who could afford to send their children to schools. Some of these schools were like Plato's Academy, where they could learn about philosophy and intellectual reasoning. Other schools were specialized, like schools for painting or sculpture.



Plato's Academy

Stable food supply, social structure, system of Government, religious system, highly developed culture, advances in technology, highly developed written language were main characteristics of Ancient Greek Civilization.

There was also a set of skilled craftsmen in Ancient Greek. These artisans created beautiful sculptures, decorated the inside walls of houses with paintings. Other craftsmen made pottery, coins, and jewelry, etc.



Roman Civilization

The Ancient city of Rome was the centre of Roman Civilization. The Roman Empire was based in what is now Europe. Ancient Rome was a powerful and important civilization that ruled much of Europe for nearly 1000 years. The culture of Ancient Rome was spread throughout Europe during its rule. As a result, Rome's culture still has an impact in the western world today.

The achievements of the Romans influenced the languages, literature, laws, methods of Government, roads, and buildings of all of western Europe.

Ancient Rome can be divided into two main periods. The Roman people established a republic in about 509 BCE. The republic became an empire in 27 BCE. That empire lasted for almost 500 years, until the 4th century.

Do You Know?

- Rome was founded in 753 BCE by its first king, Romulus. Romulus had a twin brother called Remus. Rome grew into a rich and powerful city during the next few hundred years.

Ancient Rome made many lasting contributions to world culture. But the Romans also absorbed the culture of the people they conquered. For instance, the Romans took many ideas about art from the ancient Greeks. Romans also worshiped many Greek gods, though they gave them new names. Later, Rome adopted Christianity, a religion from the Middle East.



Painting, sculpture, and other forms of art were important to the Romans. Architects built huge buildings that were central to Roman life. One of the most famous buildings left by the Ancient Romans is the Colosseum, a huge amphitheatre in the center of Rome.

Roman writers wrote history, comedy, tragedy, and poetry. From Latin, the Ancient Roman language, many other languages later developed. These languages, known as the Romance languages, include French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and Romanian. People today use the Latin alphabet to write these and other western languages, including English.

The first settlers of Rome were people known as Latins, and the region around the city was called Latium. According to legend, twin brothers named Romulus and Remus founded Rome in 753 BCE. Shortly before 600 BCE, warriors from Etruria, a region north of Rome, attacked the city. The warriors, called Etruscans, conquered Rome.

Rome grew steadily under Etruscan kings. It became the largest and richest city of the Italian



The legend of Romulus and Remus

peninsula. In about 509 BCE, the Romans forced the last Etruscan king out of the city. Rome then became a republic. This meant that the Roman people elected the Government.

Republic

The most important Roman leaders were called Consuls. There were two consuls. Assemblies, or groups of adult male Roman citizens chose both consuls. At first the consuls had to be patricians, or members of upper-class families.



Roman Republic

An important group called the Senate gave advice to the consuls. The members, called senators, were patricians. They met in a building in the Forum, an area of Rome that was the center of public life. The Senate grew more powerful over the years.



Plebeians or Common People

Most Romans were not patricians but plebeians, or common people. The plebeians staged an uprising in 494 BCE. They gradually won more power. By 367 BCE, one of the two consul positions was set aside for the plebeians.

Rome suffered some setbacks as it slowly expanded its territory. In about 390 BCE, a northern group called the Gauls took over the city. They would not leave until the Romans paid them a large amount of gold. Another group called the Samnites defeated the Romans in 321 BCE. In general, however, Rome's conquests could not be stopped. By 275 BCE, Rome had forced the Greeks to give up their colonies in Italy.

By 260 BCE, Rome's last remaining rival in the western Mediterranean was the city of Carthage, in north Africa. For more than a century, the Romans fought Carthage for power. It took three wars called the Punic Wars before the Roman forces totally destroyed Carthage in 146 BCE.

Rome then turned to other areas, including Sicily, Spain, Macedonia, Greek, and Asia Minor (now Turkey). Governors called Proconsuls managed most of the conquered lands. They had great power. The Romans taxed the conquered people heavily. They also enslaved many conquered people. The Romans put these captives to work on farms and as personal servants in cities. Slaves were used in Rome until about the 3rd century.

Roman Empire

In about 133 BCE, Rome entered a period of unrest and civil war. Peoples in Italy rebelled against Rome's strict rule in 90 BCE. During 73-71 BCE, a gladiator or professional fighter, named Spartacus led an army of run away slaves in a war against Rome. Rome defeated both of these rebellions.

Meanwhile, Rome continued to expand its empire. The most successful General was Julius Caesar. He won victories in far-off areas and then took power in Rome. However, his enemies assassinated him in 44 BCE. This set off another period of civil war.



Julius Caesar



Augustus Caesar



Emperor Tiberius

Peace finally came under the leadership of Julius Caesar's grandnephew Octavian. Octavian defeated his rivals for power, including the Roman General Mark Antony and the Egyptian Queen Cleopatra, by 30 BCE. He was crowned Rome's first emperor in 27 BCE. He was known as Augustus Caesar. During Augustus's rule, the emperor gained absolute control over the state and came to be worshipped like a god.

Two centuries of peace and progress followed. The empire's frontiers expanded all the way to Britain and the Arabian Peninsula. The Romans built roads, bridges, and aqueducts, or water pipes, throughout their vast empire.

The emperor Tiberius ruled from 14 to 37 CE. During this time, the Roman Government in Palestine put Jesus to death. Some of Jesus' followers, called Christians, later set up a community in Rome. At first the Romans did not agree with the Christian religion. They mistreated and killed many Christians. But in 312 CE, the emperor Constantine I became a Christian himself. Christianity eventually became the state religion of the Roman Empire.

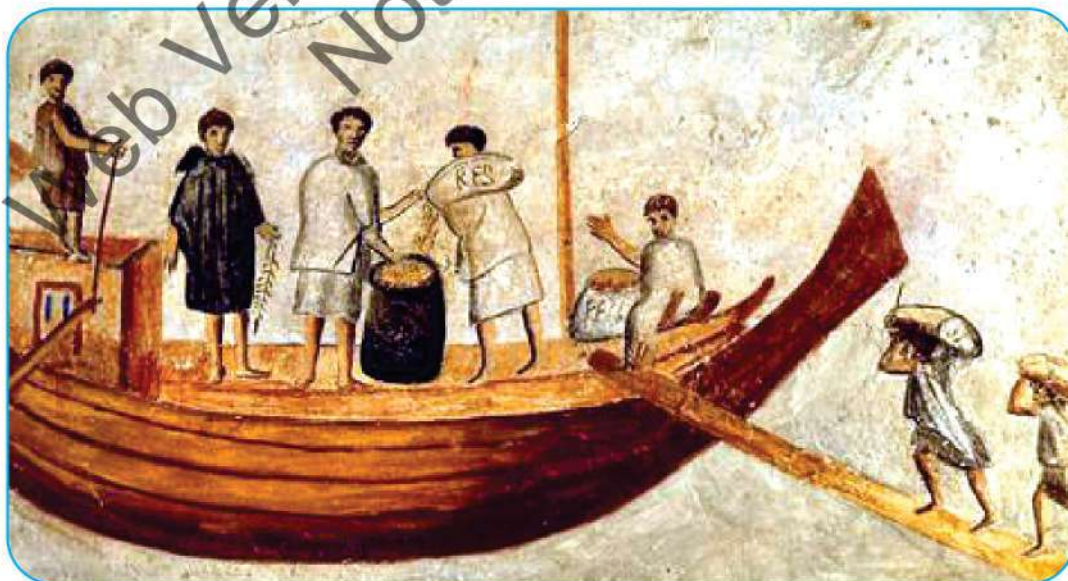


Skill: Activity

- Analyze that how Rome became prosperous enough to raise an army.

The culture of Ancient Rome was spread throughout Europe during its rule. As a result, Rome's culture still has an impact in the western world today. The basis for much of western culture comes from Ancient Rome, especially in areas such as Government, engineering, architecture, language, and literature.

Trade was most important for Rome. Wheat got from Egypt, tin from Britannia, grapes from Gaul, and so on. The Romans built provincial capitals into fine cities, protected them from raids by barbarians.



Trade in Ancient Rome

The Romans believed in gods and goddesses who ruled over different areas of life. For example, Neptune was the god of the ocean, and the Romans prayed to him to protect them at sea.

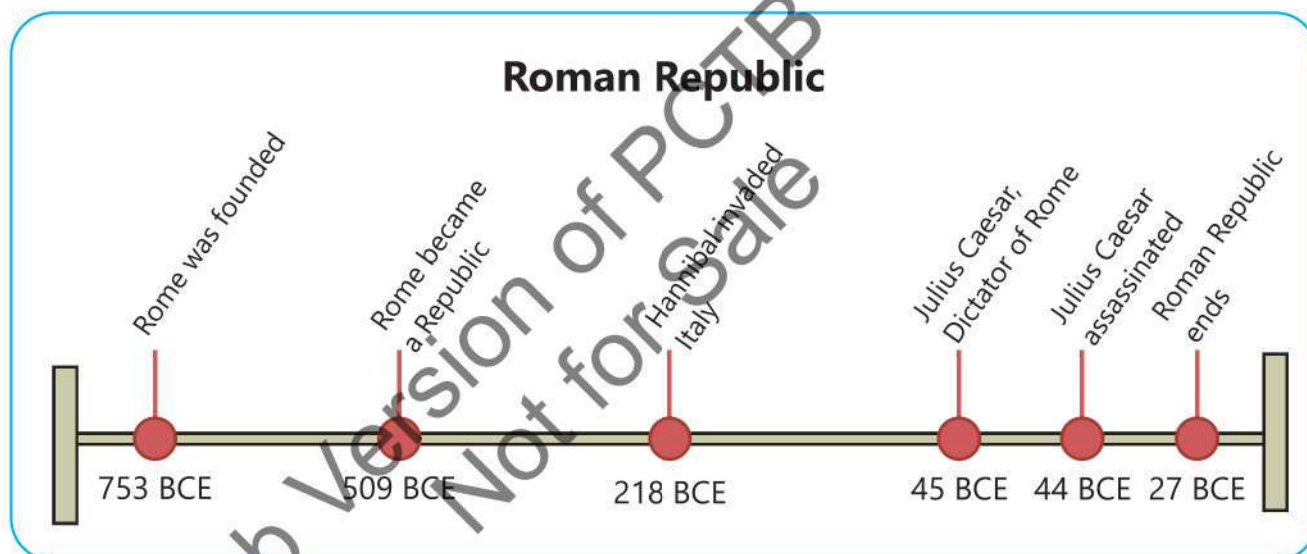
In order to control their large empire, the Romans developed important ideas about law and Government. They developed the best army in the world at that time, and ruled by force. The empire was divided into provinces, each with a Governor plus civil and military support. With kings and emperors, a big problem is the order of succession. King's eldest son would take over, if he was capable of ruling.



Neptune, the god of the Ocean

Fall of Rome

The fall of Rome generally refers to the fall of the western Roman Empire. It fell in 476 CE. The eastern Roman Empire, or the Byzantine Empire, would rule parts of eastern Europe for another 1000 years.



Relationship Between Athens and Spartans

Geographically, cities of Athens and Sparta are very close to each other, but had very different values, lifestyles, and cultures. The differences were many.

The cities of Athens and Sparta were bitter rivals in ancient Greece. In 431 BCE, a war broke out between Athens and Spartans.

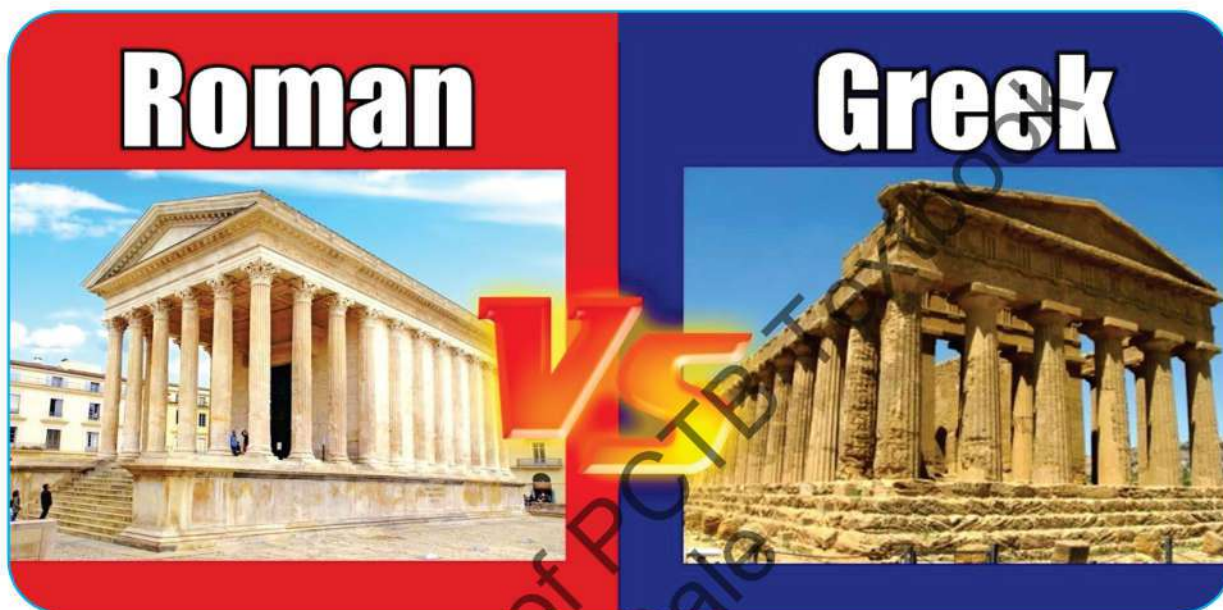


Athens Vs Spartans

Athens was an open society, and Sparta was a closed one. Athens was democratic, and Sparta was ruled by a select few.

Comparison Between the Architecture of Greeks and Romans

Greeks created large buildings that were mainly decorated on the outside but not so much on the inside.



On the other hand, Romans made sure their buildings were beautiful on the inside and the outside. For example, Romans used vaults, domes, and arches to improve their buildings'

Alexander the Great

Alexander the Great, was one of the greatest military leaders. He was born in 356 BCE in Pella, an ancient capital of Macedonia. Alexander was the son of Philip II, King of Macedonia. He was also the king of Macedonia.

When Alexander died at the age of 32, he ruled a territory that spanned three continents and covered nearly 2 million square miles. He was the King of his native Macedonia, Ruler of the Greece, the King of Persia and even an Egyptian Pharaoh. Due to his massive accomplishments, he was called Alexander the



Alexander the Great

Reasons for Alexander's Plans to Conquer India

The Indian campaign of Alexander the Great, began in 327 BCE.

Alexander was attracted by the wealth and prosperity of India. He was interested to expand his rule till India. Curiosity, love of adventure and passion for conquest inspired Alexander to march towards India. The part of India which Alexander invaded is called the Punjab, or land of the five rivers. At that time, it was ruled by an Indian King, Porus.



Skill: Activity

- Investigate why Alexander the Great, wanted to conquer the world.

Contributions of the Persian, Greek and Roman Civilizations to the World

Persian Contributions	Greek Contributions	Roman Contributions
The flourishing of Persian Civilization has contributions of science, literature, mathematics and art to the modern world. The Persians were the first people to establish regular routes of communication between three continents, Africa, Asia and Europe. They built many new roads and developed the world's first postal service. The Persians established an empire which stretched from modern-day Turkey to India.	The Greeks made major contributions to science, mathematics, philosophy, astronomy, and medicine. Literature and theater was an important aspect of Greek culture and influenced modern drama. The Greeks were known for their sophisticated sculpture and architecture. One of the key points of Ancient Greek philosophy was the role of reason and inquiry.	The Ancient Romans built several buildings like the Colosseum and the Pantheon. They made important contributions to law, architecture, literature, science and technology. They made Roman alphabet and the division of the year into twelve months. Concepts from Roman Government have been picked up in our current system.



Skill: Activities

- Read relevant books, search on the Internet to gather information about Persian, Greek and Roman Civilizations' Art and Culture.
- Examine the reasons for the decline of the Persian, Greek and Roman Civilizations.

Important Points

1. The Persian Empire was founded by Cyrus the Great in 550 BCE.
2. Cyrus's army defeated the Babylonian army in 539 BCE.
3. Cyrus's son Cambyses attacked and destroyed the Egyptian army in 525 BCE.
4. In about 133 BCE, Rome entered a period of unrest and civil war.
5. Alexander the Great, began his conquest of the Persian Empire in 334 BCE.
6. Alexander the Great, conquered the Persian Empire in 331 BCE.
7. Olympic Games revived in the late 19th century.
8. The Colosseum, was a huge amphitheater in the center of Rome.
9. The Roman Empire fell in 476 CE.
10. The Indian campaign of Alexander the Great, began in 327 BCE.

Exercise

Q.1 Tick (✓) the correct answer:

- i. The Persian Empire was founded in 550 BCE, by:
(a) Ashoka the Great (b) Cyrus the Great
(c) Alexander the Great (d) Darius the Great
- ii. The Colosseum was a huge amphitheatre in the center of:
(a) Rome (b) Sparta
(c) Babylon (d) Athens
- iii. Olympic Games revived in the late:
(a) 17th century (b) 18th century
(c) 19th century (d) 20th century

- iv. Plato's Academy was like a:
- (a) theatre (b) hostel
(c) court (d) school
- v. In 431 BCE, a war broke out between Athens and:
- (a) Romans (b) Babylonians
(c) Persians (d) Spartans



Q.2 Give short answers of the following:

- i. Who was Cyrus the Great, in Persian Civilization?
- ii. When did Alexander the Great, begin his conquest of the Persian Empire?
- iii. What is meant by the term "Agora" in Ancient Greek Civilization?
- iv. Write the names of two main cities of Greece.
- v. What are Olympic Games?



Q.3 Write the answer of the following in detail:

- i. Analyze the formation of the Persian, Greek and Roman Civilizations.
- ii. Describe the social and political activities of the Persian, Greek and Roman people.
- iii. Write a note on relations between Greeks and Romans.
- iv. Who was Alexander the Great? Enlist three significant victories of him.
- v. How did Rome develop into a republic? Describe.
- vi. Compare the architecture of Persians, Greeks and Romans.



Learning Activities

The Teacher will:

- i. Use a map to find the location of Persian, Greek and Roman Civilizations in the modern world.
- ii. Give verbal notes to the students probing why Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates are famous even today.

- iii. Generate a class debate to explore some details of daily life and social customs of Persian, Greek and Roman Civilizations.
- iv. Assign a group activity to students to discuss how Alexander the Great, conquered a vast area through various war tactics.
- v. Use a timeline to identify the time of the Persian, Greek and Roman Civilizations in the span of Mesopotamia till the decline of the Roman Empire.
- vi. Use a diagram to explain the similarities and differences between Greek and Roman Civilizations in art and culture.



Critical Thinking Questions



- i. How did Persian, Greek and Roman Civilizations differ in their political organizations and values?
- ii. How the Persian Empire was affected by the Greek Civilization?
- iii. What three major civilizations did the Persian Empire expand into?
- iv. How were the Persian and Greek Civilizations similar?



Project

Collect different pictures about Ancient Greek Civilization, paste them on a chart and display it in your classroom.