



Ch. 3
Section 4

The Phoenicians

THE LORDS OF THE SEA...

The Phoenicians were known as brave and courageous merchants and seafarers. Their civilization prospered from from 1500BC to 300 BC. They lived along the Mediterranean coast in what is today Lebanon.

It is believed they were the first to venture great distances; using the north star to guide their voyages. They were the first to reach the British Isles and circumnavigate the African continent. Some historians believe they reached the coast of Mexico but this theory is also disputed by others. They traded with many countries and founded many settlements along the way.

They eventually influenced the Greeks in architecture, religion, and language. No one knows for sure what the Phoenicians called themselves. This was a name given to them later possibly by the Greeks. It is believed that they were descendants of the Canaanites or Sidonians of the Bible.



[Watch: History of the Phoenicians](#)



EUROPE

ASIA

AFRICA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Black Sea

Adriatic Sea

Aegean Sea

Mediterranean Sea

SPAIN

ANATOLIA

GREECE

PHOENICIA

CORSICA

BALEARIC IS.

SARDINIA

SICILY

CYPRUS

Gadir (Cádiz)

Malaca (Málaga)

Rome

Caralis

Panormus (Palermo)

Lixus

Tingis

Hippo

Regius

Utica

Carthage

Hadrumetum

Sabratha

Oea (Tripoli)

Leptis Magna

Alexandria

Memphis

Latakia

Ugarit

Aradus

Byblos

Sidon

Dor

Jerusalem

Joppa

Citium

Berytos

Tyre

- The Phoenicians were a trading people
 - Western part of the Fertile Crescent; near Mediterranean Sea
 - Western edge of Asia
 - Sailors; dominated sea trade
- Two main cities:
 1. Sidon
 2. Tyre.
- Priest-kings
 - Shared government power with leading merchant families & citizen assembly



Phoenicians & the Sea

- Experts at navigation
 - Used wind patterns and ocean currents
 - First to use the North Star to guide voyages
- Explored unknown waters
 - Searched for precious metals
- Established many colonies
 - Carthage, North Africa





Imports & Exports

- **Imports:** goods bought for a foreign country
 - gold
 - silver
 - tin
 - copper
 - iron
 - ivory
 - precious stones
- **Exports:** goods sold to a foreign country
 - wine
 - olive oil
 - salt
 - fish
- Phoenicians would also use imports to make different items:
 - iron tools/weapons
 - bronze/silver bowls
 - gold jewelry









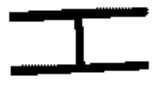
















The Fall of the Phoenician Empire

- Eventually the Roman empire took over all Phoenician city-states & colonies
- Greeks used Phoenician ideas
 - Alphabet: easier to use than cuneiform—22 letters/symbols
 - Each letter stands for a single sound



Phoenician Alphabet

- **Alphabet:** word comes from the first 2 letters in the Greek alphabet
 - Alpha & beta

				
				
				
				
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