

## Weekly Concept Contributions

### Essential Question

What contributions were made by early civilizations?



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# CRADLES OF CIVILIZATION

If you had any doubt that ancient peoples were skilled engineers, a visit to the Temple of Amun-Re at Karnak in Luxor, Egypt, (at left) would be enough to convince you.

- ▶ Archaeologists believe the massive sandstone blocks utilized in constructing the 134 carved columns were hauled to Karnak from 100 miles away.
- ▶ Modern engineers are still puzzling over how beams weighing 140,000 pounds were lifted onto the tops of the 69-foot columns.

## Talk About It



Write words you have learned about the skills of ancient builders and artisans. Then talk with a partner about what ancient buildings and artifacts tell us about the people who made them.



# Vocabulary

Use the picture and the sentences to talk with a partner about each word.



## artifact

We examined the ancient **artifact** to figure out how it was made.

*Describe the oldest artifact you have seen.*



## communal

At the picnic, we all ate together at a **communal** table.

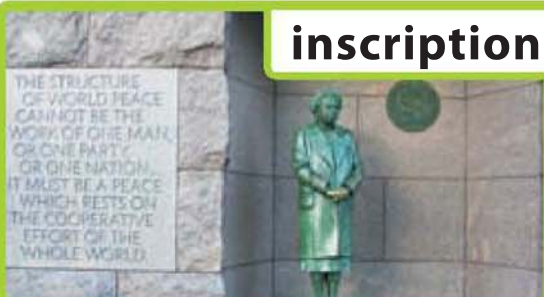
*What is a synonym for communal?*



## derived

Lemonade is **derived** from lemons.

*What types of foods and drinks can be derived from apples?*



## inscription

The **inscription** that goes with her statue quotes one of her famous speeches.

*What else might a statue's inscription include?*



## millennium

After ten centuries, a new **millennium** began in the year 2000.

*How many decades are there in one millennium?*



## stationery

Kyle wrote formal thank-you notes on special **stationery**.

*How are the words stationery and paper related?*



## utilize

You should **utilize** all tools safely.

*Describe some tools that are dangerous if you utilize them incorrectly.*



## yields

Farmers use special plant food to increase crop **yields**.

*Why would farmers want to produce large yields of crops?*

## Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Pick three words. Write three questions for your partner to answer.

**Go Digital!** Use the online visual glossary

# Empire of the Sea



## Essential Question

What contributions were made by early civilizations?

Read about the contributions made by the ancient Phoenicians.

## Between the Mountains and the Sea

Around 1500 B.C., a remarkable civilization began to develop. Squeezed between tree-covered mountains to the east and the Mediterranean Sea to the west, tiny Phoenicia would flourish for more than 1,000 years. During that **millennium**, the Phoenicians would explore far beyond their homeland and establish a trading empire. It was their clever solutions to key problems that enabled them to thrive.



## Resource Rich

*Imagine what it was like to live in Phoenicia. Although your country is not big in size, it is rich in resources. Cedar trees cover the hills. Farmers grow many crops, including large **yields** of grapes, olives, and wheat. There are more than enough resources for your own people. How will you profit from what you don't use?*

To benefit from their resources, the Phoenicians began producing various goods. For example, they cut cedar trees to use as timber for building. They used the shells from a type of snail called the murex to make a highly prized purple dye. And as more than one ancient **artifact** shows, they also made beautiful objects of glass. The Phoenicians believed they could find buyers for all of these goods.

## From Cedar Trees to Cargo Ships

*Because of Phoenicia's location, your neighbors include Greeks, Egyptians, Hebrews, and other groups. These people are all possible trading partners. The most practical way of reaching them is to cross the Mediterranean. But your merchants have access only to small boats, which cannot hold much cargo. How will you transport your goods to the people who want them?*



◀ **Modern shipbuilders reproduce the designs of Phoenician ships.**

Archaeologists have been able to **utilize** written records from other civilizations to learn about the Phoenicians. From those records, they have **derived** evidence that

the Phoenicians constructed enormous cargo ships from cedar wood. They used a method called “keeling the hull.” The keel was a large wooden beam forming the central spine of the ship. The ship’s curved hull, or frame, was built around the keel. This technique kept the ship strong and stable in the water. As a result, Phoenician ships could safely carry large, heavy loads.

The Phoenicians also became skilled navigators. In earlier times, traders had sailed only during the daytime. They stayed close to the coast for fear of losing their way. But the Phoenicians learned how to find their way using the stars. They could chart a course and steer their ships by locating the North Star, which soon became known as the “Phoenician star.”

## **Trade Routes and Trading Posts**

*Your work as a Phoenician merchant includes exporting timber, dyed fabrics, glassware, and some foods. You also want to import copper, tin, silk, spices, horses, and papyrus for making **stationery** to write on. How will you create a system of trade routes for buying and selling these goods?*



At first, there were few set trade routes for the Phoenicians to follow. So they developed their own. They traveled west and south around Africa and north to Europe. Phoenician routes helped other people trade, too. As Phoenician merchants sailed from place to place, they exchanged goods, ideas, and customs among people in many cultures. Their routine ports even developed into cities. Carthage in northern Africa provided a safe harbor for Phoenician merchants over many years.

## TIMELINE OF PHOENICIAN HISTORY

**1300 B.C.**  
Phoenicians establish treaties with Egypt.

**810 B.C.**  
The port city of Carthage is founded.

**600 B.C.**  
Phoenicians sail as far as present-day Great Britain.

**332 B.C.**  
The Greek army conquers the key Phoenician city of Tyre.

| Phoenician Letters. |   |          |
|---------------------|---|----------|
| 𐤀                   | 𐤁 | A        |
| 𐤂                   | 𐤃 | Bh or B  |
| 𐤄                   |   | Gh or G  |
| 𐤅                   | 𐤆 | Dh or D  |
| 𐤇                   | 𐤈 | H        |
| 𐤉                   | 𐤊 | V or W   |
| 𐤋                   |   | Z or Dz  |
| 𐤌                   | 𐤍 | Ch or Hh |
| 𐤎                   | 𐤏 | T        |
| 𐤐                   | 𐤑 | J or I   |
| 𐤒                   | 𐤓 | Ch or K  |
| 𐤔                   | 𐤕 | L        |
| 𐤖                   | 𐤗 | M        |
| 𐤘                   | 𐤙 | N        |
| 𐤚                   |   | S        |
| 𐤛                   | 𐤜 | As or Gs |
| 𐤝                   | 𐤞 | Ph or P  |
| 𐤟                   | 𐤠 | Ts or Ss |
| 𐤡                   |   | K or Q   |
| 𐤢                   | 𐤣 | R        |
| 𐤤                   | 𐤥 | Sh or S  |
| 𐤦                   |   | Th or T  |

### From Aleph to Zayin

With trade going well, you need to keep accurate records of sales. But writing systems were complicated. Egyptian writing involved making an **inscription**, or carving, of symbols called hieroglyphs. Mesopotamian writing, called cuneiform, grouped wedge-like shapes to represent ideas and numbers. What simpler, **communal** system of writing could you use to help everyone understand your records?

The Phoenicians found a solution: an alphabet. This new system of writing used combinations of the same letters to represent different sounds. Beginning with the letter *aleph*, their alphabet included 22 consonants. Because of its simplicity, it was soon widely adopted in many places. It also became the basis for alphabets used in many modern languages, including ours.

By 300 B.C., the Phoenician trading civilization had fallen into decline. But the Phoenicians' alphabet, navigational methods, and shipbuilding designs lived on. Thousands of years later, the contributions of ancient Phoenicia continue to enrich our world.

▲ The Phoenician alphabet used letters to represent sounds.

### Make Connections

Talk about the important contributions of the Phoenicians. **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

Describe how one Phoenician innovation affects your everyday life. **TEXT TO SELF**