

# Section 3.4

Chapter 3, The Fertile Crescent





# Key Terms

- Import: is a good or service sold within a country that is produced in another country.
- Export: Is a good or service produced within a country and sold outside the country's borders.
- Navigation: The art of steering a ship from place to place
- Colony: Is an area ruled by a distant country.
- Cultural Diffusion: Is the spreading of cultural traits from one region to another.
- Alphabet: Is a small set of letters or symbols, each of which stands for a single sound.

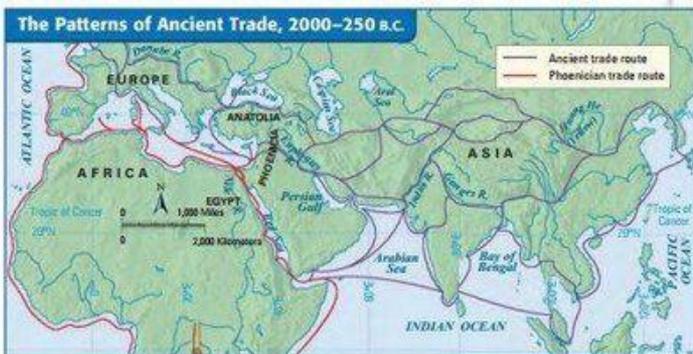


# The Phoenician People

- The Phoenicians were fearless sailors who guided ships full of trade goods through ocean waters. They dominated the sea trade!
- The Phoenician society developed from earlier Canaanites, who are people who lived in parts of now Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.
- Phoenician society began to emerge in 1500 BC
- The rulers of the Phoenician city-states were priest kings. They shared their government power with leading merchant families and a citizen assembly.

## Phoenician Trade

Phoenicia was located in a great spot for trade because it lay along well-traveled routes between Egypt and Asia. However, the Phoenicians did more than just trade with merchants who happened to pass through their region. The Phoenicians became expert sailors and went looking for opportunities to make money.



## Merchant Ships

Phoenician sailors developed the round boat, a ship that was very wide and had a rounded bottom. This shape created a large space for cargo.

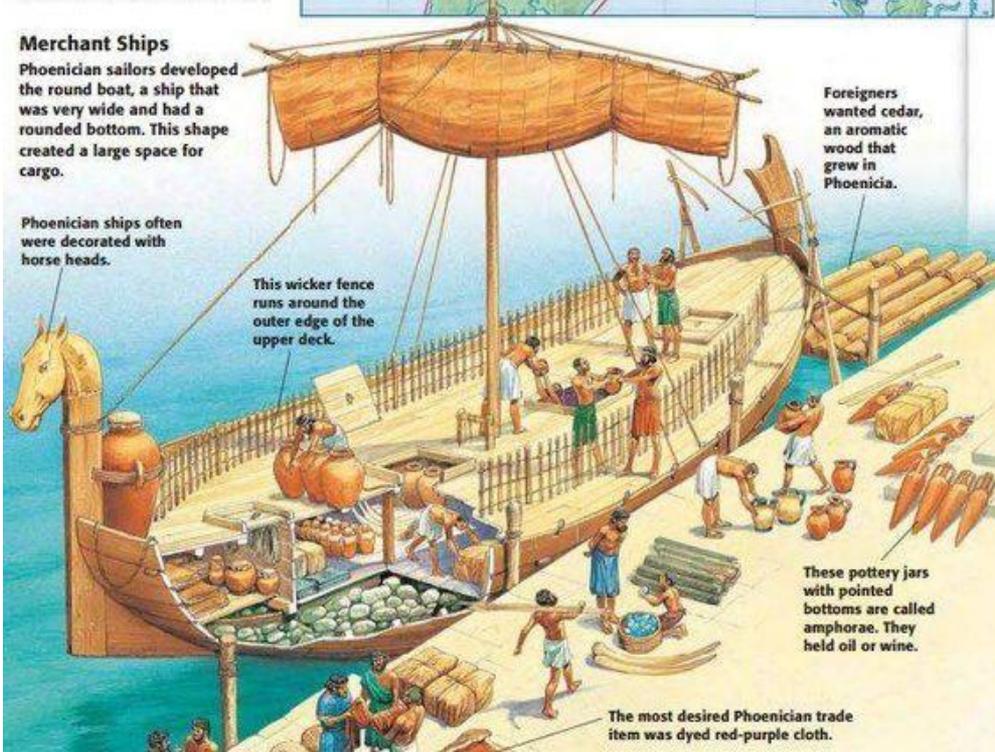
Phoenician ships often were decorated with horse heads.

This wicker fence runs around the outer edge of the upper deck.

Foreigners wanted cedar, an aromatic wood that grew in Phoenicia.

These pottery jars with pointed bottoms are called amphorae. They held oil or wine.

The most desired Phoenician trade item was dyed red-purple cloth.



# Farming/Trade



- The Lebanon Mountains formed Phoenicia's eastern border. Which sloped down close to the Mediterranean coast, leaving a little flat land for farming.
- Made rare purple dye from tiny sea snails.
- The dye was so rare that purple clothing (which was made by the dye) was sold for very high prices.
- Also made pottery, glass, and metal objects. Used tree for furniture.
- They received goods like gold, silver, tin, copper, iron, ivory, and precious stones. The craft workers would turn them into different items like bowls, tools, weapons, and jewelry.
- Then they would export those goods along with pine/cedar logs, wine, olive oil, salt, fish, and other goods.



# Navigation

- Their location was ideal for trade. Many people depended on them to trade goods across the Mediterranean Sea.
- Phoenicians developed a thorough knowledge of wind patterns and ocean currents. They are believed to be the first people to use the North Star to guide their voyages.

## Exploring Unknown Waters

- Phoenicians traveled far and wide and explored unknown waters.
- It's theorized that they explored to find precious metals to trade.

## Colonies and City-States

- Phoenicians started settlements in areas that they frequented while trading. They eventually grew into colonies due to fertile land and resources.
- Under attack from the Assyrians, Phoenicians left Phoenicia and migrated to other city-states.
- Carthage, a wealthy city-state on the North African coast.



# Legacy of Phoenicians

- The Phoenicians' legacy included the spread of its culture and a new way of writing.

## Spread of Culture

- Through trade, Phoenicians linked diverse people and culture together around the Mediterranean region and beyond.
- The Greeks used the Phoenician standard of weights and measurement and the influence still exists today.

## The Alphabet

- The Phoenicians developed an alphabet. It had 22 symbols. Now they only had to memorize 22 symbols to write and made writing much easier!
- People who traded with the Phoenicians learned the alphabet to communicate with them, eventually the Greeks began to use the alphabet and add on letters to represent vowels. Then the Romans changed some letters and the result is what ours looks like today.