

# The Phoenicians – Outline

## I. Geography

- a. Phoenicia was located between the eastern Mediterranean coast and the Lebanon Mountains

## II. Government

- a. Not a unified nation
- b. Consisted of independent city-states

## III. Phoenicians were sailors

- a. No maps or modern technology
- b. Sailed beyond Gibraltar (Pillars of Hercules)
- c. Evidence they may have circumnavigated Africa

## IV. Phoenician colonies

- a. Sailed and colonized throughout the Mediterranean beginning circa 1000 BCE
  - i. Gades (Cadiz, Spain)
  - ii. Carthage (Tunis, Tunisia)
- b. Modern DNA testing links Palestinians, Lebanese, and residents of old Phoenician colonies

## V. Trade

- a. Leading sailors and traders of ancient world
- b. They traded:
  - i. Cloth
  - ii. Dye (purple dye prized by kings, made from shellfish murex)
  - iii. Glass
  - iv. Pottery
- c. Traded for:
  - i. Tin (Britannia)
  - ii. Hides, ivory, ostrich feathers, and slaves (Africa)
  - iii. Gold, precious stones, and spices (India)

## VI. Alphabet

- a. Carried their civilization and culture where they traded
- b. Adopted and adapted Egyptian hieroglyphics into an alphabet of 22 symbols (letters) representing sounds
  - i. Egyptian hieroglyphics ∟
    - 1. Egyptian hieratic (script) ∟
      - a. Phoenician ∟
        - i. Greek ∟
          - 1. Roman (Latin)

## VII. Review questions

- a. Where was Phoenicia located?
- b. Name two Phoenician colonies.
- c. Where did the Phoenicians trade?
- d. What is considered to be the Phoenicians' greatest contribution to the world?