

VOLUME 4: PRE-1492



BLACK HISTORY FLASHCARDS

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Lucy the Australopithecus

The Pliocene Epoch
3.22 - 3.18 million years ago

- Discovered in present-day Ethiopia in 1974, Lucy is a collection of fossilized bones that once made up the skeleton of a hominid (a member of the ape family).
- Estimated to have lived around 3.22 - 3.18 million years ago, Lucy was an Australopithecus and thought by many to be our earliest ancestor.
- Unlike other primates, Lucy and those like her stood up straight, had hair, long arms, and slightly curved fingers and toes.
- Though she looked somewhat like a human, Lucy was much shorter and had a much smaller brain.
- Scientists still aren't sure how Lucy died, but it appears she may have fallen from a tree and landed in a stream.
- Even if Lucy isn't our ancestor, her discovery in Africa added an important piece of our fossil record and added more support to the "out of Africa" theory that suggests all human life originated there.

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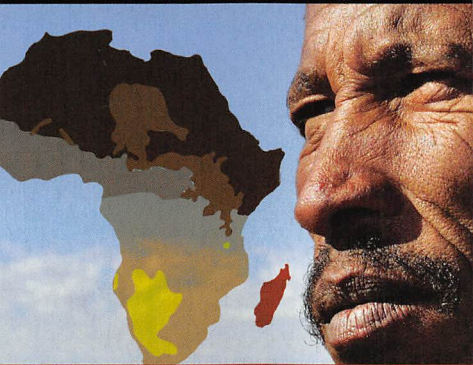
Aboriginal Australians

c. 70,000 BCE – Present

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- The Aboriginal (indigenous) Australians are a collection of roughly 500 different groups that are considered the first people to inhabit Australia.
- Scientific research suggests that some of the Aboriginal Australians descended from a group of Africans that left the continent for Australia over 75,000 years ago.
- Aboriginals have a close relationship with nature, are excellent storytellers, and skilled musicians/artists.
- Though they remained independent until the late 19th century, in the 1880s, many Aboriginals were forced to join White communities and assimilate their culture.
- Seizure of their land by the British and the introduction of diseases caused the population to decrease greatly.
- Although less than 5% of Australians are aboriginal today, great strides are being taken to re-establish lost culture and improve the healthcare of this long-standing group.

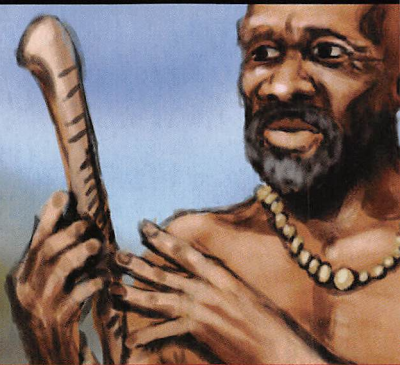


Khoisan languages (click languages)

c. 60,000 – Present

Credit: South Africa Tourism, under the Creative Commons 2.0 Generic license. Map overlaid.

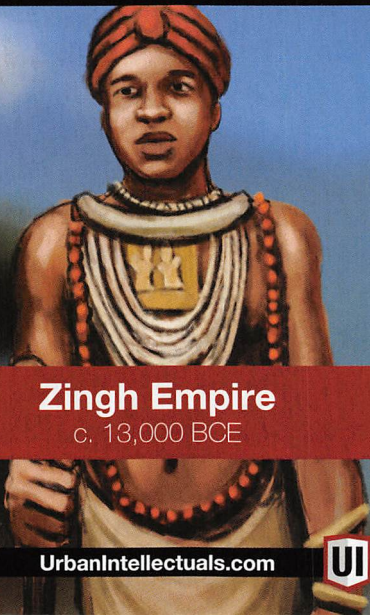
- Originally classified by Joseph Greenberg, Khoisan languages is a group of African languages.
- These languages are often used with click consonants. It is a feature that is usually unique to this group of languages.
- The click is only used when it is supposed to be used as it has a specific meaning in the languages.
- This language is one of the smaller languages in Africa and is often used with Southern Africa's original inhabitants.
- Believed to be one of the most ancient languages in the world as the Khoisan people have been around for over 60,000 years.
- The most widespread Khoisan language is Khoekhoe (or Nàamá) of Namibia, with a quarter of a million speakers.



Lebombo Bone

c. 35,000 BCE

- Discovered during the 1970s in the Border Cave excavations in the Lebombo Mountains of Swaziland.
- One of the oldest mathematical objects known at about 35,000 BCE and holds 29 notches which are easily seen.
- The markings are thought to symbolize the lunar cycle, which had 29.531 days.
- The instrument is made of a baboon fibula and is the oldest indication showing a symbolic connection between the baboon and Khonsu people.
- The connection with the lunar cycles makes some people believe that women were the first mathematicians as they were keeping track of their menstrual cycles.
- The discovery of the Lebombo Bone gives evidence to the belief that Africa is the birthplace of basic and advanced mathematics.



Zingh Empire

c. 13,000 BCE

- The Zingh empire is believed by some to be one of the oldest empires in the world, existing around 15,000 years ago.
- The Zingh were thought to be a highly advanced civilization and the first to use and hang the red, black and green flag around their land.
- This empire was thought to be located in West Africa, from Egypt and all the way up to the Sahara.
- This empire had a green environment with lakes, horticulture, mummification, villages, and towns.
- The ruler of the Zingh Empire was Tyru Afrik, who was a god-like ruler.
- Zingh historians say they were the first universal civilization because of its influence over so many other African civilizations in areas like the Mediterranean, Americas, China, Greece, and Japan.

Credit: Berber Girl, Collectie Stichting Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen, under the Creative Commons Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.

The Berbers

c. 10,000 BCE – Present

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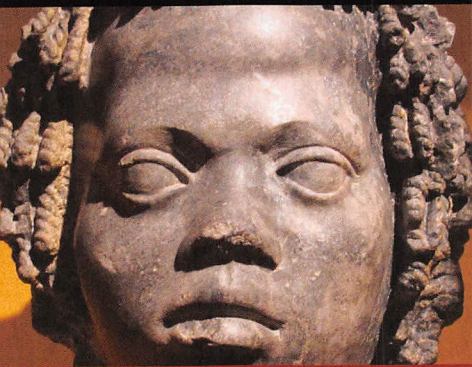
- The Berbers are a pre-Arab ethnic group that comes from North Africa (Morocco, Niger, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Mali, and Mauritania) that date back to prehistoric times.
- Thought to be connected to the ancient Egyptians, the Berbers created their own system of hieroglyphic writing and phonetic alphabet.
- Most Berbers lived in the mountains, but the culture consisted of many different tribes, religions, and combined languages.
- Originally, the Berbers were Christians and Jews, but most converted to Islam at the time it also spread across Europe.
- Famous Berber leaders include Kahina (Dihya) who bravely led her troops against the Arabs in 702 CE and Ramesses II, the third Pharaoh of the 19th Dynasty of Egypt.
- The Berber culture still thrives today with at least 14-million Berber-language speakers living in North Africa.



Ancient Mesopotamia

c. 10,000 BCE – 500 CE

- Considered to be the first civilization located in the current day Middle East.
- Their citizens built houses and ran a complex government.
- Around 3500 BCE, the Mesopotamians invented the wheel.
- Because they were mainly farmers, the Mesopotamians invented the seeder plow, which allowed them to plow and seed at the same time.
- Developed the first known city in the world called Eridu.
- Other creations by the Mesopotamians were Babylonian mathematics, glass, and sanitation techniques of the ancient world.
- Some of the major cities developed by Mesopotamia are Baghdad, Babylon, and Nippur.



The Nubians

c. 9000 BCE – Present

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- An ancient people of Northern Africa, the Nubians were a non-Arab group who lived in both Egypt and Sudan, also known as Kush.
- The Nubians were excellent hunters and herdsman, and as they moved towards the Nile, they also began the art of pottery and jewelry making.
- As miners of gold and ivory, the Nubians were able to trade with their neighbors (the Egyptians).
- Tales of several fierce Nubian leaders have been passed down including the one-eyed warrior queen Amanirenas who fought off the Romans.
- Modern Nubians live in what was ancient Nubia and speak the Nubian language.



Cheddar Man **The First Modern Briton**

c. 8000 BCE

Credit: Photographer Paul Townsend, under the Creative Commons Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.

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- Discovered in Gough's Cave in Cheddar Gorge, Somerset, England in 1903, Cheddar Man is Great Britain's oldest complete human skeleton.
- Though originally thought to be fair-skinned, DNA testing has shown that Cheddar Man had blue eyes, very dark skin, and wavy hair.
- Because he lived in the Stone Age, Cheddar Man was part of the hunter-gatherer group who migrated from Africa several thousand years ago.
- Though little is known about Cheddar Man himself, we do know that he ate a good diet but died a violent death in his 20s.
- The discovery and DNA testing of Cheddar Man are important because it challenges what most people think about ancient peoples in European countries.



Great Pyramid of Giza

c. 2580-2560 BCE

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- The Great Pyramid of Giza, in Cairo, Egypt, is also known as the Pyramid of Khufu or the Pyramid of Cheops.
- The oldest and largest Pyramid at Giza and the oldest Seven Wonder of the Ancient World.
- It actually has 8 sides that can only be seen from above.
- Believed to be a tomb for the Fourth Dynasty Egyptian Pharaoh Khufu but no mummies were ever found opening up debates amongst scholars for possible other uses.
- Originally stood 481m tall, the tallest structure on earth for 3800 years.
- The sides of the base have an average error of only 2.28 inches in length and it is the most accurately aligned structure in existence, facing true north with only 3/60th of a degree of error.
- Estimated to weight 5,750,000 tons it sits on the center of the land mass of the earth, one of only two places on the planet that could support its weight.



Thailand Mani

c. 2500 BCE – Present

- A Thailand ethnic group.
- Thought to be the only group to have traveled from Africa and settled in Thailand.
- The Mani people are known as Sakai in Thailand but dislike the name due to the meaning, so they go by Maniq or Mani.
- While the exact time period of when they settled is not known, it is believed the Mani have been in Thailand for close to 4500 years.
- They live in groups, known as bands, which make up between 15 to 30 people, which is how they support each other.
- The Mani people follow their traditional way of living as the society does not believe in their rights.
- There are only about 300 people identifying as Mani left.



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Maat

c. 2375 BCE

- An ancient Egyptian female goddess who represented truth, morality, balance, and justice which were the foundations of Ancient Egyptian civilization.
- Ancient Egyptians believed she was the judge on who would enter the afterlife through weighing their soul against her feather of truth.
- The earliest writings which mention Maat date back more than 2,300 years ago to the Old Kingdom of Egypt.
- She is often profiled as a winged female with an ostrich feather on her head, which was her feather of truth.
- She was seen as the model of human behavior and if humans were in tune with her spirit, they would live well.
- The Ancient Egyptians believed Maat bound everything together, making people, the world, and universe indestructible.



Earliest Known Surgery

c. 2300 BCE

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- Conducted in Egypt about 2300 BCE.
- There were three levels of injuries in Ancient Egypt, they were treatable, contestable, and untreatable.
- During this time, Ancient Egyptian surgeons were able to perform brain surgery successfully.
- The tomb of Qar, who was a doctor during the 6th dynasty, held the earliest known surgical tools.
- Some surgical tools used were knives, pincers, scales, spoons, drills, saws, and a vase with burning incense.
- Artificial toes and eyeballs were also often used for decorative purposes.

Credit: J'Amun Ra kamufel, Douzel Medina, used under the Creative Commons Share Alike 4.0 International 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic license.

Amun Ra

c. 2100 BCE

- With a name that means hidden light, Amun Ra is the most worshiped and oldest Ancient Egyptian ruler.
- Also written as Amon, Ammon and Amen and hypothesized by some to be the root of the word Amen used by Christians and Jews.
- Was first worshiped as two separate gods, Amun, who created the universe and Ra, who was the God of sun and light.
- He was combined into one God between the 11th and 16th centuries BCE.
- During the 25th dynasty, Amun Ra became known as the chief God of the Nubian Kingdom.
- Over time, Egyptians gave Amun Ra the power over all of life on earth, in the underworld, and in heaven.
- There are several temples throughout Egypt dedicated to Amun Ra, such as Karnak, Deir el-Medina, and Luxor.

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The Shang Dynasty of China

c. 1600 BCE – c. 1046 BCE

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- The Shang Dynasty is the first Chinese Dynasty to have archaeological and written records.
- Chinese writing began to develop, they had a 12-month, 360 day calendar, advanced astronomy, math, art, and military technology.
- The location of the Shang Dynasty was in North China's Central plain.
- Many believe the founders of the Shang Dynasty came through Iran from the fertile African Crescent.
- With the first Shang King, a stable government was formed with a social structure that would last for about 600 years.
- Archaeological excavations in 1952 showed the city had walls that were 32 feet high, 65 feet thick, and were four miles long.
- Developed musical instruments like bells, bone flutes, chimes, and drums.



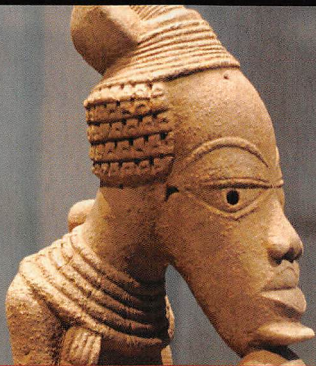
The Phoenicians

1500 BCE – 300 BCE

Credit: Detail of a relief of the eastern stairs of the Apadana at Persepolis (Takht-e Jamshid), Iran. Used under the Creative Commons Share Alike Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic license.

- The Phoenicians were part of an ancient civilization of city-states in what is now called Syria, Lebanon, and Northern Israel.
- Migrated from North Africa.
- The accomplishments of the Phoenicians are great. They created the original alphabet, our number system, and glass making.
- Phoenicians are also famous for first producing the color purple and using it to dye clothing for the royals.
- Known not as warriors but maritime seaman, the Phoenicians grew their Empire not by waging war but by setting up trading posts.
- Pythagoras, the father of numbers and the great general Hannibal are both famous Phoenicians.

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Nok Civilization

c. 1500 BCE – c. 300 CE

- In 1928 a group of Nigerian tin miners discovered the first traces of this previously unknown mysterious and great civilization.
- They are named after after the Ham village of Nok in Kaduna State of Nigeria where their statues were first discovered.
- The discovery of pottery, tools, paint and amazing sculptures revealed just how advanced they were.
- They had a complex Judicial system centuries prior to modern known systems. This system included many classes of courts with crimes from murder to family disputes being handled.
- The Nok civilization are the earliest known creators of life-sized terra cotta statues.
- Knives, spear points and jewelry uncovered shows that they were advanced metal workers.
- Somewhere between 200-300 CE they disappeared but the reasons are yet to be uncovered.

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Queen Tiye

1398 BCE – 1338 BCE

- Known by many names, such as The Nubian Queen of Egypt, Lady of The Two Lands, Great of Praises, and Hereditary Princess.
- She married Amenhotep III, a Pharaoh in the 18th dynasty, and was one of the most trusted and confident Queens.
- After her death, her husband constructed a temple in Nubia, which he dedicated to her along with several monuments.
- She is also considered one of the most influential women of Ancient Egypt.
- Her mummified remains were found in 1898 by Victor Loretin, who described her as one of the most beautifully preserved mummies he had found.
- In 2010, a DNA test revealed that this mummy was in fact Queen Tiye.

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Queen Nefertiti

c. 1370 BCE – c. 1330 BCE

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- Nefertiti, the wife of Pharaoh Akhenaten, was one of the most powerful and beautiful Egyptian queens of all time.
- Nefertiti was depicted as being equal to her husband and made many of the decisions for Egypt.
- She created a new religion placing herself and her husband in a position that was almost as powerful as the gods.
- This religious change was very different because it changed from the worshiping of many gods to only praising the Sun God Aten.
- Because she had no sons, only six daughters, Nefertiti lost the throne when her husband died c.1335 BCE.
- Soon after, she disappeared from history, possibly dying from a plague that swept through Egypt.

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King Tutankhamun

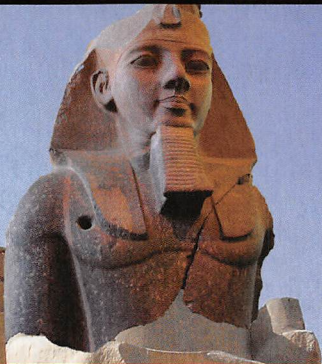
c. 1341 BCE – c. 1323 BCE

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- Reigned the 18th Egyptian Dynasty from around 1332 to 1323 BCE, which made him the 12th Pharaoh.
- Tutankhamun was about nine years old when he became King around 1332 BCE.
- During his reign, King Tut tried to restore better relationships with ancient Egypt's neighbors.
- King Tut also reversed the radical religious beliefs that his father forced upon Egypt and reinforced the more traditional religious beliefs.
- King Tut died at the age of 19 and was nearly forgotten in history until his tomb was discovered in 1922.
- King Tut's tomb was the most intact Egyptian tomb ever found with thousands of artifacts from King Tut's time that have helped historians understand the 18th Egyptian Dynasty.

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Ramses the Great

c.1303 BCE – c. 1213 BCE

- Also known as Ramesses II
- Pharaoh of Egypt and reigned from 1279 BCE to 1213 BCE.
- Became the Prince of Egypt at 15 years old and joined his father on military campaigns, leading battles alone by the age of 22.
- Became the pharaoh of Egypt at 25 years old and began expanding the Egyptian Empire.
- Led the Battle of Kadesh, which is the oldest recorded battle in history, and ended the battle by creating one of the first peace treaties with the Hittites.
- Throughout his reign, he built many temples and other structures, such as Abu Simbel, Ramesseum, and Pi-Ramesses.
- Since his death, he has become known as the greatest Pharaoh of Ancient Egypt.

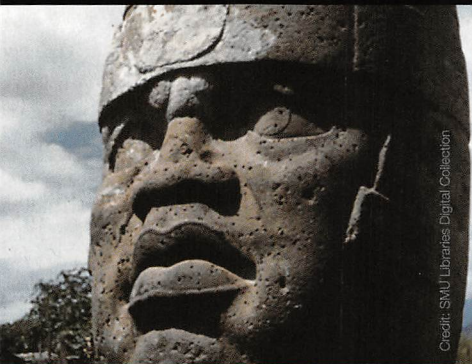


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Ramses III

1217 BCE – 1155 BCE

- Reigned during the 20th Dynasty from 1186 BCE until 1155 BCE.
- Defended his country against invaders during three different wars.
- He was the second Pharaoh in the 20th Dynasty and has come to be known as Egypt's last great Pharaoh.
- Established a large amount of foreign trade contracts.
- Has become well-known for his building program, which helped create better law and order around his land.
- During his reign, Ramses III made a large donation of land to several temples throughout Egypt, such as Thebes, Memphis, and Heliopolis.
- He also gave various relief decorations in construction of other temples.



Credit: SMU Libraries Digital Collection

The Olmec Civilization/ Mesoamericans

c. 1200 BCE – c. 400 BCE

- The Olmecs were thought to be the first great civilization of the Americas, thriving on the coast of Mexico and Central America for hundreds of years.
- Scientists have identified several Olmec carvings and know that the group were religious and probably practiced human sacrifice to please their Gods.
- The Olmecs were talented sculptors and artists and created many amazing pieces of art, the most famous being massive colossal heads.
- They were also skilled architects, engineers, and traders who created pyramids and agricultural systems.
- The Aztecs and Mayas borrowed from the Olmec way of life.
- Believed to be of African ancestry by African scholars and are heralded as one of the foundation of culture of the Americas in the book by Ivan Van Sertima entitled *They Came Before Columbus*.



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The Carthaginians

c. 814 BCE – 146 BCE



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- The Carthaginians lived in an ancient city on the northern shore of Africa.
- Queen Elissar, the Princess of Tyre, was the founder of Carthage and the niece of Jezebel.
- Great wealth was brought to the city as merchants and explorers built up trade networks in and around the area.
- Though Rome was a major enemy, the Carthaginians were able to keep the Romans at bay for a while by building up a strong Navy and fierce leaders.
- Hamilcar Barca, the father of Hannibal, was a Carthaginian leader known for his lightning fast military raids.
- The Carthaginians fought the Romans in three different Punic wars and their city was eventually destroyed.

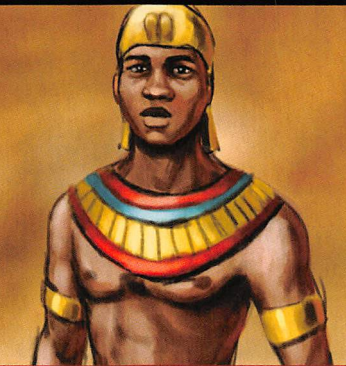
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The Etruscans

c. 800 BCE – 264 BCE

- The Etruscans were one of the first advanced societies in present-day Rome.
- Organized into city-states, the civilization included around 3,000 towns and was very different from their Roman neighbors in look, language, and culture.
- As metal makers, seaman, dentists, engineers, and successful traders, the Etruscans were a wealthy people that lived in luxurious homes filled with gold and other precious metals.
- The Etruscans were superstitious and practiced several interesting practices to predict the future, like reading the sections of human and animal livers and breaking wishbones.
- Many of the first streets, temples, and water systems in Rome were built by the Etruscans.
- Historians believe that their obsession with religion and funeral practice took their focus away from expanding and led to their eventual fall.



Alara of Nubia

c. 790 BCE – c. 765 BCE

- Alara was the first known king of Kush, ruling an ancient kingdom in Nubia which was located below Egypt and in the area of Sudan.
- As the founder of the Napatan royal dynasty, Alara governed the Empire with his wife and half-sister, Kasaqa.
- Little is known about Alara's rule, but he was able to unify much of Nubia during his reign and strengthen his new kingdom.
- When Alara died, his brother took his place and continued to grow the Empire.
- Alara's ancient Kingdom would flourish for centuries because of his strong leadership and strategic planning.



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Memnon

c. 700 BCE

- King of the Ethiopians in Greek Mythology who fought in the Trojan War.
- Said to have great military skill and rank, he brought an army to Troy's defense against the Achaean invaders.
- During battle, Memnon was killed by the Greek hero Achilles.
- Zeus, who was a Greek god, noticed the tears of Memnon's mother, Eos, and became so moved by her emotion that he decided to make Memnon immortal.
- Myths say that the soldiers of Memnon's army were turned into birds known as Memnonides and would come to his grave every year to fight and weep over his grave.



Queen Candace of Kush

c. 350 BCE

- Also known as Kandake, Queen Candace was an Ethiopian Queen who ruled the Kingdom of Kush c. 330 BCE.
- The name Candace was given by the Europeans to all queens of Ethiopia, but this queen has a special story.
- Legend says that her true name was Amanirenas and not only was she a ruler but also a fierce warrior.
- Candace faced many great militaries and even positioned herself on top of a war elephant to battle Alexander the Greek, he is thought to have either settled with her or retreated.
- Even after losing an eye in battle, Candace continued to fight against Rome and defeat nations that came up against Kush.



Hannibal Barca of Carthage

247 BCE – c. 182 BCE

- Hannibal was a warrior and leader of the Carthaginian army in the 2nd and 3rd century BCE.
- The son of a general, he swore a vow of hostility against the Roman Army at an early age.
- At the age of 26, Hannibal became the leader of the Carthaginian Army and began to wage war on several countries including Spain.
- His military attacks started the Second Punic war and led up to his famous march across the Pyrenees Alps.
- During this march, Hannibal braved severe weather and attacks while leading 100,000 troops and 40 war elephants and waged war on Rome.
- Although he eventually lost to the Romans, Hannibal is known for being a military mastermind who fought with strength despite being an underdog.

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The Rosetta Stone

196 BCE

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- A unique stone that features both Greek and Egyptian languages and uses three different scripts, Hieroglyphic, Demotic, and Greek.
- Pierre Bouchard, a French captain, discovered the Rosetta Stone in 1799.
- Thomas Young of England and Jean-François Champollion of France were the two main people who worked on figuring out what the Rosetta Stone said.
- The Rosetta Stone was carved by a group of priests who were honoring an Egyptian King as it lists everything the King did.
- It is believed that the Rosetta Stone was carved in 196 CE.
- The Rosetta stone was particularly important because it provided the key to unlocking Egyptian Hieroglyphs and their meanings. Knowledge of Egyptian Hieroglyph's meaning can be attributed to the translation of Rosetta stone.

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The Zodiac from the temple in Dendera

c. 50 BCE

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Planisphere taken from the Temple of Dendera?

- The Zodiac of Dendera is located in the Temple of Hathor at the Dendera temple complex in Egypt.
- It is a projecting image on the ceiling of the temple and is dedicated to Osiris, an Egyptian god.
- It is an image of the sky which includes the famous 12 constellations the Zodiac.
- It also includes five planets, all of which are associated with the signs of the Zodiac.
- The image also shows 36 spirits which are symbolized in the first ring to show the Egyptian calendar.
- Through examination, the Zodiac was dated back to 50 BCE.



Blacks in Ancient Greece

c. 5 BCE

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- The first Greek literature that mentions Black Greeks was written in 5 BCE, but it is likely that people of African descent were present there before this time.
- Because Greece lies just north of Africa, African people including Ethiopians traveled there, and some lived there even though there were thought to be no large communities.
- Many ancient Greek paintings, pottery pieces, and works of art depict the Black people that lived in or traveled to Greece.
- One famous Black Greek was Memnon, the student of famous philosopher Herodes Atticus.
- To find indigenous Blacks in Greece today is rare except in the village of Avato where there are several families of African descent.

Credit: Photographer Hervy Zo Rakotoniramanana, under the Creative Commons 2.0 Generic license

The Malagasy People of Madagascar

c. 1 – Present

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- The Malagasy are a culturally diverse group thought to be the first people to settle on the island of Madagascar.
- Two kingdoms, the Merina and the Sakalava, rose up in the 17th and 19th centuries and were supported by the British but eventually colonized by the French.
- Genetic testing shows their ethnic makeup to be around 60 percent African and 40 percent Asian, the cultural mixture stemming from different groups migrating to the island.
- Even though the people are racially different, they share the same language and culture in each region.
- The Malagasy believe that their dead ancestors influence their lives and try to keep them happy by avoiding certain activities like pointing a finger at a grave or wearing red at a funeral.



Credit: Photographer A. Davey under the Creative Commons 2.0 Generic license

The Kingdom of Aksum

c. 100 – c. 940

- Also known as ancient Ethiopia, The Kingdom of Aksum was an East African Empire that was a center for trade since it lay between Rome and India.
- Legend says that Aksum was founded by Menelik I, the son of King Solomon of Israel and the Queen of Sheba.
- Aksum is considered by many the holding place of the Ark of the Covenant, the gold-covered chest that holds the Ten Commandments stone tablets.
- The people of Aksum minted their own coins, created a written language, and figured out a way to grow crops in the mountains.
- Aksum is also known for its unique architecture since the people built 100-foot towers instead of pyramids that were common at the time.
- There were no major battles that defeated Aksum, but for unknown reasons, the Empire was abandoned around 940 CE.

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By Eduard Charlemont



The Moors

c. 1 – c. 1500

- The Moors were an Islamic, nomadic people of Northern Africa who conquered most of Spain and Portugal in the early 700s.
- With their advances in astronomy, math, art, and farming, the Moors helped transition Europe into the Renaissance Period.
- The Moor's capital city, Cordova, was known as the most beautiful and civilized city in Europe during this time.
- Unlike other parts of Europe where most people couldn't read or write at the time, the people that lived under Moorish rule were educated.
- The Moors introduced many things to Spain including many different types of foods and crops. Including lemons, cotton, silk, and sugarcane.
- Though they were defeated in the 1400s, the African Moors strongly influenced Spanish culture for over 700 years and they still do to this day.



St. Nicholas (Santa Claus)

March 15, 270 – December 6, 343

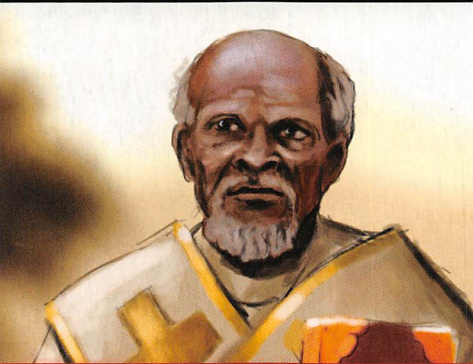
- Nicholas was born in what is now known as Turkey's southern coast in a village called Patara.
- Nicholas was born wealthy and religious and came to believe that he was to give what he could to the poor.
- After his parents died when he was young, he continued to establish his generous beliefs through following the words of Jesus.
- As a young adult, Nicholas was named the Bishop of Myra.
- He was imprisoned Under the Roman emperor Diocletian for his Christian faith.
- After being released from prison when emperor Constantine came to rule, Nicholas worked with other fathers to create today's standard Christian doctrine.
- Nicholas took all of his inheritance from his parents to help the sick and the poor.
- The name "Santa Claus" comes from a dialect of Dutch, from the word "Sante Klaas" which means Saint Nicholas.



Ezana of Axum

c. 315 – c. 356

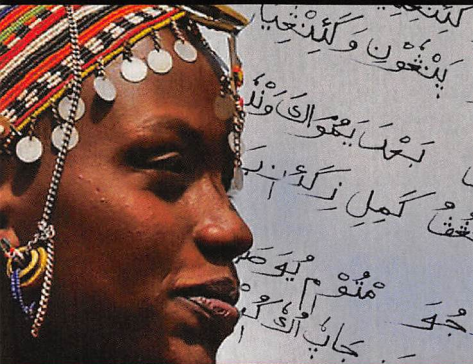
- Ezana was the first Christian king of Ethiopia who took over the kingdom of Axum when he was just a child.
- Like others of his time, Ezana conquered other regions but was known for his fair treatment of those he captured in battle.
- Ezana was originally of Islamic faith but converted to Christianity during his rule, isolating his kingdom from its neighbors.
- During his rule, he defeated the last known Kingdom of Kush that ruled lower Egypt and Sudan.
- The area also flourished politically, socially, and economically while under Ezana's rule.
- Years after Ezana's death on the battlefield, the holy Ark of Covenant was said to have been brought to Axum, making it a holy city.



Saint Augustine

November 13, 354 – August 28, 430

- Born in Africa and is also known as Augustine of Hippo.
- Throughout his life, he was a priest, bishop, and Catholic author.
- Through his writings, he helped influence Western philosophy and Western Christianity.
- Once he became baptized in Christianity, he started to establish the faith, helping develop the concept of original sin.
- Considered the greatest Christian thinker after the Apostle, St. Paul and one of the Catholic Church's Latin fathers.
- Throughout his life, Saint Augustine wrote dozens of books, two of which are *The Confessions* and *The City of God*.



Swahili (Language)

c. 600 – Present

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- The Swahili language is spoken in many areas, such as Kenya, Tanzania, Comoros Islands, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- The language is also called Kiswahili and is the main language of the Swahili people.
- It is estimated that over 140 million people speak Swahili.
- Swahili has around 15 main dialects, the three most common are Kiunguja, Kimvita, and Kiamu.
- The language is thought to have originated around 600 CE.
- The first documented written account of Swahili is a letter written in 1711.
- The earliest known manuscript written in Swahili was a poetic epic called Utendi Wa Tambuka (The History of Tambuka) from 1728.
- Missionaries published the first Swahili newspaper, Habari Ya Mwezi, in 1895.



The Dogons

c. 900-1400 – Present

- The Dogon are an ethnic group living in the central plateau region of Mali, in West Africa.
- They have their own systems of astronomy and calendrical measurements that have been passed down through oral history.
- The Dogon's rituals show a strong sense of harmony, One important ritual involves women praising men, men thanking women, and the young expressing appreciation for the old, and in return, the old recognizing the contributions of the young.
- The 1976, Robert K. G. Temple book, *The Sirius Mystery*, claims that the Dogon knew that Sirius is part of a binary star system, and had knowledge of its second star, Sirius B, a white dwarf completely invisible to the human eye. The West only made this discovery centuries later with telescopes and modern equipment.

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Almoravids

1040 – 1147

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- The Almoravids were a group of nomadic Berber people who ruled Morocco during the 11th and 12th centuries.
- A part of the Berbers, the Almoravids were an African people who settled in the Northern parts of the continent.
- Known for their unique dress, the Almoravids traditionally wore a veil (tagelmust) that covered their faces and bodies from the nose down.
- Because they believed in modesty, art and architecture at the time is known for its simplicity.
- With strict religious beliefs, the Muslim Almoravids moved their strong military through Africa, conquering Ghana and spreading their religion.
- Though their dynasty was short-lived, the Empire was successful in stopping the spread of Christianity into their area during their reign.



Benin Kingdom

1180 – 1897

- One of West Africa's greatest historical kingdoms was located in the forest region.
- The Benin Kingdom was created when the Edo people started to worry that their kingdom would fall into chaos without a ruler, so they appointed Prince Oranmiyan of Ife.
- The kingdom was located in what is now southwestern Nigeria.
- Benin was largely involved in the arts and the bronzes that were created in the kingdom became some of Africa's most popular art pieces.
- In the 15th and 16th centuries, the Benin traded cloth, pepper, and ivory with the Europeans and Portuguese for guns, powder, metals, and salt.



Skeletal remains, Ipswich, UK

c. 1190-1300

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- A group of skeletons were found in Ipswich, Suffolk, England in 1992 and carbon dated to between 1190-1300 CE.
- This discovery confirmed that these remains are the oldest fossil evidence of African traits located in Middle Age Europe.
- Archaeologists excavated the site again in 2002 and 2006, discovering more remains.
- About 150 skeletal remains were discovered with at least nine of the skeletons to have sub-Saharan African origin while others had traits from the northern Africa continent.
- The remains have started to tell the story of their lives, such as they ate a well-balanced diet.

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The Kingdom of Great Zimbabwe

c. 1220 – c. 1450

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- The Kingdom of Great Zimbabwe was seated in an area surrounded by walls, buildings, and monuments made from stone.
- The name Zimbabwe is derived from one of two possible terms: the Shona language "dzimba dza mabwe" meaning "great stone houses" or Kalanga language "Nzi we mabwe" meaning "Homestead of Stone".
- Though historians aren't sure who created the great stone kingdom, they estimate it would have taken over 300 years and housed almost 20,000 people.
- Unlike other kingdoms, there are very few records of this kingdom, leaving most of their existence a mystery.
- Historians do know that the area had lots of gold and that trade with the Chinese took place since Chinese pottery was found within the ruins.
- The great city was eventually abandoned, probably due to climate changes that are common in this area of South Africa.



Mansa Musa of the Mali Empire

c.1280 – c. 1337

- Mansa Musa of the Mali Empire was thought to be the richest person that ever lived.
- His estimated net worth exceeded \$400 Billion.
- King Musa was a devout Muslim, and his riches were exposed to the world when he traveled through Egypt on his pilgrimage to Mecca.
- Legend says that he had over 60,000 people with him and that he gave away so much gold during his travels, it made the price of gold fall.
- Not only was King Musa rich, but he was also a skilled military leader who captured 24 different cities.
- Although his Empire eventually fell, it was one of the longest lasting great Black Empires of the time and left an impression on the entire world.

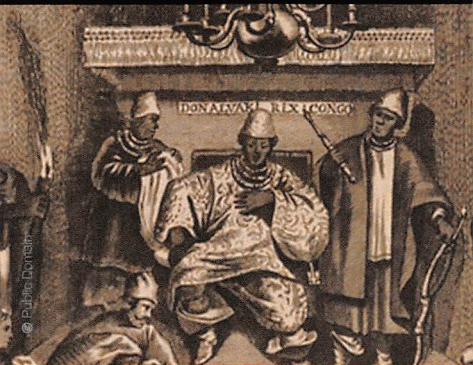


Ibn Battuta

February 24, 1304 – c. 1377

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- A Moroccan explorer who, over the course of about 30 years, traveled the Islamic territories and several other territories, such as North Africa, West Africa, and the Middle East.
- He started his journey alone on the back of a donkey but also joined a Pilgrim caravan.
- His first journey occurred when he was 21 years old and left for Mecca.
- Ibn became known as one of the greatest travelers of his time.
- After his travels, he wrote about his journey in a book titled, *A Gift to Those Who Contemplate the Wonders of Cities and the Marvels of Traveling*.
- Through his journey, Ibn covered over 75,000 miles in total.



The Kingdom of Kongo

1390 – 1914



- The West African Kingdom of Kongo was born from joining of two royal family members, the Mpemba Kasi and the Mbata tribes.
- The King and Queen's child, Lukeni lua Nimi, became the first King of Kongo and solidified the kingdom.
- Three million people belonged to the kingdom, and it was known for being a trading nation of things like ivory, metal, and pottery.
- The kingdom was involved for some time in the slave trade, selling to Portugal, but it created civil unrest and eventually weakened them.
- The kingdom saw some independence through the rubber industry but was eventually defeated by Portugal and became part of Angola.



Songhai Empire

1430 – 1591

- Considered one of the largest and greatest Empires to rule during the pre-colonial period and also the last Empire of this period.
- The Empire stretched from what is now Central Niger and Northwest Nigeria to the Atlantic Ocean, with its peak time stretching over 1,000 miles.
- The capital of the Empire was Gao, which was founded around 800 CE.
- Askia Muhammad was the ruler of the Empire in the late 1400s when it was at its peak.
- Culturally, the empire was ruled by West African traditions and the Islamic religion, which also ruled the Empire's laws.
- One of the most important cities in the empire for trade was Timbuktu.

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Coffee

c. 1400

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- It is estimated that people drink 1.4 billion cups of coffee worldwide every day.
- The drink coffee is made from the roasted seeds of berries from the *Coffea* plant, originally native to tropical Ethiopia and Sudan but also Madagascar, the Comoros, Mauritius, and Réunion in the Indian Ocean.
- The earliest credible evidence of coffee-drinking appears in Sufi shrines in Yemen dated from the middle of the 15th century.
- The word “coffee” has its root from the Ottoman Turkish *kahve*, which itself derived from the Arabic *qahwah* (قهوة).
- Legend has it that ancestors of today’s Oromo people from a region of Kaffa in Ethiopia were the first to make use of the coffee plants energizing effects after Kaldi, a 9th-century herder noticed how excited his goats became after eating the beans from a coffee plant.

Credit: Dmitri Markine(self) <http://www.dmitrimarkine.com>
Masai Elder of Masai tribe, under the Creative Commons
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The Maasai

c. 1400 – Present

- The Maasai people are located in Northern Tanzania and Southern Kenya, with a population around a half million people.
- There are sixteen sections in a Maasai society and they all live in Kraals, which are arraigned in a circular fashion.
- They are semi-nomadic people who run under a communal land management system.
- The Maasai culture is considered the symbol of Kenyan culture because they have preserved their culture and clung onto traditional ways of life.
- The ancestors of the Maasai people originated in Northern Africa and migrated South along the Nile Valley during the 15th Century.
- The greatest source of pride in the Maasai culture is the warrior.
- Boys become warriors through a great ceremony called Eunoto.



The Black Moors of King James IV's Court

1488 – 1513

- In 1488, King James the IV took the throne of Scotland, unifying the country and helping it advance by establishing colleges and bringing in the printing press.
- The king was known as a fun-loving ruler who brought excitement to his court by bringing in lots of foreign people.
- Some of the most famous court guests were the Moors from Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Though many would have been considered slaves of the court, many of the Moors were alchemists, scholars, poets, astrologists, and musicians.
- Many court records show the Moors of the court who were paid, receiving crowns and expensive gowns as gifts.
- The court also provided some Moors with medical care and horses for their service.



Afro-Darienite

Pre-Columbian (Pre-1492)

- A group of pre-Columbian Blacks who lived in Central and South America, who were the first people the Spanish saw on their voyage.
- The Afro-Darienite group is from the African tribes of Panama and Columbia.
- It is believed that the Afro-Darienite groups came to the Americas thousands of years ago when most of the land was still covered by water and ice.
- The groups came and built several mysterious civilizations including the Olmec civilization.
- Today, it is believed that the Afro-Darienite people were most likely descendants of Ethiopians.



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Nelson Mandela

July 18, 1918 – December 5, 2013

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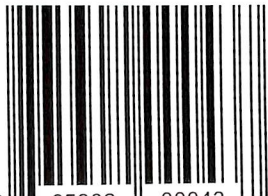


- South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist.
- South Africa's first Black head of state and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election. President of from 1994 to 1999.
- During his time in office he focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid by tackling institutionalised racism and fostering racial reconciliation
- He was arrested in 1962 for conspiring to overthrow the state and was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Rivonia Trial.
- In 1990, after 27 years in prison, President F. W. de Klerk released him. Mandela and Klerk worked together to help negotiate an end to apartheid.
- These efforts led to and resulted in the 1994 multiracial general election in which Mandela won.

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