

1: Cradle of civilization - Wikipedia

History of the idea. The concept "cradle of civilization" is the subject of much debate. The figurative use of cradle to mean "the place or region in which anything is nurtured or sheltered in its earlier stage" is traced by the Oxford English Dictionary to Spenser ().

Arrive in the energetic city of Thessaloniki; transfer to the hotel. Celebrate your arrival at a Welcome Dinner Overnight: Then, continue to the picturesque town of Edessa, full of little streams and parks and best known for its great waterfalls. Enjoy lunch before returning to Thessaloniki. Leisure time for personal discoveries. Tonight, dinner together at a popular restaurant in the historic Ladadika district. This landmark area is known for its spirited nightlife and eclectic mix of tavernas, restaurants, and cafes Overnight: On to the iconic 15th century White Tower, once used as a fort, garrison, and prison. Because of its fame as a notorious prison, it was also known as the "Tower of Blood. Demetrios, devoted to the patron saint of the city, you see a superb example of Byzantine religious architecture. Considered one the most extraordinary finds of the 20th century, Vergina was the first capital of the ancient kingdom of Macedonia. Continue to the town of Kalambaka, nestled at the base of inspirational Meteora for dinner at your hotel and some lively Greek Music! The monasteries appear to be suspended in mid-air! These monasteries are indeed an extraordinary achievement and a powerful example of dedication, determination, and courage. Admire exquisite specimens of 16th-century frescoes and the amazing expanse of the Peneios Valley. After a leisurely lunch, ferry from Igoumenitsa to dazzling Corfu, the second largest Ionian island with its dramatic coastlines, cypress trees, olive groves and miles of wildflowers. Dinner tonight at the hotel Overnight: Continue to view Pontikonisi a picturesque islet, home of the Pantokrator monastery. Later in the charming Old Town of Corfu Kerkyra , a walking tour along the cobbled streets takes you past pastel-hued elegant Venetian mansions, French-style flowered squares, beautiful fortresses, and palaces. Linger on your own in the pleasant town, or sit at one of the cafes of the historic Liston arcade to enjoy a refreshing ginger beer or kumquat liqueur. Tonight, dinner together at a local restaurant Overnight: Then, continue on your route to Preveza, stopping for a refreshing lunch in this town built on the entrance of the Gulf of Amvrakikos. In the late afternoon, arrive in the picturesque port town of Nafpaktos. Considered one of the most important places in Greek history, its stunning setting and ancient ruins are truly inspirational. Walk the Sacred Way to the imposing 4th century Temple of Apollo, site of the most important oracle in the classical world. Enjoy lunch at a local tavern before heading back to Nafpaktos Overnight: After lunch at a local farm, visit the Archaeological Museum to view priceless Greek works of art such as the sculpted decoration of the Temple of Zeus, the famous Hermes of Praxiteles and the statue of Nike of Paionios. Enjoy lunch in Olympia before heading to Nauplion, one of the most beautiful towns in the area of Argolis, which flourished during the Byzantine era. The walking tour of Nauplion is highlighted by ancient walls, medieval castles, Ottoman fountains and neoclassical buildings with unique architecture. Dinner tonight at a popular restaurant in the town of Nauplion Overnight: After a walk on the island, continue to Mycenae, the heartland of Greek mythology. Visit the archaeological site known as the Treasury of Atreus and the Tomb of Agamemnon. This "golden" city of legendary King Atreus and Agamemnon is surely one of the most important archaeological sites of Greece. On to the imposing modernist Acropolis Museum that brings together the surviving treasures of the Acropolis, showcasing layers of history by floating above the ruins with the Acropolis visible above. The rest of the day is yours. Be sure to walk to Constitution Square, to catch a glimpse of the colorfully-costumed Evzone guards, outfitted in traditional Greek style. On the last night of your journey in Greece, enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Tonight, dinner together at your hotel Overnight: Passengers traveling abroad require a passport valid for six months beyond their travel dates. All travelers are responsible to check if a visa is required for all countries on their itinerary.

2: Europe was the birthplace of mankind, not Africa, scientists find

People around the world had been developing the groundwork for civilization for millennia: Agriculture was established around B.C. The domestication of animals for labor and food developed simultaneously [source: Ohio State University].

The civilizations that emerged around these rivers are among the earliest known non-nomadic agrarian societies. It is because of this that the Fertile Crescent region, and Mesopotamia in particular, are often referred to as the cradle of civilization. Agriculture and animal husbandry were widely practiced in sedentary communities, particularly in Northern Mesopotamia, and intensive irrigated hydraulic agriculture began to be practiced in the south. Eridu is the oldest Sumerian site settled during this period, around BC, and the city of Ur also first dates to the end of this period. Proto-writing in the region dates to around BC, with the earliest texts dating to BC; early cuneiform writing emerged in BC. Uruk trade networks started to expand to other parts of Mesopotamia and as far as North Caucasus , and strong signs of governmental organization and social stratification began to emerge leading to the Early Dynastic Period c. The oldest clay tablets come from Uruk and date to the late fourth millennium BC, slightly earlier than the Jemdet Nasr Period. By the time of the Jemdet Nasr Period, the script had already undergone a number of significant changes. It originally consisted of pictographs , but by the time of the Jemdet Nasr Period it was already adopting simpler and more abstract designs. It is also during this period that the script acquired its iconic wedge-shaped appearance. Polychrome pottery from a destruction level below the flood deposit has been dated to immediately before the Early Dynastic Period around BC. The center of Sumerian culture remained in southern Mesopotamia, even though rulers soon began expanding into neighboring areas, and neighboring Semitic groups adopted much of Sumerian culture for their own. The earliest ziggurats began near the end of the Early Dynastic Period, although architectural precursors in the form of raised platforms date back to the Ubaid period,. It consists of a succession of royal dynasties from different Sumerian cities, ranging back into the Early Dynastic Period. Each dynasty rises to prominence and dominates the region, only to be replaced by the next. The document was used by later Mesopotamian kings to legitimize their rule. While some of the information in the list can be checked against other texts such as economic documents, much of it is probably purely fictional, and its use as a historical document is limited. Under Sargon and his successors, the Akkadian language was briefly imposed on neighboring conquered states such as Elam and Gutium. After the fall of the Akkadian Empire and the overthrow of the Gutians , there was a brief reassertion of Sumerian dominance in Mesopotamia under the Third Dynasty of Ur. Assyria in the north, and, a few centuries later, Babylonia in the south. Mehrgarh is one of the earliest sites with evidence of farming and herding in the Indian subcontinent. The earliest examples of the Indus Script date to this period, [74] [75] as well as the emergence of citadels representing centralised authority and an increasingly urban quality of life. By this time, villagers had domesticated numerous crops, including peas , sesame seeds , dates , and cotton, as well as animals, including the water buffalo. Within the city, individual homes or groups of homes obtained water from wells. From a room that appears to have been set aside for bathing, waste water was directed to covered drains, which lined the major streets. Houses opened only to inner courtyards and smaller lanes. The house-building in some villages in the region still resembles in some respects the house-building of the Harappans. The massive walls of Indus cities most likely protected the Harappans from floods and may have dissuaded military conflicts. They were among the first to develop a system of uniform weights and measures. A comparison of available objects indicates large scale variation across the Indus territories. Their smallest division, which is marked on an ivory scale found in Lothal in Gujarat, was approximately 1. Harappan engineers followed the decimal division of measurement for all practical purposes, including the measurement of mass as revealed by their hexahedron weights. However, as in other cultures, actual weights were not uniform throughout the area. Suggested contributory causes for the localisation of the IVC include changes in the course of the river, [85] and climate change that is also signalled for the neighbouring areas of the Middle East. The Indus Valley climate grew significantly cooler and drier from about BC, linked to a general weakening of the monsoon at that time. The residents then migrated

towards the Ganges basin in the east, where they established smaller villages and isolated farms. However trade with the old cities did not flourish. The small surplus produced in these small communities did not allow development of trade, and the cities died out. Early evidence for Chinese millet agriculture is dated to around BC, [] with the earliest evidence of cultivated rice found at Chengtoushan near the Yangtze River, dated to BC. Chengtoushan may also be the site of the first walled city in China. It would eventually evolve into the Yangshao culture to BC , and their stone tools were polished and highly specialized. They may also have practiced an early form of silkworm cultivation. The exact nature of Yangshao agriculture, small-scale slash-and-burn cultivation versus intensive agriculture in permanent fields, is currently a matter of debate. Once the soil was exhausted, residents picked up their belongings, moved to new lands, and constructed new villages. Grinding stones for making flour were also found. It decreased in most areas around BC until the central area evolved into the Bronze Age Erlitou culture. The earliest bronze artifacts have been found in the Majiayao culture site to BC. The Xia dynasty to BC is the first dynasty to be described in ancient Chinese historical records such as the Bamboo Annals , first published more than a millennium later during the Western Zhou period. Although Xia is an important element in Chinese historiography, there is to date no contemporary written evidence to corroborate the dynasty. Erlitou saw an increase in bronze metallurgy and urbanization and was a rapidly growing regional center with palatial complexes that provide evidence for social stratification. During Phase I, covering hectares acres , Erlitou was a rapidly growing regional center with estimated population of several thousand [] but not yet an urban civilization or capital. Palace 6 was built as an extension of Palace 2, and Palaces 10 and 11 were built. Shang sites have yielded the earliest known body of Chinese writing , the oracle bone script , mostly divinations inscribed on bones. These inscriptions provide critical insight into many topics from the politics, economy, and religious practices to the art and medicine of this early stage of Chinese civilization. National Gallery of Art defines the Chinese Bronze Age as the period between about and BC; a period that begins with the Erlitou culture and ends abruptly with the disintegration of Western Zhou rule. The civilization flourished at the confluence of three rivers, the Fortaleza, the Pativilca, and the Supe. These river valleys each have large clusters of sites. Further south, there are several associated sites along the Huaura River. During the third millennium BC, Norte Chico may have been the most densely populated area of the world excepting, possibly, northern China. Norte Chico is unusual in that it completely lacked ceramics and apparently had almost no visual art. Nevertheless, the civilization exhibited impressive architectural feats, including large earthwork platform mounds and sunken circular plazas, and an advanced textile industry. Construction areas show possible evidence of feasting, which would have included music and likely alcohol, suggesting an elite able to both mobilize and reward the population. Haas tentatively suggests that the scope of this economic power base may have extended widely: It is possible that the major inland centers of Norte Chico were at the center of a broad regional trade network centered on these resources. Spondylus shells from the coast of Ecuador , rich dyes from the Andean highlands , hallucinogenic snuff from the Amazon. The Staff God is a major deity of later Andean cultures, and Winifred Creamer suggests the find points to worship of common symbols of gods. The Staff God is a major deity of later Andean cultures. The presence of quipu and the commonality of religious symbols suggests a cultural link between Norte Chico and later Andean cultures. What would become the Olmec civilization had its roots in early farming cultures of Tabasco , which began around to BC. The rise of civilization was assisted by the local ecology of well-watered alluvial soil, as well as by the transportation network provided by the Coatzacoalcos River basin. The aspect of Olmec culture perhaps most familiar today is their artwork, particularly the Olmec colossal heads. The ceremonial center and attendant buildings could have housed 5, while the entire area, including hinterlands, could have reached 13,

3: Ancient Greece: The Cradle of Western Civilization - www.enganchecubano.com

Mesopotamia, the area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (in modern day Iraq), is often referred to as the cradle of civilization because it is the first place where complex urban centers grew. The history of Mesopotamia, however, is inextricably tied to the greater region, which is comprised of the modern nations of Egypt, Iran, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, the Gulf states and Turkey.

Muslim conquests Europe in While the Roman Empire and Christian religion survived in an increasingly Hellenised form in the Byzantine Empire centered at Constantinople in the East, Western civilization suffered a collapse of literacy and organization following the fall of Rome in AD Gradually however, the Christian religion re-asserted its influence over Western Europe. The Book of Kells. Danish seamen, painted midth century. The Viking Age saw Norseman explore, raid, conquer and trade through wide areas of the West. After the Fall of Rome , the papacy served as a source of authority and continuity. In the absence of a magister militum living in Rome, even the control of military matters fell to the pope. Gregory the Great c 600” administered the church with strict reform. A trained Roman lawyer and administrator, and a monk, he represents the shift from the classical to the medieval outlook and was a father of many of the structures of the later Roman Catholic Church. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, he looked upon Church and State as co-operating to form a united whole, which acted in two distinct spheres, ecclesiastical and secular, but by the time of his death, the papacy was the great power in Italy: From this time forth the varied populations of Italy looked to the pope for guidance, and Rome as the papal capital continued to be the center of the Christian world. Roman legions had never conquered Ireland, and as the Western Roman Empire collapsed, Christianity managed to survive there. Monks sought out refuge at the far fringes of the known world: Disciplined scholarship carried on in isolated outposts like Skellig Michael in Ireland, where literate monks became some of the last preservers in Western Europe of the poetic and philosophical works of Western antiquity. Later in the 6th century, the Byzantine Empire restored its rule in much of Italy and Spain. Missionaries sent from Ireland by the Pope helped to convert England to Christianity in the 6th century as well, restoring that faith as the dominant in Western Europe. Working as a trader he encountered the ideas of Christianity and Judaism on the fringes of the Byzantine Empire, and around began preaching of a new monotheistic religion, Islam , and in became the civil and spiritual leader of Medina , soon after conquering Mecca in By the early 8th century, Iberia and Sicily had fallen to the Muslims. By the 9th century, Malta , Cyprus , and Crete had fallen 600” and for a time the region of Septimania. From this time, the "West" became synonymous with Christendom , the territory ruled by Christian powers, as Oriental Christianity fell to dhimmi status under the Muslim Caliphates. The cause to liberate the " Holy Land " remained a major focus throughout medieval history, fueling many consecutive crusades , only the first of which was successful although it resulted in many atrocities, in Europe as well as elsewhere. Charlemagne "Charles the Great" in English became king of the Franks. Under his rule, his subjects in non-Christian lands like Germany converted to Christianity. Starting in the late 8th century, the Vikings began seaborne attacks on the towns and villages of Europe. Eventually, they turned from raiding to conquest, and conquered Ireland, most of England, and northern France Normandy. These conquests were not long-lasting, however. In Alfred the Great drove the Vikings out of England, which he united under his rule, and Viking rule in Ireland ended as well. In Normandy the Vikings adopted French culture and language, became Christians and were absorbed into the native population. By the beginning of the 11th century Scandinavia was divided into three kingdoms, Norway , Sweden , and Denmark , all of which were Christian and part of Western civilization. Norse explorers reached Iceland , Greenland , and even North America, however only Iceland was permanently settled by the Norse. A period of warm temperatures from around enabled the establishment of a Norse outpost in Greenland in , which survived for some years as the most westerly oupost of Christendom. From here, Norseman attempted their short-lived European colony in North America , five centuries before Columbus. They eventually settled in what is today Hungary , converted to Christianity and became the ancestors of the Hungarian people. A West Slavic people, the Poles , formed a unified state by the 10th century and having adopted Christianity also in the 10th century [14] [15] but with

pagan rising in the 11th century. By the start of the second millennium AD, the West had become divided linguistically into three major groups. The Romance languages, based on Latin, the language of the Romans, the Germanic languages, and the Celtic languages. Sacking of Suzdal by Batu Khan From the medieval Russian annals. From, he wrote: Men of intelligence usually joined religious orders and those of intellectual, administrative or diplomatic skill could advance beyond the usual restraints of society – leading churchmen from faraway lands were accepted in local bishoprics, linking European thought across wide distances. Complexes like the Abbey of Cluny became vibrant centres with dependencies spread throughout Europe. Ordinary people also trekked vast distances on pilgrimages to express their piety and pray at the site of holy relics. Monumental abbeys and cathedrals were constructed and decorated with sculptures, hangings, mosaics and works belonging one of the greatest epochs of art and providing stark contrast to the monotonous and cramped conditions of ordinary living. Abbot Suger of the Abbey of St. Denis is considered an influential early patron of Gothic architecture and believed that love of beauty brought people closer to God: Clark calls this "the intellectual background of all the sublime works of art of the next century and in fact has remained the basis of our belief of the value of art until today". At the top of society was the monarch, who gave land to nobles in exchange for loyalty. The nobles gave land to vassals, who served as knights to defend their monarch or noble. Under the vassals were the peasants or serfs. The feudal system thrived as long as peasants needed protection by the nobility from invasions originating inside and outside of Europe. So as the 11th century progressed, the feudal system declined along with the threat of invasion. The Abbey of St. Abbot Suger of this Abbey was an early patron of the extraordinary artistic achievements of the epoch. Barons forced King John of England to sign the Magna Carta laying early foundations for the evolution of constitutional monarchy. Saint Thomas Aquinas was one of the most influential scholars of the Medieval period. In, after centuries of strained relations, the Great Schism occurred over differences in doctrine, splitting the Christian world between the Catholic Church, centered in Rome and dominant in the West, and the Orthodox Church, centered in Constantinople, capital of the Byzantine Empire. The last pagan land in Europe was converted to Christianity with the conversion of the Baltic peoples in the High Middle Ages, bringing them into Western civilization as well. As the Medieval period progressed, the aristocratic military ideal of Chivalry and institution of knighthood based around courtesy and service to others became culturally important. Large Gothic cathedrals of extraordinary artistic and architectural intricacy were constructed throughout Europe, including Canterbury Cathedral in England, Cologne Cathedral in Germany and Chartres Cathedral in France called the "epitome of the first great awakening in European civilisation" by Kenneth Clark [11]. As the Church grew more powerful and wealthy, many sought reform. The Dominican and Franciscan Orders were founded, which emphasized poverty and spirituality. Women were in many respects excluded from political and mercantile life, however, leading churchwomen were an exception. Medieval abbesses and female superiors of monastic houses were powerful figures whose influence could rival that of male bishops and abbots: The Crusades were originally launched in response to a call from the Byzantine Emperor for help to fight the expansion of the Turks into Anatolia. The First Crusade succeeded in its task, but at a serious cost on the home front, and the crusaders established rule over the Holy Land. However, Muslim forces reconquered the land by the 13th century, and subsequent crusades were not very successful. The specific crusades to restore Christian control of the Holy Land were fought over a period of nearly years, between and Other campaigns in Spain and Portugal the Reconquista, and Northern Crusades continued into the 15th century. The Crusades had major far-reaching political, economic, and social impacts on Europe. They further served to alienate Eastern and Western Christendom from each other and ultimately failed to prevent the march of the Turks into Europe through the Balkans and the Caucasus. Cathedral schools began in the Early Middle Ages as centers of advanced education, some of them ultimately evolving into medieval universities. The medieval universities of Western Christendom were well-integrated across all of Western Europe, encouraged freedom of enquiry and produced a great variety of fine scholars and natural philosophers, including Robert Grosseteste of the University of Oxford, an early expositor of a systematic method of scientific experimentation; [17] and Saint Albert the Great, a pioneer of biological field research [18] The Italian University of Bologna is considered the oldest continually operating university. Philosophy in the High Middle Ages focused on

religious topics. However, in the 12th century the works of Aristotle were reintroduced to the West, which resulted in a new school of inquiry known as scholasticism, which emphasized scientific observation. The *Summa Theologica* by Aquinas was one of the most influential documents in medieval philosophy and Thomism continues to be studied today in philosophy classes. Theologian Peter Abelard wrote in "I must understand in order that I may believe. They played a major political, military, and cultural role in medieval Europe and even the Near East. They were famed for their martial spirit and Christian piety. They quickly adopted the Romance language of the land they settled off, their dialect becoming known as Norman, an important literary language. The Duchy of Normandy, which they formed by treaty with the French crown, was one of the great large fiefs of medieval France. The Normans are famed both for their culture, such as their unique Romanesque architecture, and their musical traditions, as well as for their military accomplishments and innovations. Norman adventurers established a kingdom in Sicily and southern Italy by conquest, and a Norman expedition on behalf of their duke led to the Norman Conquest of England. Relations between the major powers in Western society: If a monarch attempted to challenge church power, condemnation from the church could mean a total loss of support among the nobles, peasants, and other monarchs. Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV, one of the most powerful men of the 11th century, stood three days bare-headed in the snow at Canossa in, in order to reverse his excommunication by Pope Gregory VII. As monarchies centralized their power as the Middle Ages progressed, nobles tried to maintain their own authority. His realm stretched through Southern Italy, through Germany and in, he crowned himself King of Jerusalem. His reign saw tension and rivalry with the Papacy over control of Northern Italy. Plantagenet kings first ruled the Kingdom of England in the 12th century. Henry V left his mark with a famous victory against larger numbers at the Battle of Agincourt, while Richard the Lionheart, who had earlier distinguished himself in the Third Crusade, was later romanticised as an iconic figure in English folklore. A distinctive English culture emerged under the Plantagenets, encouraged by some of the monarchs who were patrons of the "father of English poetry", Geoffrey Chaucer. The Gothic architecture style was popular during the time, with buildings such as Westminster Abbey remodelled in that style. The Charter required the King to proclaim certain liberties, and accept that his will was not arbitrary – for example by explicitly accepting that no "freeman" non-serf could be punished except through the law of the land, a right which is still in existence today. Political institutions such as the Parliament of England and the Model Parliament originate from the Plantagenet period, as do educational institutions including the universities of Cambridge and Oxford. From the 12th century onward inventiveness had re-asserted itself outside of the Viking north and the Islamic south of Europe. Universities flourished, mining of coal commenced, and crucial technological advances such as the lock, which enabled sail ships to reach the thriving Belgian city of Bruges via canals, and the deep sea ship guided by magnetic compass and rudder were invented. Famines increased and in serious famine gripped Ypres. In, the last of the Greenland Norseman abandoned their colony to the ice.

4: ~Birthplace of civilization,™ Palmyra faces final ruin by jihadists | The Ugly Truth

What country controlled the land at the time of Brazil's independence in ? The French, following Napoleon's control of Europe The Spanish, who had taken over all land south of Mexico Portugal.

How Africa Became the Cradle of Humankind A fossil discovery in revolutionized the search for human ancestors, leading scientists to Africa The Taung Child was killed by an eagle about three million years ago. Image courtesy of Wikicommons smithsonian. But you may not know how scientists came to that conclusion. The idea that humans evolved in Africa can be traced to Charles Darwin. However, he also noted, a large, extinct ape once lived in Europe millions of years ago, leaving plenty of time for our earliest ancestors to migrate to Africa. Humans evolved somewhere in Europe or Asia. By then, Neanderthals had been found in Europe; Java Man now known as *Homo erectus* had been discovered in Indonesia and Piltdown Man later exposed as a hoax had been unearthed in England. Although these ancient beings were primitive, they clearly resembled modern humans. In 1924, a fossil discovery in South Africa challenged this view of a Eurasian homeland and revolutionized the study of human evolution. Raymond Dart, an Australian-born anatomist working at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, was interested in fossils. In the fall of 1924, as Dart was preparing to attend a wedding, two boxes of rocks blasted from a limestone quarry near the town of Taung were delivered at his house. Over the objections of his wife, Dart, dressed in formal wear, dug into one of the boxes. He found something amazing: This was a special brain. Further digging led Dart to another rock that the brain fit perfectly into. Although the being looked apish in many ways, the face lacked a pronounced muzzle as seen in chimps and gorillas. And the placement of the hole through which the spinal cord exits the bottom of the skull—the foramen magnum—suggested the Taung Child had an erect posture and walked upright on two legs animals that travel on four legs, such as chimps and gorillas, have a foramen magnum more toward the back of the skull. *Australopithecus africanus* did not receive a warm welcome from experts in the field. In the minds of most academics, there was a lot to criticize. Many derided Dart for rushing to publication, and media hoopla surrounding the announcement—before experts had a chance to take a close look at the finding—irked more established anatomists. No one had any idea what the Taung Child would have looked like as an adult. Furthermore, in addition to being from the wrong continent, the fossil was too ape-like to fit the early 20th-century view of human evolution. At the time, fossils like Piltdown Man indicated the earliest humans evolved big brains before other aspects of modern human physiology emerged—even before the ability to walk upright. Thus, experts dismissed the Taung fossil as just an old ape. But at least one person thought Dart was right. The mounting evidence—plus the uncovering of the Piltdown Hoax in the late 1950s and early 1960s—convinced even the most ardent skeptics that australopithecines belonged in the human family, and that Africa was the birthplace of humans. The work dramatically altered the trajectory of human evolution studies, changing where people looked for human fossils and what they expected to find. As fossils of australopithecines were uncovered in South African caves, Dart noticed they were always found in association with animal parts—particularly the teeth, jaws and horns of hoofed animals. Scientists later realized that predators such as leopards had accumulated the heaps of bones. In fact, holes on the Taung Child reveal it was the victim of a hungry eagle that dropped part of its meal into the entrance of the cave where the fossil was eventually found. I never get tired of the story of Raymond Dart, in part because the Taung Child is kind of an adorable fossil. As in biological anthropology and science writing.

5: Africa the home of human civilization

Destruction of archaeological site with Biblical heritage would be 'enormous loss to humanity,' UNESCO chief warns as Islamic State overruns town ed note--the destruction of all these ancient places by ISIS is being done only through the direct collusion and oversight from Israel.

Soon you enter the real desert, swept by sandstorms. Then, after 60km or so, a haunting scene unfolds. Looming out of the haze, the eye begins to make out a low range of brown hills, at first shapeless, then taking form: This is Warka, a site few places on earth can match for sheer atmosphere, and a landmark in the human story. William Loftus, the first outsider in modern times to see these sights in , was almost overwhelmed: Of all the desolate sites I ever beheld, that of Warka incomparably surpasses all". It was ruled in later times by Romans, Persians and Muslim Arabs before in the seventh century AD it was abandoned, except for the Bedouin, whose black tents still hug the horizon. To what extent Uruk really was the "mother of cities" is still hotly argued by archaeologists. It is claimed to be the birthplace of writing, mathematics and literature, and few would dispute that it is one of the most potent memory places of humanity. Inside its silted gates, poking out of huge dunes, it is 3km wide and the circuit, dating back to around BC, is 9km. Where the past century of archaeology has exposed them, you see great platforms and revetments of burned brick like the foundations of small skyscrapers. Islamic glass, Hellenistic bowls, Parthian clay coffins, greenish black-patterned Ubaid sherds and the little clay sickles used by the first dwellers in the Mesopotamian plain around BC. In this one place is the image of civilisation: Like the cultures of the Nile or the Indus, Mesopotamia, as its name suggests "the land between the rivers" owed its existence to a river system. Large-scale human societies had begun to grow from about 10,BC in an arc through Syria, Palestine, Anatolia and the Zagros mountains. Starting with the first larger scale settlements at Jericho and Catal Huyuk in Anatolia, these were well built but still relatively small. It was only when sophisticated irrigation techniques were developed that the plain of southern Iraq was opened up to sustain a huge concentration of people and resources. Yet even this was still a relatively confined area: Mesopotamia had 25, sq km of irrigated land " similar in size to early dynastic Egypt. From the fourth millennium BC came the first large cities, then states, whose culture and society would influence every aspect of life across west Asia " and further afield. In the third millennium BC, there were around 40 cities in Sumer and Akkad that made up the Babylonian plain. One big city-state, Lagash whose site is more than 3km across , had 36, male adults in the third millennium BC, suggesting upwards of , people altogether. Uruk was probably of similar size. Each controlled an extensive territory: These urban developments were fed by a trading network which, in the case of Uruk, linked Anatolia, Syria and the Zagros. It is not surprising then that writing, written law, contract law, and international treaties are all found for the first time in the area. Not only does history begin at Sumer, but so does economics. The Sumerians were the prehistoric population of the southern plain of Iraq. Their ethnic and linguistic affiliations are not yet clear; their language is not related to any known language, though there are many theories. During the third millennium BC a close cultural symbiosis took place between the Sumerians and the Akkadians, who lived in the middle of the plain " the area around and south of modern Baghdad. Many of the civilisational achievements of Mesopotamia are the product of that symbiosis. Sumerian itself, though, had died out as a living language by around BC, leaving it only the preserve of Babylonian scientists, scholars and liturgists. By the time the last Sumerian texts were copied in cuneiform in the Hellenistic age of the second century BC, the language had long been superseded by Akkadian as the language of literature in Mesopotamia. And the Sumerians themselves had long disappeared into the multiracial mix that was ancient Iraq. In the s, when the first major excavations were conducted in Iraq, it was still commonly held that the cultural progenitors of western civilisation were the classical world of Greece and Rome and Judaeo-Christian religion. Though the Book of Genesis mentioned Uruk, Akkad and Babylon, it was never suspected that these much older civilisations had had a profound influence on the civilisations of the Near East and the Mediterranean world. At that time it was also not known that Mesopotamia had led the way in the invention of writing and literature; in mathematics, science, astronomy and geometry; in the invention of the wheel; and in the earliest law codes. Even today, when we

count time and space in multiples of 12 and 60, we do so because of the Mesopotamians. Creativity and conflict But if Mesopotamia was a place of cultural and technological innovation, it was also the site of constant conflict. With no natural boundaries, and no protection from neighbours, it was always open to attack from nomads and outside invaders, and internally prey to continual disputes over resources especially water. Not surprisingly, then, this is where organised law appears for the first time in history as well as organised warfare. The history of Mesopotamia was then both uniquely creative and uniquely violent and destructive; marked by invasions and devastating wars in which the great achievements of its civilisation were smashed many times, from the ruin of the Ur III dynasty through Mongols, Tartars and Seljuks, to the savagery of recent wars. Nevertheless, a single civilisation survived through all these conflicts one that is recognisably Iraqi: The character that emerges is very different from the optimism of Egyptian culture. Early Iraq was pessimistic in its view of human destiny its poets knew the achievements of humanity were fragile and always fated to be wiped away. It perhaps also explains why lamentation became a ritual tradition in ancient Iraq and still is in Iraqi Shiism; a cultural personality that is still part of the way Iraqis are seen by other Arabs. How and when did ancient Iraq end? One should note that in Iraqi culture there is no clear dividing line between the ancient world and the medieval. The Arab conquest of Mesopotamia in the seventh century AD looks like another cultural turning point, but even then, change was slow, with a more immediate impact on mentalities rather than material culture and custom. Just as Christianity inherited the Roman empire in the West, Islam inherited West Asia and the Near East; and in this sense Islam could be seen simply as a continuation of the much older culture that underlay it. Baghdad, the great capital of the caliphate founded in AD, was still a vast Mesopotamian city, made of burnt brick in the ancient way. And if change was slow in Baghdad, it was even slower in the old cities. The sacred city of Nippur, for example, continued to be a provincial centre for scholars Christian, Jewish and Muslim. Out in the countryside the old Mesopotamian religion survived until cAD, among pagan tribes in the south of the plain who worshipped the deities of the primal waters, the abode of the old Sumerian god Enki. But even then the ancient world never really ended. Even today, in the streets of Najaf during the Shia ceremony of Ashura, people still enact the communal ritual lament, which was so striking a feature of their ancient culture. Even in their traditional clothes one might see a link: The rediscovery of its ancient literature in the 19th century stressed links with the Bible: But scholars have been far slower to cotton on to the fact that later Arabic and Greek literature is permeated by Mesopotamian ideas, images and stories. Especially influential was the cycle of tales about the legendary king of Uruk, Gilgamesh, which might just be the single most influential work of literature in the world. It is now clear, for example, that many of the Tales of the Arabian Nights are transformations of ancient tales that had long circulated orally. Early Greek literature especially Homer, Hesiod and the early epic tradition was strongly influenced in form and content by Gilgamesh. Mesopotamian civilisation, in short, is still alive in the ways we think, count time and measure the world, but also in the stories that we love most. Travellers in Iraq were confronted by huge murals and billboards of Saddam at Ur: But what is left has suffered grave damage. Like the other great civilisations Greek, Indian, Chinese, Persian Iraq had the ability to remake itself over millennia, preserving its own distinctive vision. The author of the epic of Gilgamesh asks us to "walk the walls of Uruk what human could ever equal them? Go up, go on; walk around look at the foundations. Are they not magnificent? Michael Wood is a film-maker and broadcaster who first worked in Iraq more than 20 years ago.

6: The cradle of civilization (article) | Khan Academy

Armed with their tantalizing mix of primitive and advanced features, Berger has become the champion of a resurgent South African claim to be the true birthplace of humankind.

Wallpaper for desktop Africa the home of human civilization Africa provides a comprehensive and contiguous time line of human development going back at least 7 million years. It is the home of the first tools, astronomy, jewelry, fishing, mathematics, crops, art, use of pigments, cutting and other pointed instruments and animal domestication. In short Africa gave the world human civilization. Millions of years ago human life started in Africa, Australopithecus aphaerensis and Australopithecus africanus and Australopithecus robustus were all key rungs in the development of humanity. These fossils were found in East and South Africa Azania. Some of the fossils may be as old as 5 million years. For example Australopithecus robustus fossils found in an East Turkana Kenya site were at least 4 million year old. It is generally accepted that the Homo habilis were the first full fledge tool making ancestor of humans. The earliest archaeological evidence of toolmaking comes from the Koobi Fora section of East Turkana. These Homo habilis are believed to be at least 2. The name Homo habilis comes from the Leakeys. They found what they believed to be conclusive fossil evidence of the first humans in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania and gave these ancestors that name called Homo habilis.. The Olduvai Gorge Homo habilis existed at least a million and quarter years ago More important than tool making in human evolution is the mastery of fire. Nearly 2 million years ago early East Africans had mastered the use of fire. This was a revolutionary step in the development of humanity. This critical innovation insured the survival and spread of the species around the planet. It gave us an advantage over animal predators such as the big cats, hyenas and allowed human settlements in less accommodating climates. These people have been named Homo erectus by archaeologists. It is generally accepted that the final leap from Homo erectus to Homo sapiens sapiens as having occurred in Africa over two hundreds thousand years ago. The Encyclopedia of World History describes the use of mtDNA found in fossils as a means of revealing the processes involved in this final leap. Molecular biologists like Alan Wilson and Rebecca Cann have studied the human family tree using this form of DNA, which is inherited through the female line without being diluted with paternal DNA. Thus, they argue, it provides a unique tool for studying ancestral populations. They formed two groups: Wilson and Cann concluded that all modern humans derive from a primordial African population, from which populations migrated to the rest of the Old World with little or no interbreeding with existing archaic human groups. By calculating the rate of mtDNA mutations, they argue that archaic Homo sapiens evolved from Homo erectus in Africa by about , years ago. Then Homo sapiens sapiens, anatomically modern humans, appeared some , years ago. Highly varied, early Homo sapiens populations flourished in sub-Saharan Africa between , and , years ago, some of them displaying some anatomically modern features. At the Klasies River Caves on the Indian Ocean coast of South Africa, anatomically modern human remains date to between , and 95, years ago. They are associated with sophisticated, versatile tool kits that were, if anything, superior to those used by the Neanderthals in Europe at the time. Many scientists believe that Homo sapiens sapiens, modern humans, did indeed evolve in tropical Africa sometime after , years ago, as the geneticists argue. Ecologist Robert Foley has theorized that modern humans evolved in a mosaic of constantly changing tropical environments, which tended to isolate evolving human populations for considerable periods of time. Some groups living in exceptionally rich areas may have developed unusual hunting and foraging skills, using a new technology so effective that they could prey on animals from a distance with finely made projectiles. With efficient technology, more planning, and better organization of both hunting and foraging, our ancestors could have reduced the risks of living in unpredictable environments in dramatic ways. A spherical or elongated organelle in the cytoplasm of nearly all eukaryotic cells, containing genetic material and many enzymes important for cell metabolism, including those responsible for the conversion of food to usable energy. It consists of two membranes: The cell organelle where much of cellular respiration takes place; the "power plant" of the cell. Mitochondria probably entered eukaryotes by an act of endosymbiosis, in which one simple cell was absorbed by another. Mitochondria contain their own DNA. It is by tracing the mitochondrial DNA,

which individuals inherit only from their mothers, that genetic linkages are often traced Sources: Chad 7 million years ago Ethiopia 5 million years ago South Africa 3.

7: Was Mesopotamia the Birthplace of Civilization? by Abigail Forsey on Prezi

In this one place is the image of civilisation: its rise, growth, triumphs - and perhaps its end too.

In other words, the first humans on earth were black, specifically African. So what has the black man done in Africa before stepping out of it? Did he spend his days or millennia swinging from lianas to lianas? Or even copulating left and right? To these questions many people are struggling to find the answers because they are victims of misinformation and brainwashing orchestrated by the West, who sought by all means to deny the historical past of Africa, thus laying the shame on African people and all people of African descent throughout the world. But if the African man had actually done nothing, how could he have lived, eaten, healed himself from diseases, etc. since the beginning of time until now? If it is recognized by all that Africa is the cradle of humanity, it is thus logical and indisputable that Africa is the cradle of the earliest forms of civilizations. The views according to which Africans are inferior beings, rudimentary and wild, having brought nothing to mankind, or that they have not made history enough, only come from ignorance, sometimes conscious, and from the purest ideology. So these are just lame, false, negrophobe, and racist views, devoid of any meaning, without scientific basis and without hard evidence, thus of no interest for science, research and for the historical and factual truth. In order to survive and make a decent living, Man since appearing in Africa had to face many challenges, such as understanding his environment, getting to master it, organizing himself against the dangers which he could be the victim of, living with all the difficulties all this entails. For this end it was necessary to tame animals, hunt for food, master fire, build a house, know remedies to heal sickness or health problems, etc. His survival depended on it, especially because of the luxuriant African nature and the wild animals already in existence since very early times. This means that he had to quickly do research and discoveries in order to solve his everyday practical problems. During this period when man was not yet out of Africa the rest of the earth was empty of modern people. The first human reflections, thoughts and forms of human organizations – in other words, the first forms of human societies and civilization came from Africa. Knowing that other phenotypes were born thanks to the first men stepping out of their African space, it is logical to say that as long as man had not come out of Africa, the first facts of civilization were first in Africa and nowhere else, which could not have been otherwise. That is why the first and oldest recorded facts of civilization in our solar system come from Africa. When this man would come out of Africa, he would take his knowledge with him and try to recreate his environment based on his acquired knowledge and discoveries in Africa. This is what would make the first facts of prehistoric and historic civilizations on other continents appear later. Therefore no prehistoric industry found outside of Africa is older than the industries found in Africa. This is purely due to the fact that the first humans when coming out of Africa were faced with various other environmental and climatic conditions of those in Africa. These humans thus had to adapt, get used to, and find ways to live in their new environment. Those who remained in Africa were well adapted to their environment, since they were aware of their environment. The question of adaptation was therefore not an issue for those who remained in Africa. That is why Africa has developed all elements of civilization before all other continents. Indeed, since the time of australopithecus, man had continuously been searching, discovering, inventing, etc. and this uninterrupted chain of inventions, discoveries and improvements that had begun at the dawn of time with the australopithecus continued until the time of homo sapiens modern man. Therefore man did not wait to get out of Africa to give the full measure of his talent or intelligence. In this article, we will put aside the discoveries of ancient prehistoric men Australopithecus, Homo habilis, Homo erectus, etc.. The oldest signs of elaborate behavior of modern humans come from Africa. Curtis Marean and his team discovered in , in a series of prehistoric caves at the Pinnacle Point site, near Mossel Bay in South Africa, shells and other artifacts dating from to years. Researchers conducting excavations in one of the Pinnacle Point Caves According to studies made on the basis of the findings, the Pinnacle Point men were already fishing at the time. They collected their shells on the coast at about 5 or 10 km from the cave to return and eat them inside the caves. As for the 57 hematite stones collected in the cave, some of them were probably used to paint their bodies, confirming the level of evolution of these modern men. The ruins resemble much to

the architectural style to be found later at the ruins of the great Zimbabwe Kingdom of Monomotapa. The ruins of this city are said to date back to about 10,000 years. The astronomer Bill Hollenbach puts the age of the site the Mpumalanga ruins to 10,000 years. Tellingly he believes that the site is at least 75,000 years old. These dates still need confirmation. Example of ancient ruins, collapsed due to the test of time, found on the Mpumalanga site. These information show that the African man had already been living in cities for millennia. These information show that the African man of those times, had already set up the stone architecture and had already been working the stone. On one of the walls of the Mpumalanga site present day South Africa, is the oldest known representation of the Ankh Cross and the solar symbol in history. But these symbols Ankh cross and solar symbol are symbols of spirituality; spirituality that we would find several millennia later in the Nile Valley and the famous Pharaonic civilization. These symbols of spirituality show that spirituality was already known by African people since those times. Example of Mpumalanga constructions. Look at the height of the stone walls Aerial view on another of the twelve remains of such constructions found in Mpumalanga image at the top. On the image at the bottom, is certainly the oldest representation in history of the Ankh Cross and solar symbol. These are symbols found later in the prestigious Pharaonic civilization. Blombos Research has put the beginnings of parietal art with graphics in Africa, specifically with the discovery on the site of Blombos Blombos Cave in South Africa of the first remains, tools, raw rock paintings and drawings in various caves or on the rocks. Thus the oldest man-made dyes used to make cave paintings and parietal art were found in this Blombos cave and are dated to about 75,000 years old. Graphics and drawings made of geometric shapes triangles, etc.. They are dated back to about 75,000 years before the present era well before the Chauvet Cave in France for example. Similar findings were made in the Porcupine Cave in Ethiopia. Examples of artifacts found at Blombos. Look at the geometric signs on a stone here in the image The first modern humans Homo sapiens to have left Africa left Africa with clothes on. They published an important article entitled Molecular Evolution of *Pediculus humanus* and Origin of Clothing: These scientists studying the DNA of lice usually living on humans have determined the place and time of the appearance of the garment in the history of mankind. The research group has shown that there are two kinds of lice that specifically stay on man. They are head lice *Pediculus humanus capitis* and body lice *Pediculus humanus corporis*. The head lice live and feed exclusively on the scalp while body lice feed on human body and live in clothes. The scientists show that the difference between head lice and body lice is done when men began to make and wear clothes. The results of this study on the varieties of African lice and non-African lice show the African origin of human lice. Scientists demonstrate this way that the African man is the first man to make and wear clothes. These scientists linking the invention of clothing and expansion of man on the planet show that this invention the clothing is one of the things that enabled man to survive for example by covering when he came out of Africa to populate the planet. Africa is also considered the birthplace of mathematics The Lebombo Bone discovered between South Africa and Swaziland is proof of that. The Lebombo Bone is dated back to about 37,000 years before the present era. According to scientists, it could be a lunar calendar, specifying the number of days in a lunar month, similar in principle to the notches calendar used today by the San people in Namibia. It dates back from about 35,000 years BC. This archaeologist uncovered the long bone of Ishango bone This bone has notches and signs made voluntarily by men. The positioning of the notches enabled scientists to identify then again the first signs of calculations, thus the first signs of mathematical thinking in the history of mankind. The Ishango bone is dated to about 25,000 years before the present era. The Microlithic industry, that is to say the age of carved stones, began in South Africa around 50,000 BC. In Western Europe, the oldest Microlithic industries do not go beyond 10,000 years. Microlithic industries indeed seem older than their European counterparts. Some in South Africa, date back to 40,000 or 50,000 years BC whereas in western Europe, the oldest hardly go beyond 10,000 years. Thanks to the work of Professor Fred Wendorf, professor of anthropology at the University of Dallas United States, it is admitted today that at least 14,000 years ago, the African man was the first to master agriculture and techniques. The same Professor Fred Wendorf shows us, through his works following his discoveries in Egypt, the first urbanized cities, developed and well incorporated in the Nile Valley in the south, specifically in the area of Nabta Playa, west of Abu Simbel. These cities are dated back to at least 10,000 years before the present era. That means at least 9,000 years ago, Africans had completed the process of delimitation, development and urbanization

of towns, processes whose first drafts appeared with the Mpumalanga site South Africa. Since these highly urbanized cities being considered here were in the Nile Valley, and given the time that was taken to build them, it becomes clear that the civilization of the Nile Valley, and its dates Pharaonic civilization, is much older than the official dates that are usually given. All this accumulated knowledge, developed and deepened over millennia, enabled Africa to have all the elements of civilization before other peoples and to be the first to make history and to build civilizations. Most scientists agree that history begins with the birth of writing. If this is the case, it is still Africa who was the first to go down in history as the first writing in the world comes from Africa and not from Mesopotamia, as shown by the German professor Gunther Dreyer in his works. The first writing system ever, discovered by the German scholar Gunther Dreyer The professor was quoted in a dispatch from Reuters from 15th December of that: All this information tells us that civilization and history did not begin with Europe, did not start with Asia, and did not begin with Mesopotamia and the Sumerians, for in all these regions Europe, Asia, etc.. So to say, as do the falsifiers, that this or that started or appeared in Mesopotamia, it makes no sense, since before man went to populate Mesopotamia to go and create there this or that, he had been living in Africa already and it was in Africa that he had already been creating a lot of things and facts of civilizations. These scientific data proving that Africa is where civilization was born, is confirmed by many researchers and authors of antiquity. Take for example the case of Greek authors. These authors have left to posterity several writings that show they traveled the world and came to know several regions and peoples in antiquity. The African people with whom the Greeks came into contact with were mainly Nile Valley Africans Egyptians, Pharaonic civilization, etc. It was the important accumulated knowledge by the Africans since prehistory that allowed Africans to build the prestigious Pharaonic civilization. First of all, everyone pretty much agreed that they did not come from abroad, and they were born in the same country, and one can rightly call them Aborigines; then it seems evident to all that the men who live in the South are probably the first to come out of the earth. The word Ethiopia had originally nothing to do with this country called Ethiopia nowadays. By Ethiopia, the ancient Greeks therefore designated the land of burnt faces, that is to say, Africa. They are everywhere famous for their piety; and their sacrifices seem to be more pleasing to the deities. Greek writings insist that among all these people, it is the Africans that they saw while visiting the Nile Valley that are the first to have made or invented this or that, etc. and the Greeks do not use the term first by chance. Famous scholars of the Greek antiquity Thus it is in Africa that civilization and all its elements originated and that it is from this continent Africa that civilization spread among other nations, which is confirmed by multiple scholarly research. That is why the scholar Cheikh Anta Diop told us this: Greece, Rome was plunged into barbarism.

8: Africa, cradle of civilization

This country, which is known as the Cradle of Civilisation, is not Greece or Rome, not even Egypt - but Iraq. Originally known as Mesopotamia, the land was profoundly fertile thanks to the great.

9: The Ancient World | Mesopotamia | Culture | The Guardian

and the significance of their impact on the advancement of their civilization and these various cultures around the world. According to Dr. Leaky, the European paleontologist who discovered Lucy, the oldest set of human bones ever found on this planet, Africa is the birthplace of the human family.

Clockwork by philip pullman Chemical Children Center for human origins and cultural diversity : a catalyst for social justice and racial literacy Jacki 8. Welding the Carbon Steels Beneath the Laughter Demetrius, a Russian romance. Love Last Forever Elizas Best Wednesday The Montgomery bus boycott, December, 1955 Understanding suicide Maa durga chalisa Lost in Cyberspace, Leaders Manual Breaking him rk lilley Promoting Safe and Effective Genetic Testing in the United States To Raise Up the South Social aspects of development The thick filament of vertebrate striated muscle Bad Acting Teachers Drunk driving law How to get the most out of Dow Jones news/retrieval International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Managerial decisions under uncertainty Bk. 2. Typically Australian. 3d home architect design suite deluxe 8 user guide Life Teachings of Christ (Vol. 2) Adventures, themes 1 3, Focus on poetry, focus on fables Lone Star 56/big Horn Language, sexuality subversion Art and architecture of Indian temples Indian gold jewellery designs catalogue The State of Political Science in Western Europe Carlas Magic Dancing Boots (Yellow Storybook) Lets Investigate Set 3 (Lets Investigate) The great outdoors book of alligators Historical Sketch of AMHERST, from its first settlement to 1837 Clockmakers of Montgomery County, 1740-1850 You Were Meant For Me Racial negotiations, potentials limitations Left hemisphere mapping critical theory today Phr study guide 2015