



Teacher's Guide

Phoenicians: the Alphabet & Carthage's Hannibal **Cultural Legacies of Ancient Civilizations Series**

Grade Levels:

7 - 12

Subject Areas:

Social Studies

World History

World Geography and Cultures

Synopsis:

Explains that the seafaring Phoenicians founded several city-states, including Carthage in North Africa, as they expanded their trading network all around the Mediterranean Sea. Traces the initial success of Carthage as a trading center then tells the story of Hannibal crossing the Alps to challenge the Romans for supremacy of the Mediterranean. Closes with Rome's destruction of Carthage as an answer to Hannibal's challenge. Although Carthage rose and fell, the most influential Phoenician legacy was the creation of a simple alphabet for business transactions, the same alphabet that was adopted by the Greeks, Romans and other Western cultures, including English-speaking ones.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Explain why the Phoenicians invented the alphabet.
- Explain why the Phoenicians founded Carthage.
- Understand that the success of Carthage was a challenge to the Romans.
- Trace Hannibal's journey and the reasons for his initial success.

Vocabulary:

maritime, antiquity, cisterns, diligent regime, bumper crops, burgeoning, innovative, mercenaries, assembly line, invincible, audacious, guerillas, motley, deputations, waned, ultimatum, concerted, blockaded, siege

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Do you know where the English alphabet originated? What ancient culture would you imagine first used the alphabet? What makes you think so?

Who were the Phoenicians? Why were they such a successful culture?

On a present-day map of the Mediterranean, where would Phoenician city-states be located? (Lebanon, Tunisia, Sicily, Spain, and Morocco) When Phoenicians engaged in trade, where would they travel?

Who were the uncontested rulers of the Mediterranean at the time the Phoenicians traded?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Why did Carthage become a successful trading center?

What Roman request seemed inconceivable to the Carthaginians? Why didn't they want to relocate their city?

What is your opinion of Hannibal's decision to invade Rome by land? Why has his story become legendary?

What legacy or legacies have we inherited from the Phoenicians?

Further Activities:

Some people believe that the Phoenicians' contributions to the ancient world have not been properly recognized or may have even been suppressed. Find out who thinks this and why they hold this opinion.

Find out what trade goods the Phoenicians exported. Also investigate who purchased these exports.

Investigate how the Phoenicians' new approach to writing differed fundamentally from the scripts in use in the world up to the second millennium B.C. in Egypt, Mesopotamia and China.

Further investigate the character and achievements of Hannibal Barca.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

Great Civilizations of the Ancient World Series
Technology & Architecture in Ancient Civilizations Series
Beyond Our Borders Series
History Happened Here Series
Christianity in World History Series
The 14 Wonders of Our World Series