

Ancient History of Yemen" with links to pictures.

<http://www.al-bab.com/bys/articles/phillips96.htm>—The Web site of the British-Yemeni Society, it has information on archaeology, publications, book reviews, and more.

<http://www.aiys.org/webdate/yemhis.html>—From the American Institute for Yemini Studies, it includes links to on-line articles dealing with the history and archaeology of Yemen.

http://www.arab.net/yemen/yemen_contents.html—A site on the history, geography, and culture of Yemen.

http://www.arab.net/oman/oman_contents.html—A site on the history, geography, and culture of Oman

http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/his_nabateans.html—From the government of Jordan, a site on "The Mysterious Nabateans" and the city of Petra.

<http://almashriq.hiof.no/base/jordan.html>—A gateway site for the country of Jordan with links to articles on Petra.

<http://www.yemennet.com/tour/yemen.htm>—From the Yemeni American League, it contains a "Virtual Tour of Yemen," with pictures from archaeological sites.

<http://www.y.net.ye/Hist.htm>—A page on the history of Yemen, it has a section entitled "Traders of the Gold and Incense Road."

<http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/ISLAM/PRE.HTM> — From Washington State University, a page on "Pre-Islamic Arabic Culture," including information on the Sabaeans.

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/arabia1.html>—From Fordham University, an informative compilation of observations made by ancient writers about Arabia.

http://www.anucci.com/fyi/anc_civs.html — From a company that deals in fragrances and perfumes, an interesting page on the "History of Fragrance."

Other Resources:

For students:

Berger, Gilda. *Kuwait and the Rim of Arabia.* Watts, 1978.

Greenberg, Blu, *King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.* Pitspopany Press, 1997.

Yemen in Pictures. Lerner Publications, 1993.

For adults:

Bowersock, G.W. *Roman Arabia.* Harvard University Press, 1983.

Browning, Iain. *Petra.* Chatto & Windus, 1982.

Doe, D. Brian. *Southern Arabia.* McGraw-Hill, 1971

Glueck, Nelson. *Deities and Dolphins: The Story of the Nabataeans.* Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1965.

Healey, John F., ed. *The Nabatean Tomb Inscriptions of Mada'in Salih.* Oxford University Press, 1994.

Hestler, Anna. *Yemen (Cultures of the World).* Benchmark Books, 1999.

Lewcock, Ronald B. *Old Walled City of* United Nations Educational, 1987.

Marechaux, Pascal. *Impressions of Yemen.* Abbeville Press, 1997.

Phillips, Wendell. *Oman: A History.* Longmans, 1967.

Phillips, Wendell. *Qataban and Sheba: Exploring the Ancient Kingdoms on the Biblical Spice Routes of Arabia.* Harcourt, Brace, 1955.

Pritchard, James Bennett. *Solomon and Sheba.* Phaidon, 1974.

LEGACY OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS ANCIENT ARABIA

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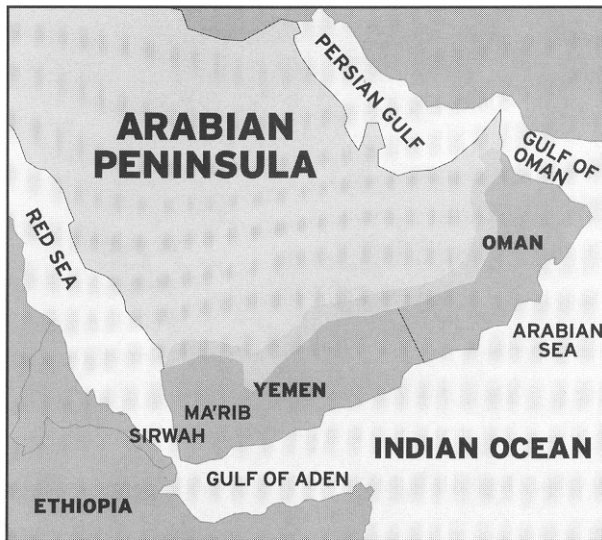
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WORLD ALMANAC[©] — VIDEO — THE LEGACY OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS ANCIENT ARABIA

Imagine a kingdom distant in time and space whose merchants supported a society based not on gold or iron but on the soft fragrant wealth of perfume, spices, and incense. Such was the land of ancient Arabia, whose queen, the fabled Queen of Sheba, journeyed across the desert to visit the biblical King Solomon and whose traders sold the Egyptians the exotic substances they needed to mummify their dead. As goods were carried vast distances from the Far East all the way to Rome, this fabled land stood proudly at the crossroads.





After studying the map and reading about ancient Arabia, read the sections on vocabulary and important people, places, and dates to provide a focus while viewing the program. After viewing the program, review the sections listed and consider the Things To Think About. Research topics further using the Internet and other resources provided.

The Ancient Arabians in their Time:

Located at the southern end of the Arabian peninsula, the countries of Yemen and Oman sit at a strategic crossroads. The Horn of Africa lies just a few miles across the southern end of the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf is off to the East, and the Arabian Sea, an arm of the Indian Ocean, gives ships easy passage to India and points east. In ancient times, this advantageous location gave the area, then known as Saba, access to wealth and power. Today, it is easy to think that ancient societies were, because of their technological limitations, relatively isolated from other parts of the world. But the study of ancient Arabia proves otherwise. The Sabaeans received goods from distant China and India and shipped them to the Mediterranean and beyond. They also produced their own luxury goods that were highly prized in other lands. Their wealth enabled them to build imposing cities, the ruins of which are treasured archaeological sites.

Vocabulary:

Illumqih —Moon god of the Sabaeans.

Arabia Felix —"Happy Arabia." Name given by the Romans to the kingdom of Saba and South Arabia.

Athtar — In Sabaeen mythology, son of the moon god Illumqih and the sun goddess Shams.

baetyls — Sacred stones venerated by the Sabaeans.

dromedary — A domesticated one-humped camel used in North Africa and Arabia.

Himyarites—People who conquered the Sabaeans at the beginning of the

Christian era.

jambia —Curved dagger traditionally carried by Yemenite men.

mahram—"Temple of refuge." A Sabaeen building where victims of persecution could find sanctuary.

monsoon—A wind that changes its direction according to the season, principally in India and southeast Asia.

myrrh—An aromatic gum resin derived from plants native to Africa and Arabia that is much prized for making incense and perfume.

Shams—Sun goddess of the Sabaeans.

Important People:

Aelius Gallus—Roman general and prefect of Egypt who unsuccessfully tried to conquer Saba.

Augustus —Roman emperor (63 BC - 14 AD) who sent troops to conquer Saba.

Hippalos—Greek sea captain who discovered the seasonal patterns of the monsoon winds in the first century AD.

Imam Yahya—Ruler of Yemen 1904-1948. Builder of the Dar al-Hajar palace.

Sheba, Queen of—Ruler of the land of Saba who, according to the Bible, visited King Solomon in the 10th century BC. Known in Muslim tradition as Bilqis.

Solomon—King of the ancient Hebrews from c. 970-930 BC.

Important Places:

Bay of Bengal —Arm of the Indian Ocean between India and southeast Asia. One of the starting points of the Spice Route.

Dar al-Hajar —Palace in San'a considered an architectural jewel.

Gold Route --Ancient trading route that went from sub-Saharan Africa to North Africa.

Guangzhou —Chinese port on the South China Sea. One of the starting points of the Spice Route. Formerly Canton.

Hejaz—Western region of Saudi Arabia characterized by a narrow coastal strip, a highland area, and an interior desert.

Incense Route—Ancient trading route that ran from South Arabia to present-day Jordan, Israel, and Egypt.

khat—A shrub whose tealike leaves are chewed by the people of Yemen for their mildly narcotic effect.

Loyang—City in central China that was the beginning point of the Silk Route.

Marib—Second capital of the Sabaeans. Founded c. 700 BC. Important archaeological site.

Mocha —A port in Yemen on the Red Sea that gave its name to the coffee for which it was famous.

Mount Balaq—Site of a massive dam built by the Sabaeans c. 700 BC.

Nabatea—Ancient kingdom of Arabia now in present-day Jordan that flourished from c. 400 BC until it was conquered by Rome in 106AD.

Petra—Ancient rock city in present-day Jordan; focal point of a caravan route in ancient times.

Rub' al Khali —"Empty Quarter." Large desert that comprises more than one-quarter of Saudi Arabia.

Saba or Sheba—Biblical name of a region in southern Arabia that includes present-day Yemen.

San'a—Capital and largest city of Yemen.

Shibam—City in southern Yemen known for its Islamic architecture.

Silk Route —Ancient trading route that stretched from central China to present-day

Turkey and Macedonia.

Sirwah—Site of the Sabaeans' first capital.

Spice Route—Ancient trading route that ran from China and India to Arabia and then along the Red Sea to the Mediterranean.

Yathil—Sabaeen city besieged and conquered by the Himyarites c. 50 BC, after which the name was changed to Baraqish.

Important Dates:

c. **1000 BC**—Beginning of Sabaeen settlements in South Arabia.

c. **950 BC**—Visit of the Queen of Sheba (Saba) to King Solomon.

c. **700 BC**—Sabaeans move their capital from Sirwah to Marib.

c. **50 BC**—Sabaeans fall under the control of the Himyarites.

25 BC—Unsuccessful Roman attempt to conquer Saha.

120 AD—Marib dam begins to fail.

395—Christianity become official religion of the Roman Empire; prohibition of cremation cuts down demand for incense and myrrh.

525—Abyssinians invade Saba.

c. **575**—Persians absorb Saba, which soon becomes Islamic.

1886—Archaeologists discover remains of ancient walls and buildings in Marib.

1982—Old Walled City of Shibam, Yemen, declared a UNESCO World Heritage site.

1988—Old City of San'a, Yemen, declared a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Things to Think About:

*San'a and Shibam are both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Conduct a project to find out what the others are and how they are designated. Since they are all over the world, there may be one near you. What's the closest one to you? Have you visited any?

*What does it tell you than an ancient civilization was able to flourish not by dealing with the necessities of life but with luxury items? How does that compare to today's economy?

*Research the history of perfumes. How are they made? Can you make one yourself?

*Historians theorize that the Sabaeans worshipped the moon because it brought relief from the desert heat. In what ways might geography and climate have influenced the mythologies of other countries? Why, for example, is the shortest day of the year such an important event in so many lands?

*The massive dam built by the Sabaeans enabled them to sustain a thriving irrigated agriculture. In what ways do dams provide economic benefits today? What problems can they cause?

*The Romans were unable to conquer Saba because of the climate. How have climate and other geographical factors protected other civilizations and countries from foreign conquest in history?

*The coming of Christianity damaged Saba's trade in certain items because they were no longer needed in religious rituals. In what other ways might religion influence the purchasing habits of peoples and affect their economies?

*Research the history of coffee. Where did it originate and how did it come to be such a huge commodity today?

Internet Resources:

<http://www.gpc.org/ye/ancient.htm>—A rich site entitled "An Overview of the