THE PHOENICIANS

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

- Not a unified nation
- The governments of such Phoenician cities as Tyre, Sidon, and Byblos were led by hereditary monarchs throughout their history.
- Consisted of independent city-states
- Phoenician kings did not commemorate their reigns or achievements in art and inscriptions as in other cultures, and so information is often scarce (hard to find).
The Phoenicians were polytheistic, meaning they worshipped multiple gods. They shared in religious practices common to other Canaanite-derived people and correlated many of their gods to stars, planets, and constellations.
Phoenicians Were Sailors

- Sailing
  - No maps or modern technology
  - Sailed beyond Gibraltar (Pillars of Hercules)
  - Evidence that they may have circumnavigated Africa
**Phoenician Colonies**

- Sailed and colonized throughout the Mediterranean beginning circa 1000 B.C.E.
  - Gades (Cadiz, Spain)
  - Carthage (Tunis, Tunisia)
- Modern DNA testing links Palestinians, Lebanese, and residents of old Phoenician colonies
Leading sailors and traders of ancient world

They traded:
- Cloth
- Dye (purple dye prized by kings, made from shellfish murex)
- Glass
- Pottery

Traded for:
- Tin (Britannia)
- Hides, ivory, ostrich feathers, and slaves (Africa)
- Gold, precious stones, and spices (India)
Carried their civilization and culture where they traded

Adopted and adapted Egyptian hieroglyphics into an alphabet of 22 symbols (letters) representing sounds