

The Persian Empire

A Multimedia Project

An Introduction

The Persians were to inherit the rule of all the peoples that once inhabited Southwest Asia. They were an Indo-European people, a part of the great migrations that took place early in the first millennium B.C. The Persians chose the plateau that extends from the Zagros Mountains to the Indus Valley for their homeland. Much of the plateau, except for the valleys of the Zagros and the immediate region south of the Caspian Sea, is very arid. The Persians would need to develop irrigation systems to provide water for their populations and crops.

This presentation will be different from the previous presentations that you have had to this point. Instead of a narrative, you will view a series of videos and conduct research on several Internet sites. The objective will be to develop your own presentation with information about the Persian society. You will explain the economic, political, and social systems that the Persians developed to manage the largest empire in the ancient world for about 2, 700 years.



Ancient Persian Ruins, taken from Wikimedia Commons

Task

Please follow these steps to complete the Persian unit.

1. You should download the Persia Research Sheet (right click on this link to download the research sheet). You will use this form to collect information from the video and internet sources. This sheet will act as your notes and will provide the necessary information for your presentation. You will turn this sheet in with your presentation to the drop box at the end of the unit. THE GRADING RUBRIC FOR THIS MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION IS ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE RESEARCH SHEET.
2. Watch each video and take notes on your research sheet. Please review the sheet before you begin so you know

what you are looking for during the videos. Each video is 10 minutes long and there are five videos. You will need about 50 minutes to view the entire presentation. You may watch it in sections but please be sure to plan the necessary time (all videos are located on the third page of the presentation).

3. After you review the videos, you are invited to use the internet sites that follow to collect any remaining information (internet sites are located on the fourth page of the presentation).
4. Once you have completed the video and internet notes, create a multimedia presentation on the Persian Empire using Prezi (www.prezi.com) or GlogsterEDU.
 - If you would like to use GlogsterEDU, you may use this account to create your glog:
 - Username: VHShistory
 - Password: pwcsvhs14

Presentation Requirements

- The presentation should include the following five overarching topics (*see research sheet for specifics*): Government; Economy; Social; Empire; and Legacy.
- The presentation should be clear, concise and creative. Be sure to include images and other supporting details to enhance your presentation.

Project Submission

- Submit your research document to the dropbox in Desire2Learn, and add the URL of your Prezi or Glog to the "comment" section in the dropbox.



Darius III taken from Wikimedia Commons

Engineering an Empire: The Persians (Videos)

This video presentation on the Persian Empire will provide much of the information that you will need for your research and presentation. Watch each clip and record the information on your research sheet. Use the questions provided to guide your research. Please remember that each clip runs about 10 minutes. You can choose to watch all video clips at

once, or you may watch them in small chunks.

Video I: Engineering and Empire

Video II: Engineering and Empire

Video III: Engineering and Empire

Video IV: Engineering and Empire

Video V: Engineering an Empire

Zoroastrianism

The people of Mesopotamia and the later Persian Empire had endured much war, conquest, and famine. This suffering gave rise to the question of why this should occur? A Persian prophet and religious reformer named Zoroaster [ZAWR-oh-AS-tuhr] who lived around 600 B.C. offered an answer. Zoroaster taught that two forces fought for control of a person's soul. There was the god of light and truth, Ahura Mazda [ah-HUR-uh MAZ-duh], who led one force. The god of evil and darkness, Ahriman [AH-rih-muhn], led the other. Zoroaster argued that the followers of Ahura Mazda would be admitted to paradise, while the followers of Ahriman would be condemned to a fiery pit after judgment.

The sacred writings of Zoroastrianism were the Avesta , a collection of books. These works advised followers that their behavior on earth determined their life after death. The goal was to be truthful and practice goodness to gain admittance to paradise and avoid a fiery punishment. Many of these ideas, like heaven, hell, and a final judgment are shared with Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The religion was concentrated in Persia, or what is today Iran, and spread into western India. Some cults or religious divisions of Zoroastrianism eventually spread into the Roman Empire and competed with Christianity for followers. There are still around 250,000 people practicing Zoroasterianism, mostly in India and Pakistan.

Internet Resources

If necessary, please use these internet sites to research the Persian Empire and complete your presentation.

History of Iran (Persia)

History of Persia for Kids

The Persians



Cambyses taken from Wikimedia Commons