

Ancient Ethiopia: Aksum

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Introduction to Ancient Ethiopia – Aksum



I chose Ancient Ethiopia because it is one of the oldest countries, that happens to be an ancient African civilization. I also choose it because of the many creations it created. Ethiopia started a lot of things, that we still do or use even today. The currency and the religion are one of them. Ancient Ethiopia is important because "It has one of the most extensive known histories as an independent nation on the continent, or indeed in the world" (New World Encyclopedia).

Ancient Ethiopia Aksum is one of the oldest countries in the world; which happens to be an African civilization.

It was known as “Abyssinia” and still is to some people.

It is right by a place called Eritrea today, but was once called Tigray.

People crossed the red sea, which was in Arabian Peninsula’s southern region.

Because its location has a suitable way to live using livestock

It’s trade routes can run in multiple directions

ANCIENT ETHIOPIA (AKSUM LOCATION)



Ancient Aksum Culture



<https://www.addisherald.com/aksumite-empire/page/3/#gmedia10103>

I think one of the most important things to know about Ancient Aksum is its culture. Culture plays a crucial role in who we are as people. Knowing one's culture helps us to understand a diverse group of people. It brings light to one's past or helps us understand a past, we may have inherited into our lives.

The people of Aksum were known as Aksumites that, developed a lot of inventions.

Such as: was its writing system - this civilization name was given by south Arabic dialect and Amharic

It is also the main writing language of Ethiopia, along with the Ge'ez language The reading and writing start from left to right.

Even though Aksum had created the written script, it was not used to help keep Aksum's history alive

The king may have ruled but he needed other people to help to keep his kingdom alive. Aksum had to create divisions to divide its labor amongst its people. The division had soldiers, artisans, priests, and merchants. There were also the rich and the poor civilians who were "mostly craftsman or farmers" according to The kingdom of Aksum (article) | Ethiopia | Khan Academy.

Ancient Aksum Religion



<https://www.tota.world/image/5636>

In some civilizations Religion plays an important role in how people live, some civilizations live using spiritual practices, while others like with a system called religion. Another thing that played an important role in Ancient Aksum culture, was religion.

Two kings ruling in Aksum's fourth and sixth centuries were converted to Christianity. It was in the fourth century Christianity was embraced; under King Ezana.

The other religion is known as Judaism

Unlike Christians that use a book called the "holy bible", Judaism uses religious text in what is called a Pentateuch or Torah to those that don't know.

Ancient Aksum Wealth & Mint Coins



<https://coinweek.com/ancient-coins/the-coinage-of-aksum/>

- Its wealth was built by the amount of trading it was able to do and its use of mint coins (money). Though its working division (farmers, slaves, etc.) helped it come to a great distance.
- The Mediterranean and India were two of Aksum traders. Besides trading gold, they also traded other materials. Materials like silk, salt, emeralds, manufactured goods, spices, agriculture products, exotic animals, and many other things.
- When it came to money Aksum was not lacking. Because Aksumites were the ones to create mint coins.
- The first Ethiopian coins were created for internal trade, with symbols that had been “common to the religions in South Arabia”. Then it was later replaced in or to show “the importance that Christianity had in the kingdom”.
- Unlike how we use coins to trade now, it was different back in ancient Ethiopia. Silver Copper Coins and Copper coins color held meaning. One was used to export while the other was used to import. Besides the color of the coin’s religion played a part in the coin’s design. (Khan Academy, Ethiopia Aksumite Coins).

- Throughout civilization changes, something is almost always left behind to show they were here. In this case, we find left behind items in other forms from different years, centuries, decades, or so on.
- Ancient Aksum left behind artifacts informs, that can relate to ancient Egypt or its other neighboring regions. Some artifacts were inscriptions, written on stones called Basilica
- Today you can find them in Christian churches, as well as some museums. The museum that I would think is best to find these stones is either an art museum or History Museum. Just like we can find ancient mint coins and other ancient artifacts. Today these artifacts are worth a lot of money though.



Ancient Aksum Artifacts

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-africa/axum-legendary-kingdom-ancient-ethiopia-006720>

Conclusion

- Ancient Ethiopia because it is one of the oldest countries, that happens to be an ancient African civilization. I also choose it because of the many creations it created. Ancient Aksum in Ancient Ethiopia has many things. These many things like a form of governance, culture, agriculture, language, trade, inventions, architecture, and so on. Reading and researching about Ancient Ethiopia (Aksum) I have learned something new. I came to a better understanding of how people lived in African ancient civilizations. What I learned makes me want to travel to Africa even more. I would like to travel across the red sea and see ancient mint coins with my own eyes. I would like to be able to touch ancient artifacts as well.

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