

Highlights of Ancient and Lost Civilizations



West Africa

Djenné Djenno (Old Jenne)¹

“Old Jenne” (250 BCE – 1100CE) located in current Mali, is considered to be one of West Africa’s oldest urbanized civilizations. Once rich in vegetation and culture, Jenne was a critical player in the global trade route that included the “Sahel Route” that spanned from modern Senegal to Sudan. The trade route included salt, gold, and glass beads. Farming during that period flourished due to vast rivers and abundant vegetation. Not to be confused with the current Djenné Djenno, Old Jenne was abandoned for unknown reasons around 1100 CE.

The Nok Empire²

The Ancient Civilization, located in today’s northern and central Nigeria. Archeological carbon dating suggests that the Nok Civilization spanned 1200 BCE – 400 CE (various theories of timeline persist). Their society included iron work, pottery, gold and sedentary agriculture. Architecture was comprised of foundations that consisted of a ring of stones with wattle and daub material.

The Ekoí (Ejagham)

The Ejagham tribe ranged from SE Nigeria to Northern Cameroon. Written script has been used through thousands of ideographic symbols from at least 400 BCE.

The Underground Rivers³

An ancient river believed to have coursed through channels from the southern Atlas Mountains in Algeria to modern day Mauritania to the Atlantic Ocean. The rivers are over 350 meters underground and are believed to have once been a “vibrant, active river system” (Wynn) that would have support a flourishing ecosystem.

¹ Cartwright, M. (2019). Djenne-Djenno. Ancient History Encyclopedia

² Cartwright, M (2019). Nok Culture. Ancient History Encyclopedia

³ Sample, I (2015). Ancient river network discovered buried under Saharan sand.



An Abbreviated Pantheon of the Òrìṣà

Ayao – God of Air

Oya – God of Wind, lightening, and storms

Olókun – Ruler of all bodies of water. God/Goddess of the Ocean

Ògún – God of Iron and Earth. Warrior, hunter and blacksmith.

Ibejì – Twins in the Yoruba culture. Represents mischief, joy, and duality.

Ọlọrun – Ruler of the Heavens. Supreme Being. One of the two creators of the Òrìṣà

Oṣun – Goddess of Freshwater. Represents



The Huns

The empire of Xiongnu, founded by Modu Chanyu, located in modern Mongolia in 209 BCE. The “Hunnic” tribe flourished and expanded for several hundred years, moving westward and eventually ruled under the leadership of Mundzuk (real names are largely unknown) and his brother Ruga. Mundzuk sired Bleda the Hun and Attila the Hun who established his place in history through his incursions with Theodosius II, emperor of East Rome.

The Roman Empire



The Merovingian Dynasty

The dynasty, beginning with Chlodio who hailed from Germany and migrated to Northern Gaul (modern France). He was renowned for sacking Roman provinces in the early 5th century. His grandson, Childeric I, is considered to have officially incepted the dynasty that reigned until 750 C.E.

The Ranks of the Roman Army

Legatus legionis

Legatus Augusti propretore

Praefecti: A class below senators. Equivalent to knights.

Tribunus

Praefectus castrorum

Centurion

Primi ordines

Pilus prior

Optio Centurion's second in command. Commanded 80 men.

Signifer

Tesserarius

The Vigiles

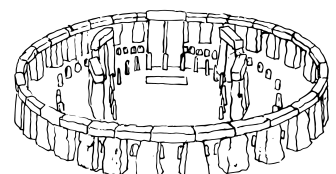
Referred to as "Watchmen of the City", the Vigiles were the firefighters of Ancient Rome

Stonehenge⁴

Stonehenge is a circular megalith constructed of a series of sandstone slabs weighing past 40 tons and standing 25 feet high. The megalith took approximately 1500 years to build with two construction phases taking place 2500 and 5,000 years ago. Various tribes contributed to its construction.

Its purpose, long considered a mystery, is believed to have religious or spiritual significance. Many have theorized that the site serves as a calendar. Astronomer Gerald Hawkins suggested

⁴ History.com Editors. (March 20, 2019). Stonehenge. History.com



that the megalith served as “...an astronomical calendar that corresponded with astrological phenomena such as solstices, equinoxes and eclipses.”

Glossary

Agbádá	“Voluminous attire” Four-piece West African outfit.
Awalé	A West African game of strategy.
Carpentum	Roman carriage for the wealthy
Centurion	A low level officer in ancient Roman.
Colosseum	Arena. An elliptical amphitheater in the center of Rome. Arena modeled after the colosseum were spread throughout the Roman Empire.
Ede	Language in Yoruba
Empedocles ⁵	A 5 th Century BCE Greek philosopher, scientist and healer who believed that all matter is comprised of four elements: Earth, air, fire and water. He also believed that the integration of the elements is influenced by the essence between the two life energies of Love and Strife
Ẹwà	Divinity. Yoruba
Ger	(See: Yurt). Portable, circular tent with a domed top (crown) to circulate air and smoke from centered fire pit or stove. Ideal for nomadic lifestyle. Houses five to fifteen residents. Primary home in central Asia, particularly Mongolia for thousands of years.
Hippodrome	A Greek stadium for horse and chariot racing.
Itan	History. Yoruba
Jollof Rice	Yoruba dish of rice made with tomatoes, onions, salt and spices.
Mlezi	Guardian or caretaker for children. Swahili
Nahlah	Drink of Water. West African with Mesopotamian roots.
Nabii	Prophet. Swahili

⁵ Mark, Tracy (1998). Elemental: The Four Elements. www.webwinds.com/myth/elemental.htm

Plebeian	Commoner in ancient Rome
Puella	A young girl in Latin.
Pythagoras ⁶	Pythagoras of Samos (c. 570 – c. 495 BCE) was a Greek philosopher and mathematician. Influenced Plato and Aristotle. Contributions includes theory of the functional significance of numbers, Pythagorean theorem, spirituality (reincarnation and the immortal soul) and the cosmos.
Scythia	Nomadic people from land surrounding the Black and Caspian Seas. Sarmatia.
Stola	Long, sleeveless gown that hung to the feet. Primarily worn by married women in ancient Rome.
Tesserae	Small blocks of stone or tile to create a mosaic in ancient Rome.
Theodosius I	Theodosius the Great.
Trajan's Forum	The public, urban square for civic and ritual businesses developed in 112C.E in honor of the beloved emperor, Marcus Ulpius Traianus "Trajan."
Viae	Roads throughout the Roman Empire. Essential for the movement of armies, citizens and officials. There were 372 great roads during the empire's peak. 250,000 miles of roads from Britain, East Rome to Northern Africa.
Yurt	(See Ger) Portable, circular tent with a domed top (crown) to circulate air and smoke from centered fire pit or stove. Ideal for nomadic lifestyle. Houses five to fifteen residents. Primary home throughout Central Asia. Eastern Europe (Ancient Scythia) for thousands of years.



⁶ Augustyn, Adam (2017). Pythagoras: Greek Philosopher and Mathematician. www.Encyclopedia Britannica