

Cheat Sheet

Ancient Kingdoms in Southeast Asia



Order of Time in History

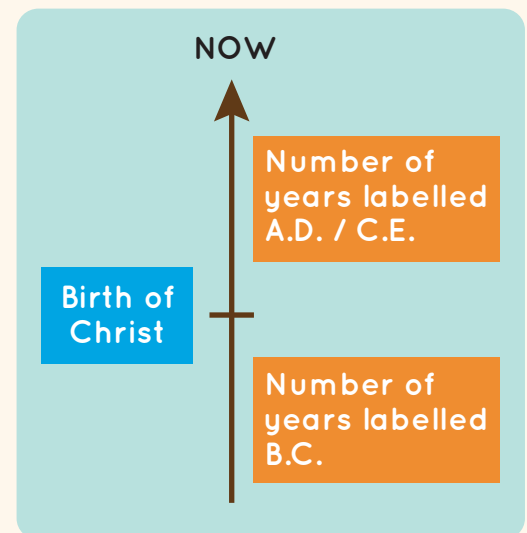


Introduction

History is a study of the past. To help us understand the context of time, historians use label or number of years based on the year when Jesus of Nazareth was born. For example, the label A.D./ C.E.* indicates the years after the 'birth of Jesus Christ', whilst B.C.* refers to the years before. (Ministry of Education, 2014).

Today, we are living in the 21st century. A century refers to a period of 100 years. It has a root word from Latin 'centum' which means 'hundred'.

There are many evidences supporting the existence of ancient civilizations found around the world, including Southeast Asia, during the 1st century and years before that. Our society exists today because of the first settled and stable communities that existed a long time ago. An ancient kingdom refers to territory that was once ruled by a king or a queen. There were a number of kingdoms established in the Southeast Asia regions. Below is a highlight of some ancient kingdoms.

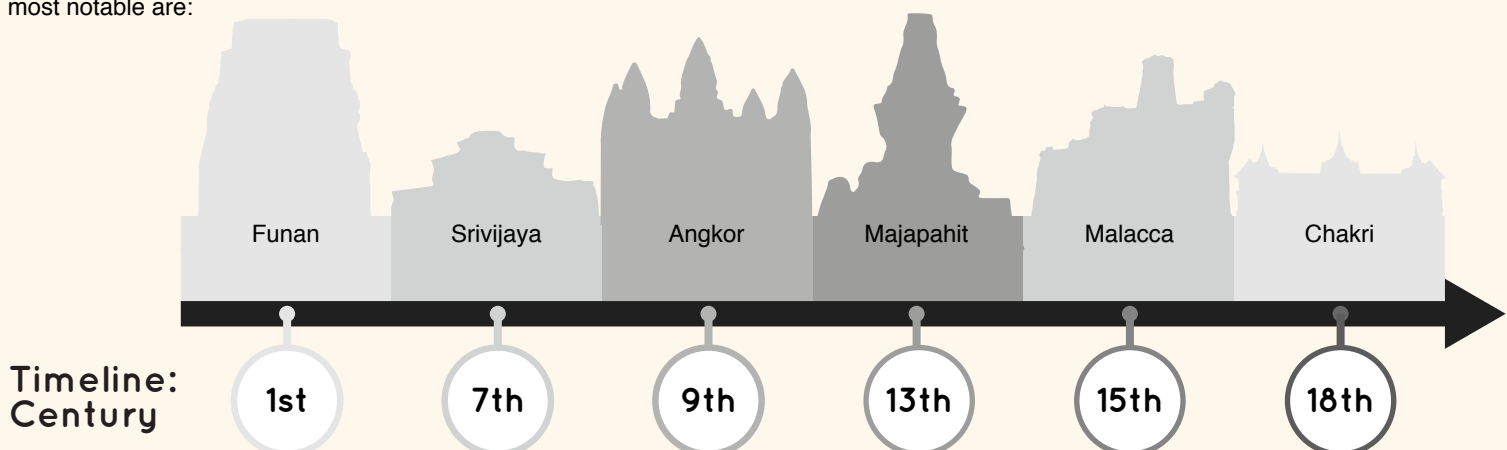


* A.D. or C.E. refers to Common Era

* B.C. or B.C.E. refers to Before Common Era

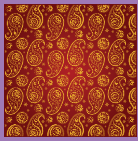
Highlights of Ancient Kingdoms

Evidences of ancient kingdoms or empires in the Southeast Asian region can be found along the coastal as well mainland areas. The most notable are:



Maritime Trade Routes

The kingdoms, especially those along the coastal areas became major trading centres. Merchants, scholars and religious leaders from India, China, Arabia and other parts of the world sailed through the Straits of Malacca, which was an important seaway leading from the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea. (Macdonald, Fiona. 2005.)



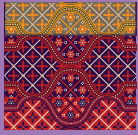
Textiles



Porcelain



Books



Batik and Carpets



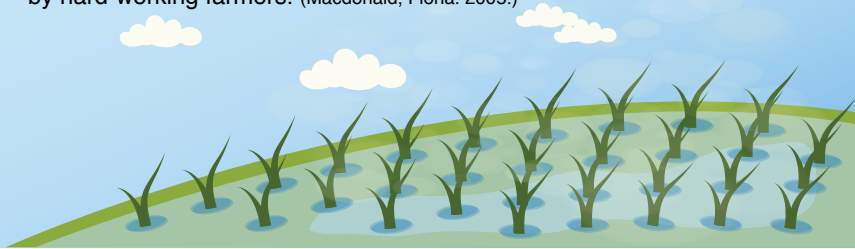
Sugar



Spices and sweet smelling resin

Farming Practices

Rice cultivation, especially in the kingdoms of Funan, Majapahit and Angkor, provided a great source of income as rice was a valuable trade item. The Kings undertook the construction of massive irrigation projects that brought water to rice fields thus enabling farmers to harvest rice up to three times a year. Other root crops were also grown by hard-working farmers. (Macdonald, Fiona. 2005.)



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Sources of Historical Information

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- 1 Visit NLB's online catalogue: <http://catalogue.nlb.gov.sg>
- 2 Type in these keywords: people Asia juvenile literature

Note: 'Juvenile literature' is a special description used to indicate the collection for children and young people.

For online resources via NLB's eResources web site

- 1 Visit NLB's eResources: <http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg>
Login in as a digital member.
For non-members, you are required to register at this website.
- 2 Select 'By Subject'
Select 'Social Sciences & Humanities'
Select 'History Database Center'
Type in the names of the specific ancient kingdoms.

Exploring the Internet

- 1 Use any search engines such as Google, Yahoo and Bing.
- 2 Type in these keywords:
Ancient kingdom Srivijaya kids website

Note: You may replace 'Srivijaya' with other specific kingdoms such as Majapahit, Funan, Angkor, Malacca etc.

For online resources, do evaluate the accuracy of the information posted using these criteria Authority, Accuracy, Coverage (content), Currency (date) and Objectivity.

References

Ali, Daud. (2013). Ancient India: discover the rich heritage of the Indus Valley and the Mughal Empire, with 15 step-by-step projects and 340 pictures. Leicestershire: Armadillo.

Macdonald, Fiona. (2005). Peoples of Eastern Asia. New York: Marshall Cavendish.

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