

EXHIBITS TO GO

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GRADES 6+



ANTIQUITIES FROM UKRAINE

Golden Treasures and Lost Civilizations

EDUCATION

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Ukraine, Then and Now

This area is also a crossroads between the continents of Asia and Europe.

 Why could ancient people move through this countryside easily?


 What might be some reasons why these people moved from Asia into this area?

 Can you name some of the modern countries that are located here?

The nation called Ukraine today wasn't always a country. The first people lived as families and tribes on forest and grassland that was bordered by mountains, rivers and seas.



Maps show many things about people and their way of life. As you look at this map, imagine how people living in this countryside might have existed long ago.

 What kinds of food might they have eaten?

 What materials would they use to build their homes?

 How would they move from place to place?

The Eurasian Steppe



Learn more! Check *Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine* hosted by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/



The Earliest Ukrainians

Before history was written down, people called Trypillians lived on the Ukrainian steppes. We know about them because archeologists have found their towns buried underneath layers of soil. Some of these settlements had as many as 1,000 to 1,500 dwellings, making them the largest towns of this time.

By studying some of these towns, archeologists were able to draw maps of them. Most of the ancient cities have the same plan.



- 🔍 How would you describe these towns?
- 🔍 How might these people have used their open spaces?
- 🔍 What kinds of buildings seem to be missing from these town plans?



Learn more! The Trypillians were especially skillful in making pottery from clay. To do that they used a coil technique. If you would like to make a coil pot, follow the instructions at **JH Pottery** <http://www.jhpottery.com/tutorial/coil.htm>

After taking away layers of dirt, archeologists discovered many kinds of objects used by these early people. The objects tell us something about their daily life. Although we have no written records for them, we can learn from these objects what the Trypillians used for food, how they built their houses, and what they thought was beautiful.

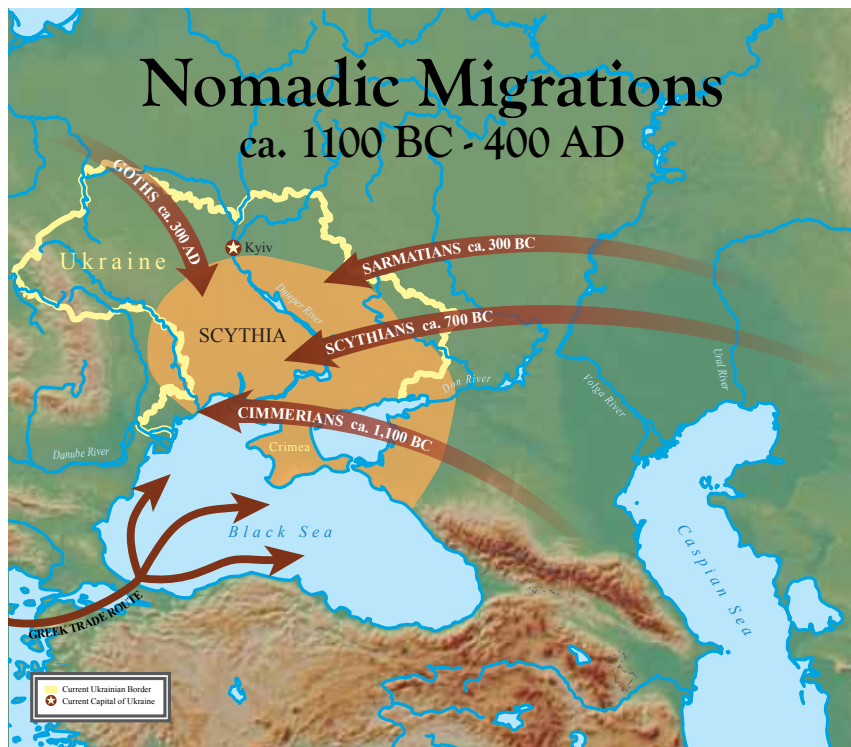


- 🔍 How might these objects have been used by the Trypillian people?
- 🔍 Can you describe what they thought made something beautiful?



New Technologies New Possibilities

By 2400 BC, several groups of nomadic people were moving into this region. Over time, these nomads were able to take control. The map of later incursions shows that one group, the Cimmerians, came from Asia and made the Ukrainian steppe their home.



These people lived quite differently from the earliest settlers. We know this because of the objects that they created. For example, they knew how to make bronze, and so they used such things as swords, bridles for horses, and armor.



What do these objects tell us about the nomadic style of life?

Why would the nomads be able to take over the Steppe and its people?

The horse was essential to the nomadic lifestyle. Riding horses gave these tribesman speed and mobility.

Why would horses be especially convenient as transportation in this environment?

How does the nomadic life differ from the Trypillian?

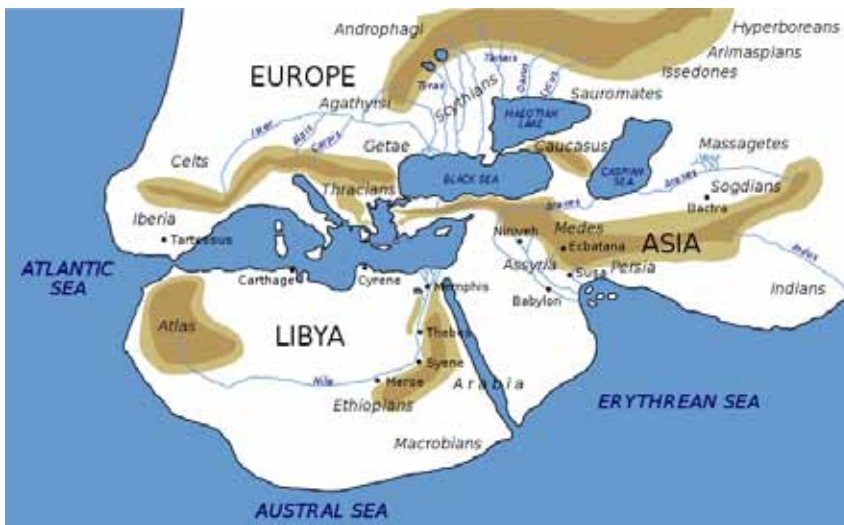


Learn more! Interested in finding out about the importance of horses? Check out these books: *Once upon a Horse: A History of Horses—And How They Shaped Our History* by Suzanne Jurmain and *Man and the Horse* by Piero Ventura






More Newcomers: The Scythians

When the Greeks began writing histories and epic poems, they included descriptions of the people who lived north of the Black Sea. One of the first to mention the Cimmerians, for example, was Herodotus, the ancient Greek historian. Those who study his writing have come up with a map of the areas that he knew.






Compare this map to the one of today's Ukraine on page one.

-  What areas do you recognize as the same?
-  What parts of the world did Herodotus not know?
-  How might he have learned about these people and geography?

The Scythians, another nomadic steppe people, used horses to take over the trading networks between the steppe farmers and the ancient world. Grain, hides and slaves went to Athens; gold and olive oil came back to the Scythians. Records show that they traded with Egypt and Persia as well.



-  Why would Egyptians, Greeks and Persians want to trade with the Scythians?
-  How might the Scythian way of life have influenced the kind of things they wanted to own?
-  What different decorations do you see? What do those decorations tell us about the Scythians?



Learn more! Check out the Scythians and their Greek trading partners at http://mkatz.web.wesleyan.edu/grk101/linked_pages/grk101.scythian_archers.html



Trading Partners: Greek City States

Many of the gold pieces that the Scythians loved were made by Greek artisans. Although some of these workmen lived in Greece itself, many also immigrated to the north shore of the Black Sea and developed cities there. The map shows many such cities. At one point, some of those cities were organized into their own kingdom.



How would you describe the location of these cities?

What advantages does their location have for trade?

Learn more! Put the name of one of the Greek cities into your computer's search engine to find pictures of their ruins.

The wealthy Scythian chieftans were buried with their belongings beneath huge mounds of earth called Kurgans. The objects in these burials came from many different trading partners.



How can you tell that these pieces are Greek?

Why would the Greeks have been the most important of the Scythians trading partners?



The Roman Connection: The Sarmatians

When the Sarmatian tribes entered the steppes, a long struggle for control of the land and the trading connections began. As nomadic warrior tribes, they fought against Alexander the Great. The Sarmatians' military ability was especially evident during the rise of the Roman empire.

The two often fought each other, and many Roman writers describe Sarmatian territory and culture. They were such good warriors that the Romans began recruiting them into their legions. When the Roman empire began to collapse in the third and fourth centuries AD, the Sarmatian tribes became a defense against the Goths and the Huns from the north.



How does the map of this area help us understand the relationship of the Sarmatians to the Roman Empire?

Why might the Romans want their "enemies" in their armies?

When we compare these gold objects we can see that the styles have changed.



In what ways has jewelry design changed?

What seems to be the most important characteristics of each style?

What might explain the change?



Learn more! Go to the Hennepin County libraries to check out *Scythians and Sarmatians* by Kathryn Hinds for more information about these two nomadic peoples.



Resettled and Invaded Again

As the Roman empire's impact decreased on the Ukrainian steppe, new struggles for power increased. From the north came new tribes who followed the rivers south and gradually established villages, towns, and trading networks. By 900 AD, the city of Kiev was the center of a new kingdom. Its most famous ruler, Prince Vladimir, was so powerful that he became the first "barbarian" to marry an imperial princess from Constantinople. In 988, Russia adopted Christianity and added the kingdom of Kievan Rus to the map.

By 1240, another Asian steppe people, the Mongolians, were invading the Ukrainian territory and the kingdom of the Rus. Mongolian invaders were highly organized and efficient conquerors. In terror the people of Kiev and its territories buried their treasures beside their stone churches and fled. Many of them never returned to dig up their golden wealth. These hidden treasures are unearthed by archeologists to study how these people lived and what was important to them.



Compare this map to the one on page three.

Why might this kingdom have become larger than Ukraine?



Learn more! You might enjoy *Dig*—the archeological magazine for kids and its website <http://www.nps.gov/ archeology/public/kids/index.htm>

The objects found from this period show the change in religion.

Compare the necklace shown here with necklaces from other cultures.



What is the same about them? What is different?

How would you explain the similarities and differences?



What new uses might some of these objects have?

Why might people want to use the same object but change its decoration?