

Search

Search Web

[Home](#) > [All Categories](#) > [Arts & Humanities](#) > [History](#) > Resolved Question

Which is the greatest civilization in the history of planet earth?

By greatest, I mean which civilization has contributed the most to the continuation of the human species on this planet? Which civilization was the centre of human existence for the longest period of time? Which was the one land that all men desired to see??

2 years ago (2011-08-07 08:44:16 +0000) Report Abuse

Additional Details

@Gerald

I know!! I have had the same experience as well!! It is freakin weird!! I was the one who asked this q a couple of days back. I logged in again and all the answers were deleted!!

2 years ago

@Whyshouldtellyou

Ahh... so you are back again!! How on earth did you manage to type the whole thin again?? Initially, I thought you were an Indian!! I traced your IP address all the way to Halifax in Canada!! You must REALLY love the Indian civilization!

2 years ago

@fred's in Bed

It is debatable as to whether one can claim that the English invented the language, cuz the script was Roman!! For Hindi is an Indian language because the Indians developed the script and the language. Mandarin is a Chinese language cuz the Chinese invented the script and the language... Just saying...

2 years ago

Best Answer - Chosen by Voters

India!

Has India contributed the most to the continuation of the human species on this planet? YES

Almost everything known to mankind in the area of science, maths, medicine, metaphysics and astronomy came out of India. for eg: Indians were the first to conduct surgeries & use anesthesia, Indians came up with the concept of zero and the number system, Indians invented algebra, trigonometry and other areas of mathematics, Indians invented Yoga and martial arts, (even though it is wrongly depicted in the west to be a Chinese invention! The Chinese themselves acknowledge that they learnt it from India!) Indians built the first university, invented the first school of medicine - ayurveda, discovered the art of navigation; The list goes on and on and on!! Indians have, by far, made the most inventions and discoveries! Here is a quote from Einstein.

"We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made!"

In fact, on doing further research, I have found out that some of the Europe's greatest inventions and discoveries were actually made in India thousands of years before Europe ever existed! For example, gravity! Isaac Newton did NOT discover gravity, it was discovered at least 2000 years before the British empire existed by an Indian astronomer by the name of Brahmagupta! (I hope I got the spelling right)

"The motion of the stars calculated by the Hindus before some 4500 years vary not even a single minute from the tables of Cassine and Meyer (used in the 19-th century). The Indian tables give the same annual variation of the moon as the discovered by Tycho Brahe - a variation unknown to the school of Alexandria and also to the Arabs who followed the calculations of the school... The Hindu systems of astronomy are by far the oldest and that from which the Egyptians, Greek, Romans and - even the Jews derived from the Hindus their knowledge."

- Jean Sylvain Bailly (French astronomer)

Where can we look for sages like those whose systems of philosophy were prototypes of those of Greece: to whose works Plato, Thales and Pythagorus were disciples? Where do I find astronomers whose knowledge of planetary systems yet excites wonder in Europe as well as the architects and sculptors whose works claim our admiration, and the musicians who could make the mind oscillate from joy to sorrow, from tears to smile with the change of modes and varied intonation?

-Colonel James Todd (American pioneer)

It will no longer remain to be doubted that the priests of Egypt and the sages of Greece have drawn directly from the original well of India, that it is to the banks of the Ganges and the Indus that our hearts feel drawn as by some hidden urge.

-Friedrich Mejer (English statesman)

"I am convinced that everything has come down to us from the banks of the Ganges, - astronomy, astrology, metempsychosis,.. It is very important to note that some 2,500 years ago at the least Pythagoras went from Samos to the Ganges to learn geometry...But he would certainly not have undertaken such a strange journey had the reputation of the Brahmins' science not been long established in Europe..."

-Francois Marie Arouet Voltaire (French writer and philosopher)

Which civilization was the centre of human existence for the longest period of time?

DEFINITELY India! India is the world's largest, oldest, and oldest continuous civilization. India was also the wealthiest civilization on the planet for ALL of human history, (except for the 19th and 20th century, of course!)

"The multiplicity of the manifestations of the Indian genius as well as their fundamental unity gives India the right to figure on the first rank in the history of civilized nations. Her civilization, spontaneous and original, unrolls itself in a continuous time across at least thirty centuries, without interruption, without deviation."

-Sylvain Levi (French Orientalist)

Was it the one land that all men desired to see? YES!

"India is the one land that all men desire to see, and having seen once, by even a glimpse, would not give that glimpse for the shows of all the rest of the world combined."

-Mark Twain

Source(s):

Angus Maddison - "The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective"

<http://www.pratheep.com/quotes.shtml>

<http://www.nriol.com/info/amazingindia.a...>

<http://india.gov.in/myindia/facts.php>

Edited 2 years ago (2011-08-07 10:43:48 +0000) Report Abuse

30% 7 Votes



WhyShouldI TellYou

This question about "[Which is the greatest...](#)" as asked in [Y! Answers United States](#)

Other Answers (8)

The longest is certainly the Egyptians. They were powerful and independent for most of three thousand years. America has not been independent for 300 years.

In my opinion, the Sumerians contributed perhaps the most, purely by being the first of so much. They invented the wheel, cuneiform, the first calendar system, canals, metal-working, sailboats, genetic selection of plants, pottery, and most all: arithmetic. We could scarcely build anything without arithmetic. That's what really separates a civilization from a barbarous, ignorant tribe. China, India, Arabic, and Western countries all seem to have shared their wealth of technological and medical knowledge to give humans longer lifespans. To say one has done more is nearly impossible, but I personally find the French, English, and German intellectuals of the enlightened era to be quite stunning. That was an age of giants.

The lands more people want to see than any other are probably: the Holy Land, Atlantis, Stonehenge, Easter Island, the Great Pyramids, the Bodhi Trees. Most people would like to see the oldest, most powerful places of antiquity basically which they feel personally connected to.

2 years ago (2011-08-07 09:14:20 +0000) Report Abuse

9% 2 Votes

 [Courtall's Revenge](#)

I would have to say India. India is, in existing form the oldest and oldest continuing civilization in human history! We have saying in France about India.

"Dieu a fait l'univers. l'Inde a fait tout le reste!"

Translation: God made the universe. India made everything else!

"If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India!"

- Romaine Rolland (French writer)

2 years ago (2011-08-10 13:54:59 +0000) Report Abuse

9% 2 Votes

 [Elize](#)

You can probably make cases for a number of areas; between the Tigris and the Euphrates; India; Egypt; China.

EDIT:

Gerald, did you miss the part of the question "for the longest period of time"? Perhaps you concentrated on the last question possibly you have no problems going to USA – many people are refused entry simply because of other countries they have visited, that unwelcoming attitude will affect the desire.

EDIT 2:

Gerald, it appeared to me that you have already cried about it. I did not bother to give you a thumbs down but your answer and edit does make me wonder – how do you wear blinkers and rose-tinted glasses at the same time?

Edited 2 years ago (2011-08-08 06:44:35 +0000) Report Abuse

4% 1 Vote

 [Tim D](#) TOP CONTRIBUTOR

Hmmm this is a little bit of a cop-out, but here goes: I think that all the advances that had the biggest effect on civilisation all occurred in prehistory prior to what we would consider the "first" civilisations. Fire, animal and plant husbandry, agriculture, language, spiritual beliefs, cultural artefacts (such as painting, statues, jewelry), clothing and perhaps even writing were all produced by so called hunter-gatherer societies. There is even evidence that Catal Hayuk and Jericho the oldest cities in the world were created by hunter-gatherers.

In Human society advantageous concepts are rarely lost from the mainstream and a deeper look at many of the concepts mentioned above prove that they are extremely derivative. The two mainstreams I would identify would be the old-world societies in Asia, Europe and Africa being one and the new world societies in south and central america being the other. Since the former has almost totally destroyed the later my candidate would be indo-european society. Can Rome be considered more influential than Hindu society? Consider that there were buddhist and hindu teachers in Alexandria during the rise of Christianity... and Greek pagans living in Pakistan even today.

As to the continuation of the human species...? Whichever civilisation comes up with the solution to over population and Global warming.

2 years ago (2011-08-07 17:43:27 +0000) Report Abuse

17% 4 Votes



Corkus

In terms of their legacy it has to be, in no particular order:

The Roman Empire, gave the World law and Christianity.

The Greeks gave us democracy.

The British gave us the English language, law- via Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights (English version) and constitutionalism.

Gerry - what has America given the World in it's near 70 years of being a Global power that cannot be attributed to its British legacy?

There is absolutely NO debate about the origins of the English language, it formed in England, by the English - true the alphabet is based on the Latin alphabet, but so what?

Edited 2 years ago (2011-08-09 20:27:46 +0000) Report Abuse

26% 6 Votes



Freddie

The Chinese, because their language (spoken by 1/4 of the world), their culture, their civilization and their contributions to the world from antiquity to now are still going to this day and into the future...

For what its worth, the language and culture of ancient civilizations such as Egyptian and Greek are now dead

2 years ago (2011-08-07 09:56:15 +0000) Report Abuse

0% 0 Votes



Beau