

Name _____

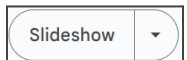


A Journey to Aksum አክሱም

Today's Tasks

- #1 - Explore Aksum's capital and experience the complexities of Aksum's civilization.
- #2 - Evaluate the extent to which Aksum was a major world power of its time.
- #3 - Practice primary source analysis skills.

Instructions: [Open the Slides presentation](#) and view the slides in *FULL SCREEN* by clicking the "**Slideshow**" button. Navigate the slides by clicking the buttons on the slides to take you to the next stops on your journey.



Part I: Journey to Aksum

1. Describe how the unique geography of Aksum impacted its history (hint, see slide #4):

2. Primary source analysis #1: The Ezana Stone

Prompt: Evaluate the extent of the influence of the Kingdom of Aksum between the years 100 and 600 C.E.

Source: "Ezana Stone," Ge'ez and Greek inscription on a stone stele, 4th Century CE still standing in Aksum, modern Ethiopia.

By the might of the Lord of Heaven who in the sky and on earth holds power over all beings, Ezana, son of Ella Amida, Bisi Halen, king of Aksum... king of kings, son of Ella Amida, never defeated by the enemy. May the might of the Lord of Heaven, who has made me king, who reigns for all eternity, invincible, cause that no enemy can resist me, that no enemy may follow me! By the might of the Lord of All, I campaigned against the Noba when the Noba peoples revolted and boasted. 'They will not dare to cross the Takaze' said the Noba people...I have defeated them...

...And I set up a throne here in Shado by the might of the Lord of Heaven who has helped me and given me supremacy. May the Lord of Heaven reinforce my reign. And, as he has now defeated my enemies for me, may he continue to do so wherever I go. As he has now conquered for me and has submitted my enemies to me, I wish to reign in justice and equity, without doing any injustice to my peoples.

How to Become a S.P.Y.



- #1 - **Summarize:** use evidence from the document to answer the prompt
- #2 - **Prompt:** directly answer the question with specific evidence from each document
- #3 - **why:** Analyze why this person decided to take the time to sit down and write this out. What did they want people to do with this information? Did they want someone to take action? **What did they want to change?** Why?

(space to write your S.P.Y. response is on the back of this page)

S: What does this source say about Aksum and its king?

P: Therefore, what does this tell us about Aksum's influence?

whY: Why did Ezana have this etched in stone? Who did he want to read this and how did he want this message to impact their actions? Does this consideration make you confident about the legitimacy of this source?

3. Evaluate the student examples (slide #12). Did they **S.P.Y.** the Ezana Stone correctly?

Student Sample #1 **S:** _____ **P:** _____ **Y:** _____

Student Sample #2 **S:** _____ **P:** _____ **Y:** _____

Part II: Touring the Capitol (Questions #4-9)

Instructions: Click the “Ezana Coins” on the map (slide #14) to explore the city. Record your reactions about what you learn. You might not find the answers to these questions in order, that is OK!

4. What can the ruins of Ta’aka Maryam teach us about Aksum?

5. Describe Aksum’s obelisks:

6. The Mausoleums of Aksum obviously prove the advanced craftsmanship and engineering along with the existence of an advanced social hierarchy and the wealth and power of the Kings. What do the Mausoleums reveal about Aksum’s integration into global trade networks?

7. What was the source of Aksum's wealth?

8. What is unique about St. Mary Zion church?

9. What events led to the conversion of Aksum to Christianity? (*4th century primary source from Rufinus*)

Part III: Exploring Aksum's Wider Influence (*see map on slide #26*)

10. Identify four facts proving Aksum's influence beyond its borders:

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11. The discovery of Aksumite coins in regions as distant as Europe and the Middle East most strongly suggests which of the following about the Kingdom of Aksum?

- A) Aksum was geographically isolated and relied primarily on local subsistence farming for its economy.
- B) Aksum's political stability made it vulnerable to the extraction of its wealth by foreign powers.
- C) Aksum's prosperity was based solely on conquest rather than commerce or diplomacy.
- D) Aksum had widespread economic influence through long-distance trade networks during the height of its power.



12. Primary source analysis #2: Records from the Byzantine Empire

Prompt: Evaluate the extent of the influence of the Kingdom of Aksum between the years 100 and 600 C.E.

Source: Theophanes, “Report to Byzantine Emperor on Aksum,” *Chronographia*, 530 CE.

“In the same year the Romans and the Persians broke their peace. The war was renewed...The Romans (Byzantine Emperor Justinian) sent the Magistrianos Julian from Alexandria down the Nile River...to Kaleb, King of (Aksum). King Kaleb received him with great joy...(King Kaleb) wore precious pearls; his bracelet had five spikes and he wore gold armlets by his hands...He stood on a carriage drawn by four elephants which had a yoke and wheels which was ornamented with Golden petals...

When the Roman ambassador was brought in and had performed prostration, he was ordered to rise by the king. (Kaleb) accepted the letters...he also accepted Julian's gifts and rejoiced....When he read the letter, he found that it was urgent for him to arm himself against the Persians and devastated the Persian army near him (in South Arabia) and no longer make covenants with Persia...King Kaleb immediately began his campaign: he set war in motion against the Persians...he himself went off to pillage the area.”

S: What does this source say about Aksum and its king?

P: Therefore, what does this tell us about Aksum's influence?

whY: Why did a Byzantine magistrate record this? Who did he want to read this and how did he want this message to impact their actions?

13. **Prompt:** Evaluate the extent of the influence of the Kingdom of Aksum between the years 100 and 700 C.E.