

Unlocking the Past

Wherever people live, they leave traces behind them. Some of these are temporary, others survive the test of time. What we know about the history of humanity we owe to such traces: impressive buildings; magnificent works of art, music and literature; great achievements in the fields of science and technology – but also everyday objects, transit routes, the remains of settlements or ritual sites. All over the world, scientists are investigating the often-hidden traces of past eras and cultures. They preserve the remains of the past for the future, and explore the wide range of human activity over many millennia.

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Documentary,
03 x 30 min.,
2027, HD;
Arabic, English, Spanish

23 additional episodes available

Trailer





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The Last Cities of the Maya

The Maya built one of the most remarkable civilizations in the Americas. By studying the ruins of their last great cities, archaeologists are uncovering how Maya society evolved politically, economically, and demographically in the pre-Columbian era. Each new discovery reveals a world that was complex, resilient, and highly adaptable – even on the eve of the Spanish conquest.







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The Mysteries of the Royal Necropolis of Byblos

Byblos in present-day Lebanon is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. When archaeologists discover a necropolis that has remained untouched for nearly 4,000 years, a window into the Bronze Age opens before them. Several underground burial chambers, known as hypogea, contain exceptionally well-preserved pottery, weapons, jewelry, and human remains. Who was buried there?



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How Water Shaped the First Cities

Thanks to digital technology, archaeologists are discovering just how closely the emergence of the first cities in Mesopotamia was linked to water. These cities arose in wetlands where people learned to harness it. Agriculture, crafts and trade developed rapidly, and irrigation and canal systems became increasingly complex, enabling the rise of powerful city-states.