

HISTORY
ARTS
CULTURE

DOCUMENTARY
30 MIN.

VERSIONS

Arabic, English, French, Spanish
(18 x 30 min.)

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Adventures in Archaeology

Archaeology today is an exciting subject. What did yesterday's civilizations really look like? What kind of technological expertise did they have, on what philosophy did they base their cities, their society, their cults? What did they know of other civilizations? Why did highly developed civilizations suddenly disappear? Was it the forces of nature, foreign invaders or over-exploitation of natural resources that caused the downfall? Is there scientifically plausible evidence for legends that have been handed down for thousands of years.

14 The Black Pharaohs

Up to 350 B.C., black pharaohs at Meroe in present-day Sudan ruled over a Cushite empire that was the cultural equal of its Egyptian neighbor.

15 Early Man in the Land of Diamonds

Africa was the cradle of humanity. In the dunes of South Africa, archaeologists have found stone tools and bones left behind by a Stone-Age people whose way of life is still pretty much a mystery.

16 The Lord of the Icy Heights

In Nepal, near the border with China, lies the Kali Gandaki Valley. In it, beneath majestic Himalayan peaks, archaeologists are looking for traces of old forms of settlement and living conditions.

17 Desert Gold

Gold and jewels in abundance. That is what the tombs of Egypt's pharaohs point to. But where did all the gold come from to fill the burial chambers of a young Tutankhamun?

18 Rescue for Pompeii

Pompeii, a small ancient city in the south of Italy, was buried in the 1st century A.D. beneath a layer of lava and volcanic ash. It was not rediscovered till around 1600. Today, much of the ancient art that has so far been preserved is now deteriorating fast.

19 The Message of the Maya

Equipped with only Stone-Age tools, the Maya showed themselves capable of astonishing achievements in architecture, mathematics and astronomy. They also developed a sophisticated hieroglyphic script, more of which is being discovered and deciphered all the time.

20 Looking for the Lost Color of Ancient Greece

When we think of Ancient Greek statues, we think of white marble figures. But we should not – because science has shown that the classical artworks were definitely colored.

22 Lost Civilizations in Sardinia

A tour of Sardinia's most exciting archaeological sites reveals that a highly developed culture on the island produced some brilliant architects and artists.

23 Armageddon – The Battle of the Pharaoh

Armageddon, in the Bible, is the battle between the forces of good and evil that will take place at the end of world history. And Armageddon has a model: Megiddo in Israel.

24 Atlantis in the Jungle – Angkor Wat

The grandiose temple complex in Cambodia lay hidden for decades – a victim of not just the ravaging forces of nature but also the Khmer Rouge.



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25 The Mystery of the Copper Kingdom

German archaeologists are digging in Iran again for the first time since the Revolution. Working with Iranian scientists, they are looking for a lost kingdom of copper. They believe some chapters of human history need to be rewritten. They are looking for traces of a people that existed 6,000 years ago, a people that led mankind out of the Stone Age and into the Bronze Age.

26 Deciphering the Nasca Code

The Nasca lines in Peru are one of the greatest mysteries of mankind – because the symbols and animals they depict can only be made out from the air.

27 The Gold of Tuva

A remote valley in Tuva, an autonomous central Asian republic in Russia. The people of Tuva call the region “dolina carej”, the “valley of the kings”. More than one thousand tombs rise up out of the steppe like miniature pyramids.

28 Roman Limes in the Orient

In 64 B. C. the Roman general Pompey the Great inflicted a crushing defeat on King Antiochus XIII of Syria and annexed his province to the dominions of Rome. The Romans developed the conquered region with limes consisting of forts, watch-towers, and other military installations.

29 The Secret Colonies of Carthage

In A. D. 65, the Roman Emperor Nero dispatched an unusual expedition to Carthage. Its goal was a cave of enormous depth. Nero believed that the cave contained the fabulous treasure of Dido, the Phoenician queen who, according to legend, founded the city of Carthage.

30 The Treasure Island of the Vikings

The Vikings, the seafarers from the far north of Europe, set sail in search of treasure in far-off lands. Their plundering raids struck terror into the hearts of people all over Europe. Archaeologists excavating on Gotland, an island east of Stockholm, have already unearthed more than seven hundred Viking treasures.

31 The Gold Route of the Incas

Around 1500, the Inca Empire was the biggest in the world. Even today we do not know the full extent of its eastward expansion. Finnish and American archaeologists have discovered a previously unknown gold route.

32 In the Land of the Queen of Sheba

People in Yemen have always been convinced that the Queen of Sheba is an actual historical figure and not just a legend. Archaeological work carried out on the southern edge of the Arabian peninsula is providing fresh insights into a region that is still very much closed off from the rest of the world.