



FEZANA Age-Appropriate Lesson Plan

Subject Category (circle one): Iranian Religion/Ceremony **History** Prayer Gathas
Comparative Religion Shahnameh

Age Group (circle one): PreK-K Grades 1-3 Grades 4-5 **Grades 6-8** **Grades 9-12**

Lesson #8

Subject of the Lesson: Elam (2700 BCE – 539 BCE)

Material for the teacher:

Lesson Objective: Students to learn about ancient civilization of Elam.

Lesson Duration: approximately 1- 1.5 hours

In-Class Lesson Discussion - Teacher shares:

In the 3rd Millennium BCE, the earliest kingdom arose in south-western Iran, called Elam. The Elamite kingdom lasted for a long time, and eventually they lost their power to a new group of people in the region called the Persians.

About ancient civilizations in Iran, most scholars talk about the Assyrians, the Hittites, the Medes, the Persians, etc. However, the Elamites ruled in this region around 2000 years before the Achaemenids in the Iranian plateau.





Elam & Susa

Elam, also called Susiana, was the region in southwestern Iran approximately equivalent to the modern-day *Khuzestan*. Susa was Elam's capital. Archaeologists have discovered a variety of artefacts and material that helped them reconstruct the history of Susa.

The Elamite period lasted from about 2400 BCE to Cyrus the Great's seizure of power in 539 BCE. This span of almost two thousand years of Susa's history is inseparable from that of Elam. Excavations of Susa and its surrounding area have enabled archaeologists to establish Elamite history.

A rough description of the city of Susa has been made possible by archeological excavations and Elamite inscriptions. The city appeared to be divided into three separate sectors: **The Acropolis, the Palace, and the city proper with its living quarters.**



The city of Susa in Persia/Iran, Province of Khuzestan

The Acropolis is referred to as the High City. It included a sacred sector referred to as high temple, belonging to the Royal Palace. The palace complex was surrounded by luxurious homes, which belonged to the nobles.

LITTLE PALACES

These homes, which were in fact little palaces, provided great comfort. There were fireplaces in them, the most frequent type being intended for heating, while the rest were used for cooking. There were also sanitary installations, such as baths and latrines. In this part of the Royal City, the earliest buildings are dated around 1700 BCE (while on the Acropolis, they date to at least 4000 BCE).

Much later, housing for small shopkeepers, artisans, and workers were located to the east on several hills. But these broad sectors are yet little known, for the archeologists have only explored a small part of them.



Susa, Iran – UNESCO

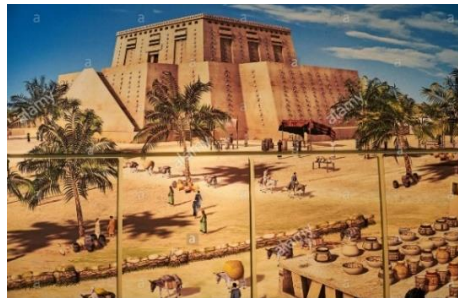
VILLAGE PERSE-ACHAEMENID

The most interesting site is called the “Village Perse-Achaemenid,” which provided a neo-Elamite tablet and two documents from the Achaemenid period. Just like everywhere else, people started learning to read and to write. There are numerous school tablets illustrating the work of students.

Artistic crafts are also abundantly illustrated in the excavations. The inhabitants of Susa were distinguished in their exceptional quality of stonework, metalwork, and work on clay.

NATURE AND FOOD

Finally, Susa and its surroundings, enjoyed a climate that allowed for various kinds of agriculture and the breeding of cattle, sheep, and goats. The surrounding environment was effectively used for fishing and hunting which provided a considerable addition to their food supply.



Susa painting – National Museum of Iran

Susa later became the administrative capital of the Achaemenian King Darius I and his successors from 522 BCE.

Susa is one of the most important cities of the world’s ancient civilizations.

Sources: Google, Encyclopedia Iranica, Encyclopedia Britannica

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