

The background of the slide features a sepia-toned photograph of a classical building. On the left, a large dome is visible, supported by a structure of columns and arches. On the right, another similar dome is partially visible. The overall aesthetic is historical and architectural.

HISTORY OF TRAVEL UPTO 1200 AD
UNIT 04
BTM 4TH SEMESTER
406 – GEOGRAPHY & HISTORY
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HISTORY OF TRAVEL UPTO 1200 AD

- Human mind has an innate bent towards travel, Since the earliest stage of human evolution man has had the desire to travel spurred by “the need of survival”.
- People lived by hunting, fishing and gathering wild plants.
- People travelled by foot and carried their infants and belongings strapped to their heads and backs.
- Load too heavy for one person was strapped on a pole and carried by two people.
- Soon people learnt the value of dragging things on poles and sledges made of poles and raw hide.

- By 10,000 BC., people had lived as tribes and migrated from one place for the proverbial “greener pasture” where they developed settlement. Middle-Eastern tribes developed agriculture. They also domesticated many wild animals of which horse, donkey, ox, cow and dog turned out to be the most useful for farm work.
- Trading was developed which created the need for better transportation.
- By developing harnesses the domesticated animals were also used to pull sledges for trade.

- While trade was a good reason to travel, so was military movement. Military travel was made possible by horse which was truly developed as a sturdy animal for travel over long distances.
- By 5000 BC., people began to develop water transportation. They built canoes, dugouts and rafts and propelled them by paddle or poles used in rivers, streams and lakes.
- The development of the wheel around 3000B.C., in Mesopotamia gave a major push to the humankind when they developed carts pulled by oxen and other mobile transport to carry people and goods.
- Wheeled vehicles reached other civilizations later –to India by 2500 B.C., to Europe by 1400 B.C., And to China about 1300 B.C. The first spoke wheels were developed mainly for chariots of war pulled by horses around 2000 B.C. & 1500 B.C

- By 1000 B.C., The Chinese had constructed roadways between cities and the Persians had done the same around 500B.C.,. These “paved the way” for greater wheeled travel.
- Early communities saw wagons, carriages and chariots as mode of transportation for regular war and trade.
- Alexander the Great in 300 B.C., propagated trade in his conquered territories from Persia to Egypt from Macedonia to India.
- Roman had paved roads of 80,000 kilometers made of stone and gravel. These roads helped in military travel and administrative chores in all their provinces
- Europe saw paved roads only after 1700 A.D.,

- The Egyptians developed sailboats around 3200 B.C., leading to trade between civilizations. By 3000 B.C., the Egyptians developed sturdier sailing vessels for conquest and exploration.
- The Phoenicians in 1000 B.C., were the first to have merchant fleets trading with Spain.
- By 400 B.C., the Greeks became a major power in the Mediterranean, and expanded the trade started by Phoenicians.

- Another reason for early travel was the Olympic Games in 776 B.C., in Olympia, Greece. The games, held every four years, brought athletes from the vast Greek Empire to compete in various sports disciplines,
- **The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896.** The man responsible for its rebirth was a Frenchman named Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who presented the idea in 1894. His original thought was to unveil the modern Games in 1900 in his native Paris, but delegates from 34 countries were so fascinated with the concept that they convinced him to move the Games up to 1896 and have Athens serve as the first host.
- Travel for sports cannot be overlooked in those times, especially in the perspective of how dramatically it has grown in modern times and the mass travel it entails.

- Religious travel grew strongly after the crucifixion of Christ. As Christianity spread in Europe, so did religious travel.
- In the first century AD, one of the important providers of lodging places for the pilgrims was the church.
- Church maintained hospices ” religious lodging for pilgrims” monasteries and hostels for the pilgrims during the middle ages.
- The Knight of Saint John of Jerusalem a.k.a Knights Hospitaller(1048 B.C.) established such lodgings to protect pilgrims travelling to Jerusalem. In effect, the church operated the first “ hotel chain” for religious travel.

- The horse as a means of travel for was well established by the first millennium.
- Mongol hordes under Genghis Khan created the mightiest empire in history. With the use of vast numbers of horsemen, they established an empire.
- They build roads to connect Russia with Persia(Iran) and Asia minor.
- It was the Mongols under Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan who discovered that the Earth was round while the Europeans believed it was flat.

During the late 1400 A.D.,. And the 1500 A.D,. The. development of the rudder triangular sails and the mariner's compass helped navigation and distant travel. These enabled European explorers such as Christopher Columbus, Ferdinand Magellan and Sir Francis Drake make great ocean voyages to discover North and South America(1492 A.D), Australia and New Zealand. Overseas trade and travel due to mass emigration increased rapidly during the 1600's with bigger ships.