

The Spread of Hellenistic Culture 5.5

Greek also known as Hellenic blended with Egyptian, Persian and Indian influences. This blending became known as Hellenistic culture.

Koine (koy NAY), the popular spoken language used in Hellenistic sites. This language enabled educated people and traders from diverse backgrounds to communicate in cities throughout the Hellenistic world.

Trade and Cultural Diversity in Alexandria

- ships from around the Mediterranean came to Alexandria
- streets covered with statues of Greek gods
- a tomb contained Alexander's elaborate glass coffin- where is the tomb?
- an enormous stone lighthouse called the Pharos stood in the harbor.
- a temple dedicated to the Muses, the Greek goddesses of arts and sciences
- libraries that helped promote the earlier works of classical scholars

Astronomy

- Hellenistic scholars preserved Greek and Egyptian learning in the sciences.
- Astronomer Aristarchus (ar ih STAHR kuhs) – proposed that the earth and the other planets revolve around the sun
- Ptolemy incorrectly placed the Earth at the center of the solar system. Astronomers would accept this for the next 14 centuries

Mathematics and Physics

- Euclid's work is still the basis for courses in geometry today
- Archimedes estimated the value of pi and explained the law of the lever

Philosophy - Stoicism

- stoicism preached that people should live virtuous lives in harmony with the will of god or the natural laws that God established to run the universe
- human desires, power and wealth were dangerous distractions
- encouraged followers to focus on what they could control.

Philosophy – Epicurus

- taught that the only real objects were those that the five senses perceived
- goal to achieve harmony of body and mind
- today Epicurean means a person devoted to pursuing human pleasures especially the enjoyment of food.
- Also advocated moderation in all things.

Realism in Sculpture

- Colossus of Rhodes was a bronze statue more than 100 ft. high but was toppled by an earthquake in 225 B.C.
- Nike of Samothrace created to commemorate a Greek naval victory

By 150 B.C. the Hellenistic world was in decline. Rome was gaining strength.

