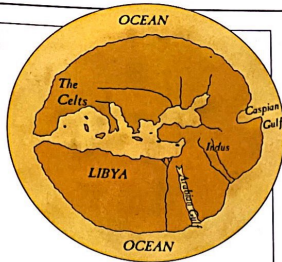


MAPPING THE WORLD

The Greeks were skilled at navigating and making maps. In the 6th century BC, a man named Thales who was from Miletus went to Egypt to study mathematics and astronomy. He brought his specialist knowledge back to Greece and became the first person there to find a method of measuring the distance of a ship from the sea shore.

Another Greek scholar, named Anaximander, became the first to draw a map of the world, although it does not survive today for us to check its accuracy.



This 6th century BC map by Hecataeus shows that Greek knowledge of the world extended as far as North Africa, Western Europe and Asia Minor.



This 5th century BC map by Herodotus shows that, by then, knowledge of Asia had increased and the Greeks knew the Caspian Sea was bordered by land.

There are many images of sea creatures in Greek art and legend. This bronze figure is of a boy riding a dolphin.

TRAVEL OVERLAND

Travel overland was painfully slow, as most people had no choice but to walk everywhere. Donkeys were used to carry goods, but only the rich could afford to ride horses. Carts could be used, but only when the roads were good enough for them - which was not often. Then there was the added danger of attacks by bandits and wars between states, which often meant people were forced to make detours lasting many days, just to travel in safety.

This cart is based on a vase painting dated around 540BC. Greek carts had either four or two wheels.

