

PHOENICIAN PURPLE

Around 1100BC, groups of Canaanites who lived in the great northern ports became independent from the Egyptians. These people are known as Phoenicians, from a Greek word for purple - a reference to their famous dye.

The Phoenicians made writing simpler by inventing the forerunner of the alphabet we use today. They also built a fleet of warships which were used by all the great empires that later conquered them.



The Phoenicians were known for their fine glass, such as these perfume bottles

THE HEBREWS

According to the Bible, the Hebrews, or Jews, were originally nomads who wandered around the edges of Mesopotamia's fertile farming land. After a long stay in Egypt, they escaped to Canaan around 1250BC. About 200 years later, they formed a kingdom.

The Hebrew kingdom flourished under the kings Saul, David and Solomon, but was eventually split into two parts. The north was known as Israel, and the south was called Judah. Israel was later overthrown by the Assyrians, and Judah was conquered by the Babylonians.



INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can explore exhibits with information about the Phoenicians and the Canaanites, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com

