Phoenicians
• **Focus:**
  - Phoenicians became expert sailors and traded throughout the Mediterranean and beyond.
  - Along the way they spread ideas throughout the Mediterranean and they are credited with starting the modern alphabet.

• **Do Now:**
  - Explain how the geographic location of a group of people might influence their culture.
Phoenicians

- Lived along the coast of modern day Lebanon
- Mountainous terrain made it difficult to farm
- They became expert sailors
- Established trade routes and trading colonies throughout the Mediterranean
  - Carthage in North Africa was one of the largest colonies
Phoenician Sailing Vessel
• Made a living trading several goods including glass and lumber.

• Their most important product was Tyrian purple, a dye made from boiling the Murex snail.

• This purple dye was very difficult and expensive to produce. It was very valuable to the rich and royalty throughout the Mediterranean.
Phoenician Trade Routes
How far did the Phoenicians sail?

- Historians have different theories on how far the Phoenicians actually sailed.
- They know for sure that they traveled all along the Mediterranean Sea and up into the Black Sea.
- The Phoenicians even traveled out into the Atlantic to reach Northern Europe.
The Greek historian, Herodotus claimed that the Phoenicians sailed around the tip of Africa!
Some theorize, based on the map on this coin, that the Phoenicians may have even made it to the Americas!!!!
This theory is generally not accepted.
Phoenicians

- **Called “The Carriers of Civilization”**
  - Spread ideas, technology, customs from the Middle East through the Mediterranean as they traded

- **Most important contribution is that they developed the Alphabet, each written symbol matched a spoken sound**
The **Phoenician alphabet** is the basis of most modern day languages throughout the world!
Review

• Why did the Phoenicians focus on trade by sea for their livelihood?
• Why were the Phoenicians known as carriers of civilization?
• What is the most important contribution from the Phoenicians?

Good Video about the Phoenicians
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojiOLBt7q_Y