

History of Education

History of Education – Structured Overview

1. Pre-Historical and Ancient Foundations

Era / Civilization	Key Features	Notable Contributions
Pre-historic societies	• Learning through oral tradition, apprenticeship, and communal activities. • Emphasis on survival skills (hunting, gathering, tool-making).	• Foundations of informal, experiential learning.
Ancient Egypt (c. 3000–300 BCE)	• Temple schools for scribes; curriculum: hieroglyphic writing, arithmetic, religious texts. • Education reserved for elite males.	• First state-run institutions; use of standardized texts.
Mesopotamia (c. 3500–500 BCE)	• Cuneiform tablets; schools (edubbas) taught writing, law, mathematics. • Professional scribes were essential for administration.	• Development of written curricula and record-keeping.
Ancient China (Shang-Zhou, 1600–221 BCE)	• Education for aristocracy; focus on classics (e.g., <i>Book of Songs</i>, <i>Analects</i>). • Examination system began in Han dynasty (c. 100 CE). • Paideia: holistic education of free citizens.	• Early merit-based selection for bureaucracy.
Classical Greece (c. 800–300 BCE)	• Distinction between gymnasium (physical training) and philosophia (intellectual training). • Sophists, Plato's Academy (c. 387 BCE), Aristotle's Lyceum (c. 335 BCE).	• Birth of systematic philosophy, rhetoric, and the concept of the "educated citizen."

History of Education

Era / Civilization	Key Features	Notable Contributions
Roman Republic & Empire (c. 509 BCE–476 CE)	• Education modeled on Greece; private tutors for elite, <i>litteratores</i> (basic literacy), <i>grammatici</i> (grammar), <i>rheto</i> (oratory). • Emphasis on law, rhetoric, and civic duty.	• Institutionalization of a tiered curriculum.

2. Medieval Period (5th–15th Centuries)

Region	Institutions	Curriculum & Purpose
Western Europe	• Monastic schools (e.g., Cluny, 910 CE). • Cathedral schools (e.g., Paris, 12th C). • Early universities (Bologna 1088, Oxford 1096, Paris 1150).	• Latin grammar, logic (trivium), and arithmetic, geometry, music, astronomy (quadrivium). • Training clergy and bureaucrats.
Islamic World	• Madrasas (e.g., Al-Qarawiyyin 859 CE, Al-Azhar 970 CE).	• Qur'anic studies, law (fiqh), theology, sciences, philosophy. • Open to a broader social base than European counterparts.
China	• Imperial examination system (Sui/Tang, 7th C) refined under Song (11th C).	• Confucian classics, poetry, calligraphy; meritocratic entry into civil service.
India	• Gurukulas (residential teacher-student homes). • Buddhist monasteries (Nalanda, 5th C).	• Sanskrit, Vedic texts, mathematics,