

World Science – the answers!

Phillipa Hulme

USA

Charles Drew discovered a way of storing blood so that it could be used for transfusions.

Greece

Democritus was probably the first person to suggest that everything is made of tiny particles called atoms. He was alive about 2400 years ago.

Poland

In 1543 Nicolaus Copernicus published a book stating that the planets – including the Earth – revolve around the sun.

China

Around 2200 years ago, the Yellow Emperor discovered the circulation of blood in human bodies.

Thailand

Bronze and iron were probably made and used in Thailand before anywhere else.

Mali

People of the Dogon tribe in Mali were excellent astronomers. They saw Saturn's rings and Jupiter's moons 700 years ago.

Middle East

Ibn Maymun realised that haemorrhoids can cause constipation about 800 years ago.

India

Bhatnagar recently found out how to make mud less sticky (*viscous*). This helps oil companies to drill for oil more easily.

India

1000 years ago, Nagarjuna knew how to separate silver, gold, tin and copper from their ores. He also described the processes of distillation and sublimation.

Zimbabwe

800 years ago, local people built a stone city called Great Zimbabwe. In the city, people made tools and ornaments from copper and tin.

Iraq

More than 700 years ago, Quatb al-din explained that rainbows are made because rays of light from the sun are reflected and bent (*refracted*) by water in the atmosphere.

Jamaica

Scientists are finding out how to separate gallium metal from bauxite waste. Gallium is used to make gallium arsenide, an important semi-conductor.

Brazil

Brazil has mixed alcohol with petrol to fuel cars for at least 30 years. The alcohol is made by fermenting sugar.

Nigeria

In 1925, a Nigerian doctor used a root from a 'rauwolfia' plant as a tranquilliser. This medicine is now used to treat people who have high blood pressure.

Iran/Afghanistan area

Many techniques of working with copper were known by people living in the Indus Valley around 4000 years ago. For example, copper was roasted at very high temperatures to remove arsenic and sulphur. If copper has arsenic and sulphur impurities, it can be very brittle.

Ethiopia

Melaku Worede has spent many years collecting samples of Ethiopia's rich variety of indigenous (native) plants, like barley, sorghum and teff. He worked with colleagues at the Plant Genetic Resources Centre in Addis Ababa to find out which crops grow best in which conditions and which plants are resistant to which diseases. The resulting seed bank is admired by scientists throughout the world.