



Multicultural trace in my area

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Pupils were asked to identify the foreign cultures which have influenced their own place most for centuries and choose the most significant ones.

What we have done to achieve our goal?

We have visited the historical sites and museums in Izmir and searched for traces of diversity. What we discovered?

Firstly we went to Yeşilova Höyük. Yeşilova Höyük is the oldest settlement area in Izmir. Before it was discovered in 203, Izmir's history was thought to base on 5000 years ago but after the discovery of Yeşilova and the findings found in excavations, Izmir got a reputation as one of the oldest settlement area in Western Anatolia.



SMYRNA

► Izmir is the ancient city of Smyrna, or "the country of the sacred mother", which existed even before the arrival of the Hittites and was ruled by **Ionians, Persians, Romans and Ottomans**. The original city was established in the third millennium BC (at present day Bayraklı) and had the most advanced culture, alongside Troy, in Western Anatolia. Excavations at Bayraklı have unearthed a temple dedicated to Athena and the wall of the Ionian city which had flourished there between the seventh and fifth centuries BC.

► According to the International Dictionary of Historic Places: Southern Europe, ancient Greeks were the ones "who raised Smyrna to heights of power and glory in the seventh century B.C. Smyrna passed into the hands of the Christianized, Greek-speaking Byzantine realm following the formal division of the Roman Empire."

We learned that Old Izmir city (Smyrna-Bayrakli) was captured by the Aiols came from Greece in the 11th century BC and thus the three-thousand-year historical adventure of the city of Smyrna began. The city walls, Athena Temple and Archaic Period civil architecture examples are important ruins in Smyrna. It is told that the city was named after an **Amazon Queen, Smyrna.**



Then we visited Agora. Agora, ancient market place, was first built in the 4th century BC to the north of Pagos (Kadifekale) where Smyrna was moved after Bayrakli. The agora of Smyrna was built during the Hellenistic era.



The remains of the ancient agora of Smyrna constitute today the space of İzmir Agora Museum in İzmir's Namazgah quarter, although its area is commonly referred to as "Agora" by the city's inhabitants.

Izmir's Archaeological Museum


This museum contains findings from ancient city of Smyrna as well as from surrounding ancient sites such as Iasos, Pitane (Candarli), Pergamon, Myrina and Kyme (Aliaga), Ephesus, Larissa and Gryneion (Menemen), Kolophon, Teos (Seferihisar), Klazomenai (Urla), Foca, Metropolis, and Lebedos. It contains a fine collection of Greek and Roman artifacts.



Ethnographical Museum

Ethnographical Museum includes cultural objects from daily social life of Anatolian people housed in a 19th century. In this museum you will learn about many handy crafts special for Izmir.



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- During the first millennium BC İzmir, known then as Smyrna, ranked as one of the most important cities of the Ionian Federation and Homer is believed to have lived here during this period. The **Lydian** conquest of the city around 600BC brought this period to an end. İzmir remained little more than a village throughout Lydian rule and the sixth century BC **Persian** rule. During the fourth century BC, a new city was built on the slopes of Mt Pagos (Kadifekale) during the reign of Alexander the Great. İzmir's **Roman period**, beginning in the first century BC, was its second great era. **Byzantine** rule followed in the fourth century and lasted until the Seljuk conquest of the 11th century. In 1415, under Sultan Mehmet Çelebi, İzmir became part of the **Ottoman Empire**.

Kadifekale (Pagos) ^T

The city on the Pagos hills overlooking the gulf which was founded in the 4th century BC by Lysimachos, one of the generals of Alexander The Great, today stands at the location between Kadifekale and inner harbor of Izmir. The castle which we see today along with its five towers and southern walls, was restored several times by Byzantines, Seljuks, and finally Ottomans.



- ▶ Izmir was once Smyrna, a city founded by colonists from Greece some time in the early part of the 1st millennium BC. Over the next 1000 years it would grow in importance as it came under the influence of successive regional powers: first Lydia, then Greece and finally Rome. By the 2nd century AD, it was, along with Ephesus and Pergamum, one of the three most important cities in the Roman province of Asia. Its fortunes declined under Byzantine rule, as the focus of government turned north to Constantinople. Things only began to look up again when the Ottomans took control in 1415, after which Smyrna rapidly became Turkey's most sophisticated and successful commercial city.



İzmir / Pergamon Ancient City - Photo: Orhan Özgülbas

Ephesus



- As one of the most important centres of the ancient era that is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2015, Ephesus had been inhabited approximately for 9000 years throughout the Hellenistic Era, Roman Period, Byzantine Era, the Period of Principalities and the Ottoman Era. It was a very important port city and centre of culture and commerce.

House of the Virgin Mary



- Ephesus is particularly important for faith tourism as it contains the House of the Virgin Mary. It is believed that the Virgin Mary was taken to this stone house by St John, where she lived until her death at the age of 101.

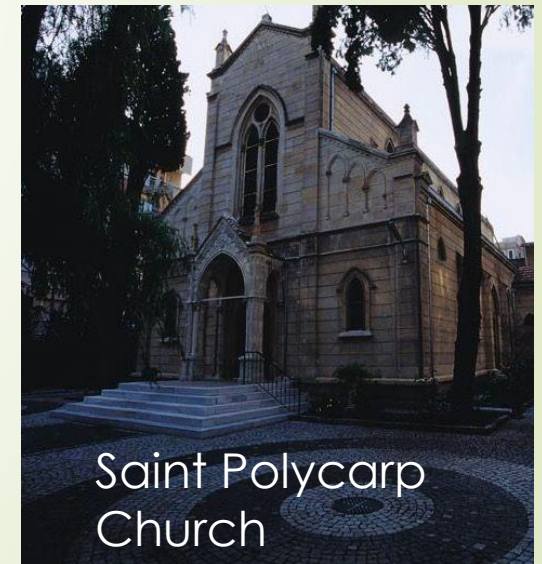
These Roman aquaducts were built on the Meles (Kemer) river to bring fresh water to the city. They're from late Roman period and double arches were built by bricks and stones stick together with Roman mortar. Same aquaducts were restored and used also by Byzantines, Seljuks and Ottomans. Today only few sections left from a long aquaduct which can be seen at Sirinyer (old Kizilcullu) district driving from the airport to the city cente.



ŞİRİNCE is a cute little village with a fun history, beautiful views, wonderful food, hospitality, and so much more. It's perhaps the perfect synthesis of a traditional Turkish village and traditional Greek village.



- Izmir undoubtedly owes much of its economic and social prowess to its location and climate, but even more so to its social mosaic that allowed many cultures and civilizations to flourish over the centuries. Persians, Greeks, Assyrians, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks and Ottomans are only a few of the dozens of civilizations that Izmir has hosted throughout its long history.
- Izmir take pride in its multi religious weave. In Izmir, several churches and synagogues are harmoniously intertwined with mosques and ancient houses of worship.



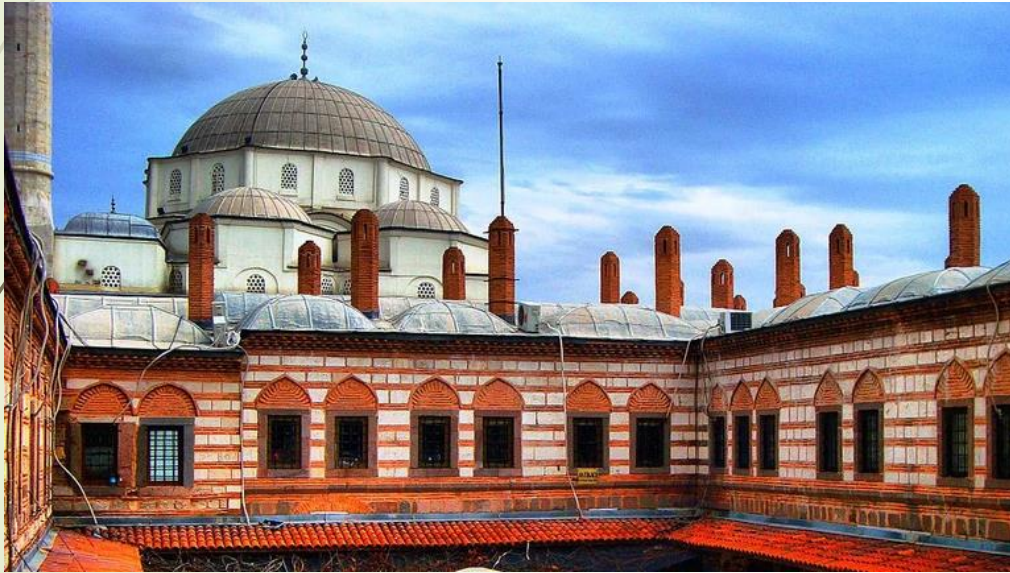
Havra Street

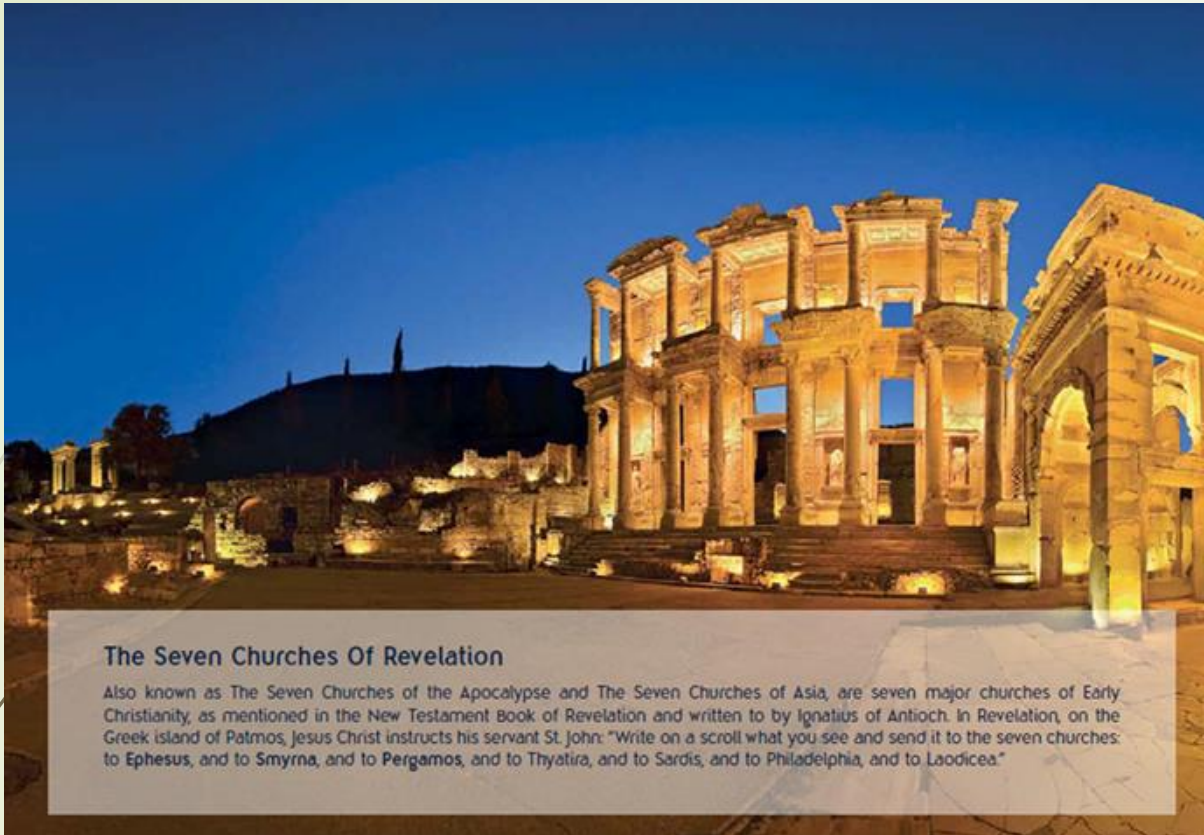
Havra is an important street of historical Kemeralti neighborhood. Local people come here to get their fresh vegetables, fruits, fish and meat. The street gets its name from many Jewish synagogues (Havra in Turkish) built here. There are nine Synagogues on this street but only four are operative today, Talmud Torah is the oldest of nine in this street.



Kizlaragasi Han

This typical Ottoman building in Kemeralti neighborhood was built by Kizlaragasi Hacı Besir Ağa in the 18th century as a caravanserai





The Seven Churches Of Revelation

Also known as The Seven Churches of the Apocalypse and The Seven Churches of Asia, are seven major churches of Early Christianity, as mentioned in the New Testament Book of Revelation and written to by Ignatius of Antioch. In Revelation, on the Greek island of Patmos, Jesus Christ instructs his servant St. John: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamos, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

- While the city was under the governance of Ottoman Empire in the 17th century, it became a major international port and attracted significant overseas business. Along with the developing trade, diversity also increased with Levantines, Greek Orthodox, Armenian, Jewish and Muslim Turks, who together formed a city of tolerance. Izmir had long served as a point of interaction between the East and West and constituted a borderland between civilizations, between ethnicities, and between religions in its process of evolution from Smyrna (the name of the ancient city) to Izmir. **The current urban identity of Izmir and its population has been deeply influenced by its historical heritage and multicultural past.**