

Chapter

1

Kingdoms in Indonesia

New topic alert!
How do you feel?



Excited Nervous

Focus on

- Hindu-Buddhist kingdoms
- Islamic kingdoms
- Kingdom's legacies

Learning Objectives

1. Learn about kingdoms in Indonesia
2. Identify the legacies of Indonesia's kingdoms



Warm Up

Have you ever wondered what life was like before today? Long ago, Indonesia was full of amazing kingdoms. They made many rules and traditions that still influence us today.

Let's travel back in time and explore how the past shaped the way we live now!

Figure 1.11- Jawi Temple in Pasuruan, a legacy of Majapahit.



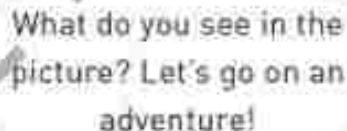


Kingdoms in Indonesia and Their Legacies

The kingdoms in Indonesia have left a rich and lasting legacy. It's been shaping the nation's culture, architecture, and political landscape. Major kingdoms like Sriwijaya and Majapahit, known for their naval power and extensive influence, established patterns of governance and cultural exchange that continue to resonate today. The legacy also includes tangible remnants like the Borobudur and Prambanan temples. They show us the kingdoms' architectural prowess and religious beliefs.

Let's Find Out

1. Every place has a story, shaped by its history and the natural features around it. Have you ever wondered why your area looks the way it does or why people in your community live the way they do?
2. If you could travel back in time, what would your area look like 1,000 years ago? What would people be doing?



What do you see in the picture? Let's go on an adventure!



Hindu-Buddhist and Islamic Kingdoms

Many of the things we see and do today, like ceremonies and cultural festivals, have roots in these ancient kingdoms. They were the centres of art, knowledge, and trade, and their influence can still be felt across Indonesia.

We'll dive into:

1. The **Hindu-Buddhist Kingdoms** that brought stunning temples like Borobudur and Prambanan to life.
2. The rise of **Islamic Kingdoms**, spreading peace and culture across Indonesia.

Figure 1.2 – Puntadewa Temple in Dieng, one of Hindu remnants



Mataram Kingdom: A Tale of Three Dynasties

Let's move on to a kingdom that's full of fascinating stories and cultural treasures: **Mataram Kingdom** (also called the Medang Kingdom). This kingdom flourished between the 8th and 11th centuries and was ruled by not one, but **three powerful dynasties: Sanjaya, Syailendra, and Isyana.**

Mataram Kingdom was like a tale of two regions—starting in Central Java and later shifting to East Java. It is remembered for its grand temples, inspiring leaders, and the coexistence of Hindu and Buddhist cultures. Let's explore how this kingdom shaped history!

Initially, this kingdom thrived in **Central Java**, ruled by the Hindu **Sanjaya Dynasty** in the northern region and the Buddhist **Syailendra Dynasty** in the south. Later, under the **Isyana Dynasty** and **Mpu Sindok's leadership**, the kingdom moved to East Java. Why the move? Scholars believe it might have been due to natural disasters, threats from neighbouring kingdoms, or even the desire for fertile land and trade opportunities.

Let's begin by traveling back to the era of Mataram Kingdom that inherits Prambanan and Borobudur temples.



Key Dynasties of Mataram Kingdom

Sanjaya Dynasty (Hindu)

The Sanjaya rulers were devoted to Hinduism and established many temples, including the **Prambanan Temple** and **Dieng Plateau Temples**. One of the most notable kings was **Rakai Watukura Dyah Balitung**, who expanded the kingdom to the east and brought prosperity to Mataram.

✦ Nifty Insight ✦

Mataram Kuno Kingdom is a reminder of how art, religion, and leadership can leave a lasting legacy. From the towering temples of Prambanan to the peaceful beauty of Borobudur, this kingdom continues to inspire us today.

Syailendra Dynasty (Buddhist)

The Syailendra Dynasty is famous for fostering a golden age of Buddhist culture. During the reign of **Samaratungga**, the monumental **Borobudur Temple** was constructed. This incredible structure is still one of the most famous landmarks in the world today!

Isyana Dynasty (Hindu)

Under **Mpu Sindok**, the kingdom shifted to East Java. This move marked a new chapter in Mataram Kingdom's history, blending Hindu and Buddhist influences.

Despite being ruled by dynasties with different religious influences, Hinduism and Buddhism coexisted peacefully. People of both faiths often worked together, especially during the construction of temples, showing the spirit of **gotong royong** [community collaboration].

Temples in Mataram Kingdom weren't just religious sites—they were also used to store the ashes of kings and as symbols of the kingdom's cultural and political power.

Here are some of the most iconic relics from this era:

Hindu Legacy (Sanjaya Dynasty)

- **Prambanan Temple**- A majestic Hindu temple complex in Central Java.
- **Dieng Temple**- A group of small temples located on the Dieng Plateau in Banjarnegara.
- **Canggal Inscription** - Found at Wukir Temple in Magelang, it's one of the oldest inscriptions of Mataram Hindu.
- **Balitung Inscription**- An important inscription discovered in Magelang, Central Java.

Think and Share



Building monumental structures like Borobudur and Prambanan required teamwork, resources, and dedication. What do you think motivated people to work together so passionately back then?

Figure 1.3 - Prambanan Temple





Figure 1.4 – Borobudur Temple

Buddhist Legacy (Syailendra Dynasty)

Borobudur Temple – A massive Buddhist temple built in Central Java, filled with beautiful carvings that tell stories of Buddha's life.

Did you know that Borobudur is the largest Buddhist temple in the world? It has over 2,600 relief panels and 504 Buddha statues! Imagine walking through its corridors, learning stories carved into its stones.



The Islamic Kingdoms of Indonesia: A New Chapter in History

As time passed, Indonesia entered a new chapter in its history: the era of **Islamic Kingdoms**. The transition from Hindu-Buddhist to Islamic culture was a peaceful transformation that brought new traditions, ideas, and ways of life. Islam spread not just as a religion, but also as a unifying force that connected communities through trade, education, and governance.

The Islamic kingdoms left behind traditions and values that we still practice today. For example, ceremonies like **selamatan** (a communal feast for various life events) and the tradition of **visiting graves** to honor ancestors are rooted in this era. These practices reflect the enduring influence of the Islamic kingdoms in our culture.

In this chapter, we'll learn about the first Islamic kingdom in Indonesia, Samudra Pasai Sultanate.

Figure 1.5 - North Aceh used to be the territory of Samudra Pasai.



Samudra Pasai Sultanate: The First Islamic Kingdom in Indonesia

Let's journey back to the 13th century, when **Samudra Pasai Sultanate** rose as the first Islamic kingdom in the Indonesian archipelago. Located in **Lhokseumawe, Aceh**, near the **Pasai River**, this kingdom became a center for trade, Islamic learning, and diplomacy.

Samudra Pasai is where Indonesia's connection to the wider Islamic world began. Its rulers were not only skilled leaders but also devout Muslims who helped spread Islam across the region.

Samudra Pasai was founded between **1290–1297** by **Marah Silu**, who later took the title **Sultan Malik as-Saleh**. He was the first person in Nusantara to hold the title of **sultan**, symbolizing his role as both a political and religious leader.

Historical sources that tell us about Samudra Pasai include:

- **Inscriptions on the tombstones** of Sultan Malik as-Saleh.
- **Travel accounts** of famous explorers like Marco Polo (from Venice) and Ibn Battuta (from Morocco).
- **Records of the Kingdom of Pasai**, written in local chronicles.

Samudra Pasai's strategic location on the northern coast of Sumatra made it a key player in **maritime trade**. It became a bustling port where traders from India, China, Arabia, and Southeast Asia exchanged goods like spices, silk, and gold.

The kingdom was also a hub for Islamic learning. Sultan Malik at-Tahir II, one of its greatest rulers, transformed his palace into a center for ulama (Islamic scholars) to meet and discuss religious teachings. This openness to knowledge and culture earned Samudra Pasai a reputation as a beacon of Islamic civilization in Southeast Asia.



Famous Visitors

- **Ibn Battuta**, a Moroccan explorer, visited Samudra Pasai in 1345. He described the kingdom as a well-organized Islamic state with a warm and hospitable ruler, Sultan Ahmad Perumadat Perumal.
- **Marco Polo**, the Venetian traveler, also recorded his visit to Samudra Pasai, noting its role in spreading Islam and its vibrant trade network.

The kingdom reached its peak during the reign of **Sultan Malik at-Tahir II** in mid-14th century. During this time:

- It became a center for **Islamic teachings**.
- It strengthened **diplomatic ties** with other Islamic states, such as the Delhi **Sultanate** in India.
- It maintained a strong **maritime trade network**, connecting Indonesia to the rest of the Islamic world.

By the 15th century, Samudra Pasai began to weaken due to:

- **Internal conflicts** and power struggles among its rulers.
- **The shift of trade centers** to Pulau Bintan and Aceh Utara.
- **Attacks from Aceh Sultanate**, which eventually absorbed Samudra Pasai into its territory.

Some relics from this great kingdom include:

1. **Cakra Donya Bell** – A stupa-shaped bell made in China in 1409 AD.
2. **Royal Tombs** – The tomb of Sultan Malik as-Saleh, located in Beuringin, east of Lhokseumawe, and the tomb of his son, Sultan Muhammad Malik az-Zahir, next to his father's grave.

Nifty Insight

Did you know that the Cakra Donya Bell was a gift from the Chinese Emperor to the Sultan of Samudra Pasai? This shows how the kingdom was part of a global network of trade and diplomacy, connecting Indonesia to the rest of the world!



Figure 1.7 – Cakra Donya Bell



Figure 1.8 – The tomb of Sultan Malik As- Soiah

There are numerous kingdoms in Indonesia, other than Mataram and Samudra Pasai, have profoundly shaped Indonesian life. Scan the QR code to get to know more about them.

Scan Me!



Adventure Challenge

You and your team are on a quest to uncover the history of your region. Was there a kingdom that once ruled in your area? Look around—can you find traces of it today? Maybe there are traditional ceremonies, foods, or monuments from that time. Ask your parents, grandparents, or elders in your community to share what they know. Write down what you discover and get ready to share it with your classmates!



Remember and Recall

1. Writings carved on stones or copper plates are called _____.
2. Indonesia's earliest kingdom is _____ kingdom.
3. Prambanan Temple is a relic of the _____ Kingdom.
4. The first Islamic kingdom was _____.
5. _____ built the Masjid Agung Banten, which became a center for spreading Islam.

Key Terms



- Inscription** : an old message written on stone or metal a long, long time ago.
- Kingdom** : A kingdom is a land or country that is ruled by a king or queen. The king or queen is the most powerful person in the kingdom and makes important decisions for the people.
- Sultanate** : A sultanate is a land or country that is ruled by a sultan. A sultan is like a king, but he is usually a leader in a Muslim (Islamic) country.
- Dynasty** : A dynasty is when the same family rules a country for a very long time. The power is passed down from parents to children, like from a king to his son, then to his grandson, and so on.
- Temple** : A temple is an old structure built a long time ago for praying and worship by people who followed Hinduism or Buddhism.
- Thalassocracy** : the power that came from controlling the seas and maritime trade routes

Points to Reflect

- A region can experience changes or developments influenced by its history and the natural features of the region.
- A prominent Buddhist kingdom that advanced rapidly to become a powerful maritime kingdom was the Kingdom of Sriwijaya.
- The first Islamic kingdom in Nusantara was the Samudra Pasai Sultanate in Lhokseumawe, North Aceh.

Assess Yourself

A. Choose the correct answer.

1. The Kingdom of Sriwijaya reached its peak under the rule of King _____.
 - a. Airlangga
 - b. Ken Arok
 - c. Balaputradewa
 - d. Raden Patah
2. What is the oldest mosque in Indonesia built during the era of an Islamic kingdom?
 - a. Masjid Baiturrahman
 - b. Masjid Agung Demak
 - c. Masjid Katangka
 - d. Masjid Agung Banten
3. What is the first Hindu Kingdom in Indonesia?
 - a. Kutai Kingdom
 - b. Tarumanegara Kingdom
 - c. Mataram Kingdom
 - d. Kahuripan Kingdom
4. The phrase "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika" which means Unity in diversity is written by
 - a. Mpu Tantular
 - b. Mpu Prapanca
 - c. Mpu Kanwa
 - d. Gajahmada

5. These are the influence of Hindu-Budhist kingdoms on modern life, except

- a. temple architecture
- b. language
- c. Wayang kulit performances
- d. Selamatan

B. Tick [✓] the correct statements and cross [X] the wrong ones.

1. Gajah Mada declared the Sumpah Palapa to unite the Nusantara under the Majapahit Kingdom.
2. Kutai Kingdom is located in West Kalimantan.
3. Tarumanegara's famous king was Mulawarman.
4. Candi Borobudur is a Buddhist legacy of the Mataram Kuno kingdom.
5. Samudra Pasai is the first Islamic Kingdom in Indonesia.

C. Draw lines to connect the picture and its name.



• Inscription

• Wayang Kulit

• Borobudur Temple

D. Answer the following questions.

1. How did trade help spread Islam across Indonesia?

2. Why does river is an important for Kediri Kingdom?

E. Look at the pictures and fill the gaps.



___ O ___ T ___ N ___



___ F ___ H ___ M ___



___ A ___ E ___

F. Indonesia has many historical relics from ancient kingdoms, such as inscriptions, temples, and other historical buildings that are still well-preserved today. Put a check next to the actions you can do to help preserve these historical relics.

1. Forgetting the contributions of historical figures.
2. Reminding others if they damage a historical site.
3. Learning the history of the site and telling others why it is important.
4. Never writing, drawing, or carving on historical buildings.
5. Taking stones, tiles, or objects from the historical site.

- G. Based on what you have learned, create a timeline of the Hindu-Buddhist kingdoms in Indonesia. Include the founding year of each kingdom, such as Kutai, Tarumanegara, Mataram Kuno, Majapahit, and Sriwijaya. Add one important event or achievement for each kingdom. Make your timeline creative and colourful! You can use symbols, drawings, or bright colours to show what makes each kingdom special.

Social Empathy: Respecting Our History and Nature

Our history and nature shape who we are. From ancient kingdoms to rich histories, they guide how we live today. By respecting cultural legacies and protecting it, we ensure that future generations can enjoy Indonesia's rich heritage as we do now.