

SELECT

Self Learning Atlas
of Ancient European Cultures



Students' Booklet for Students



Co-funded by
the European Union

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The Atlas

What is an Atlas?

Traditionally, an Atlas is a printed book that collects geographical maps. It can contain geographical maps that present different kinds of information: political, physical, economic etc. Today, an Atlas can also be a digital instrument that displays geographical maps and allows the creation of them.

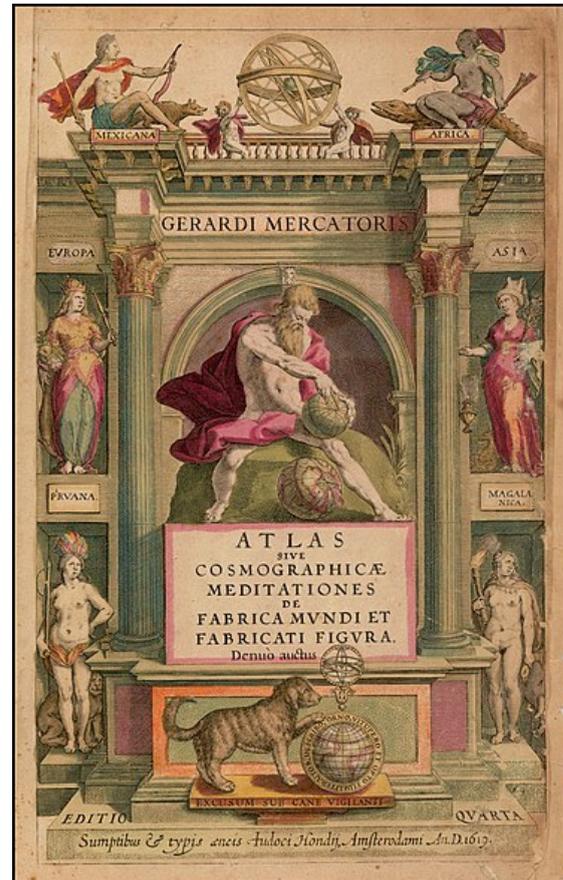
Atlas: A little bit of history

Mercator, the famous Dutch cartographer, invented the [Mercator Projection](#), which is at the base of the planispheres that we have in our classes. He also entitled his [most famous book](#) *Atlas*, deriving this name from Greek mythology.

The Greek poet Hesiod tells that Atlas was one of the titans who opposed Zeus and, for this, was punished by remaining at the border of the earth bearing the sky on his shoulders (Hesiod, *Theogony*, [517-520](#)).

In fact, his name has also been given to a [mountain range](#) in Morocco, that according to the perspectives of Greeks and Romans rose at the western extremity of the world.

Thus, the ocean behind it has been called [Atlantic](#), and a legendary island that rose in the middle of it was called [Atlantis](#) by Plato.



According to [Diodorus of Sicily](#), Atlas was a skilled astronomer, and the first to define the spherical nature of celestial elements and for this reason is always represented with a [sphere in his hands or on his shoulders](#).

The Greeks also derived this mythological figure from a previous culture: among the Egyptians, the god Shu was in charge of [supporting the goddess of the sky](#), preventing her from reuniting with the god of Earth, her beloved, and crushing any form of life.

To know before to use

The cultures of SELECT

Select is a database of [ancient cultures](#) that existed in Europe during the [Iron Age](#) and before the Graeco-Roman expansion, and allows to search information about:

- [Celtiberians](#)
- Cisalpine [Celts](#)
- [Elymians](#)
- [Etruscans](#)
- [Gauls](#)
- [Iapygians](#)
- [Iberians](#)
- [Latins](#) (archaic period)
- [Ligurians](#)
- [Lusitanians](#)
- [Messapians](#)
- [Phoenicians-Punics](#)
- [Rhaeti](#)
- [Sabellians](#)
 - ([Oscans](#) and [Umbrians](#))
- [Sicilians](#)
- [Venetians](#)

Archaeology or Epigraphy: different kinds of data

The information stored in the Select Database can be:

- **Archaeological:** objects or manufactures related to them.
- **Epigraphic:** texts written by them, in the language or with their alphabet.

For this reason, the SELECT atlas allows you to differentiate between Epigraphic and Archaeological findings.

Language and Alphabets

All ancient cultures had their language, but just a few of them had their own alphabet. The others relied on alphabets derived by different cultures. For this reason, the SELECT Atlas distinguishes between:

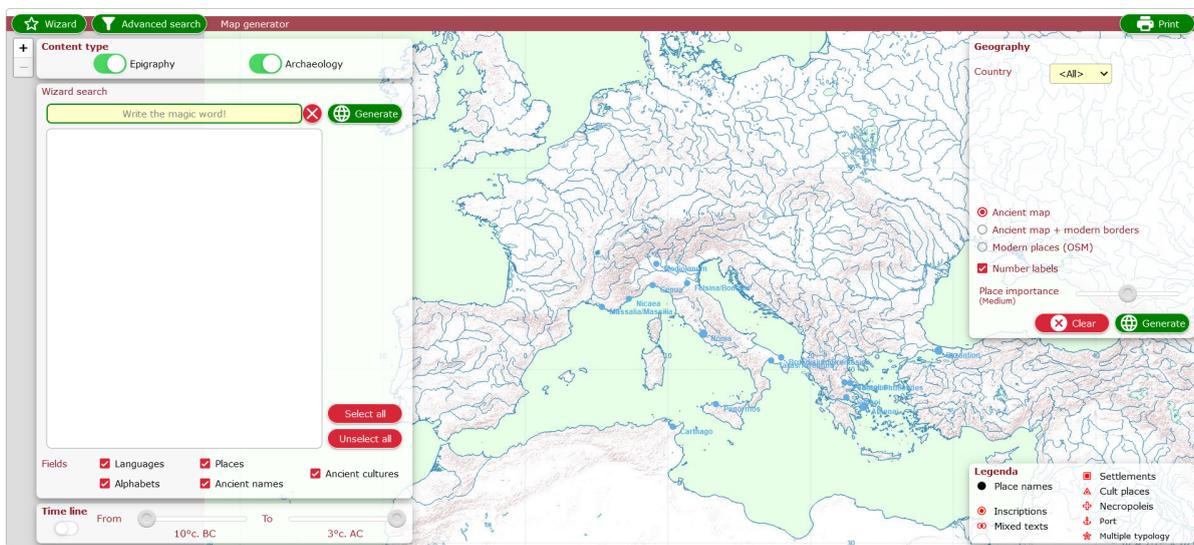
- **language**
- **alphabets**

The SELECT atlas takes into consideration 28 different ancient languages, that you can see listed on [this map](#).

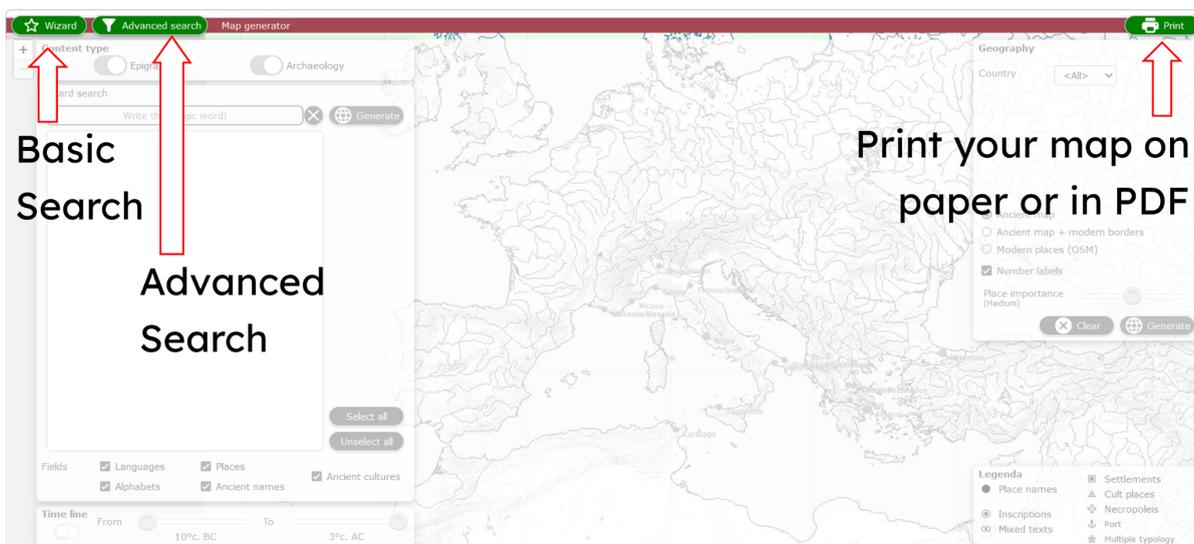
How to use the Atlas

Main functions

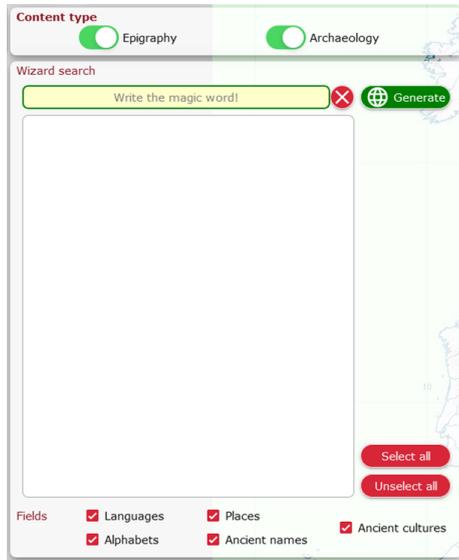
When you open the [Map Generator](#) it looks like that:



The green buttons in the upper area get access to the main functions:



The Wizard basic search allows you to select the parameters and options of your research:



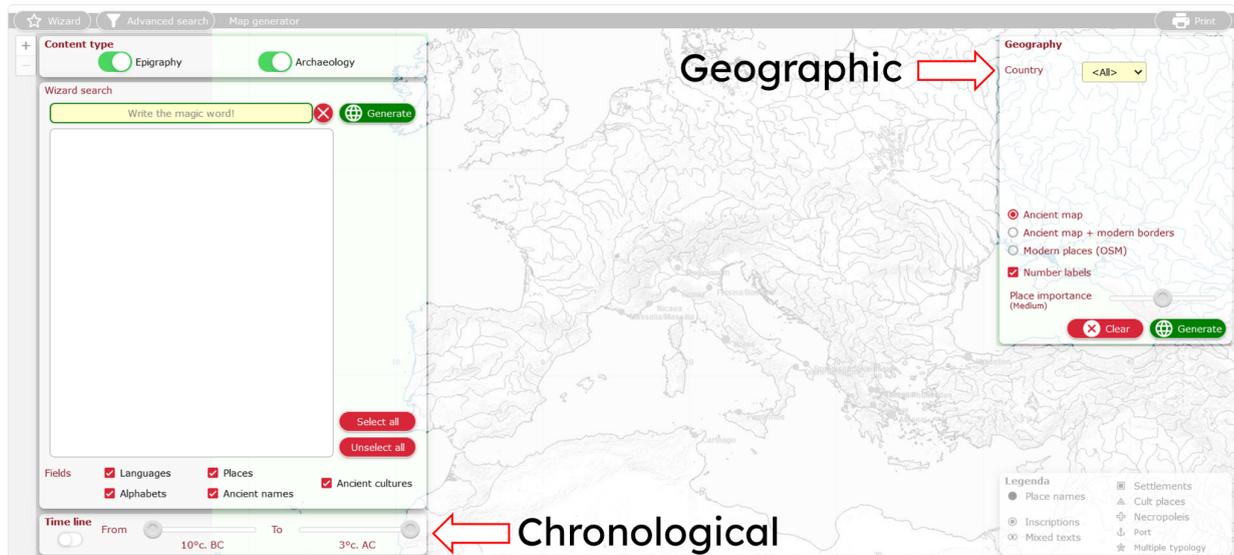
<- **Content type:** select the kind of data to display

<- **Write the magic word!** In the yellow line, you can write:

- the name of an **ancient culture**
- the name of an **ancient language**
- the name of a **modern place**

Fields: select or exclude the results according to those parameters

The Atlas includes features that allows you to extract the desired data according to chronological or geographic parameters



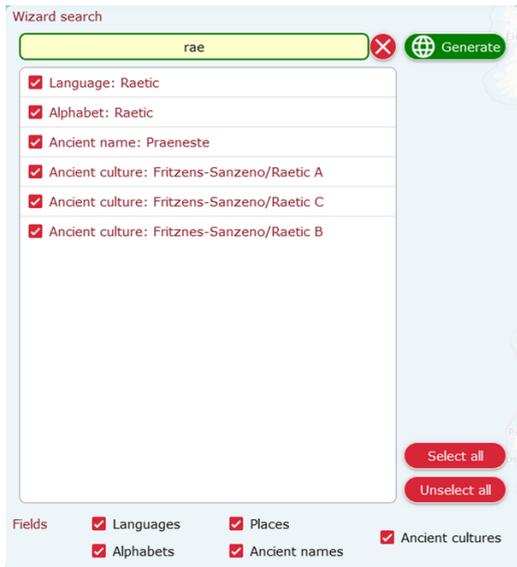
Chronological:

turn on the Timeline and scroll it defining the chronological extent of your research.

Geographic:

It allows you multiple actions:

- select the results according to **modern European countries**
- select the **background map**
- show or hide **ancient places** on the map according to their relevance



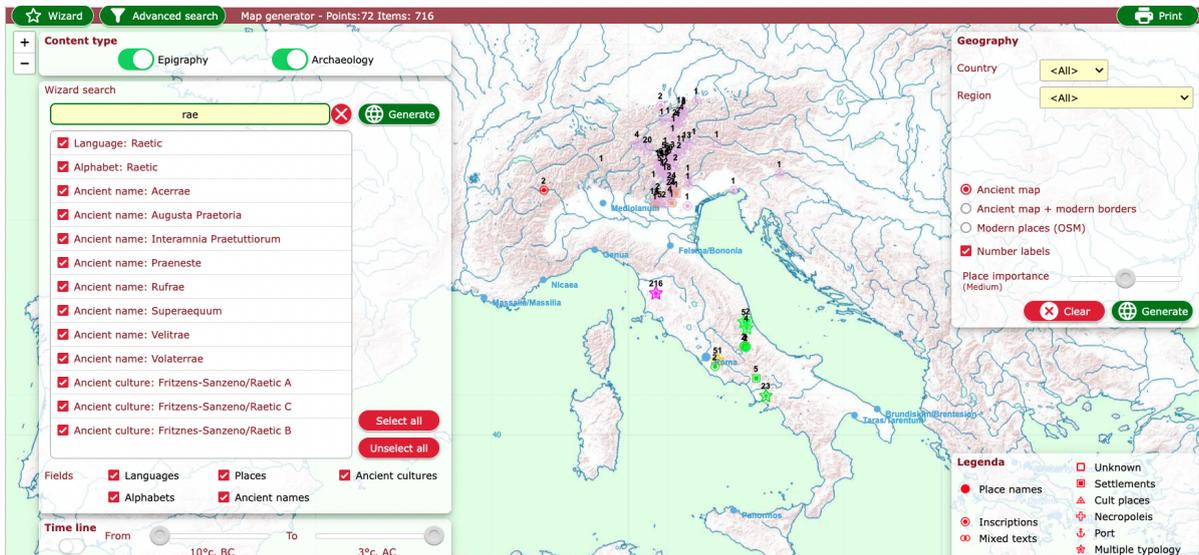
Once you start to write in the **Wizard Search bar**, results will start to appear in the blank area below of it.

If you allow any kind of results in the **Field** options, you will get **all the possible results** related to what you wrote.

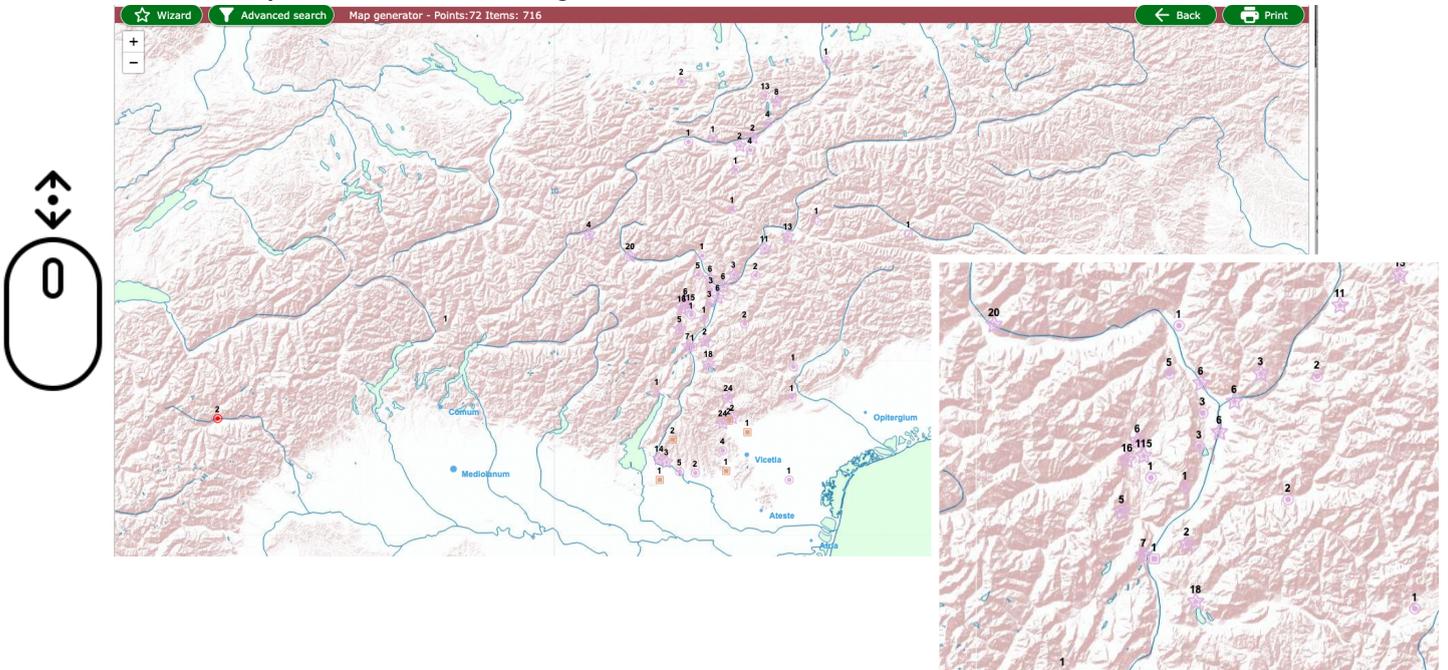
Then, you can click on each of them to include or exclude this kind of result in the map.

Once you defined all the parameters, you can generate your map by clicking on the green button:

Wait a few seconds and get your own map!



Scroll with your mouse adjusting the zoom:



In the **Epigraphy** section, opening a pop-up menu and scrolling through it, you can select specific alphabets and languages:

The **Archaeology** section allows you to scroll the list of all the places where archaeological findings have been reported and to browse the database according to a specific culture:

Cool features and facts

How many data?

The SELECT database gathers more than 30,000 records. Nevertheless, the quantity of data available for each culture is very different and it depends on several factors. If you want to know more, you can follow [this link](#).

Who did this job?

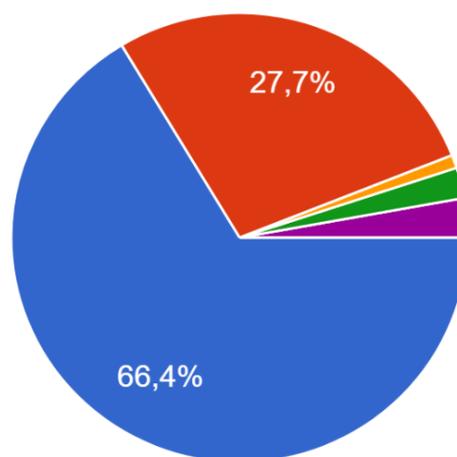
The SELECT project has been financed by the European Union and gathered specialists from different European countries and from different disciplinary fields. If you want to know more about the partners and their geographic origin, follow [this link](#).

What do Students say about the Select Atlas?

In 2023, we tested the atlas in several schools, involving 368 students of your age, who found it useful to learn:

- 66,4% History
- 27,7% Geography
- 2,8% Other disciplines
- 2,2% Informatics
- 0,9% English

Want to know more about them? Follow [this link](#).



What did they like most?

52,9% of the students loved the fact that the SELECT atlas is interactive. 65,8% said that it helps to place data and information on a map, and 50% of them said that it has been interesting to discover new facts and things thanks to it. Finally, 53% of them found that using the Atlas made the lesson more interesting and different from a regular one.

And you?

Do you find the SELECT Atlas useful and interesting to use?

If you want to share your opinion with us, don't miss to [write to us!](#)

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2023



LO Liceum Ogólnokształcące
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