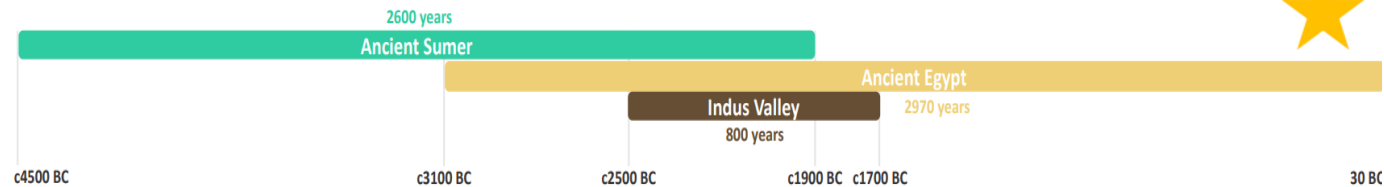


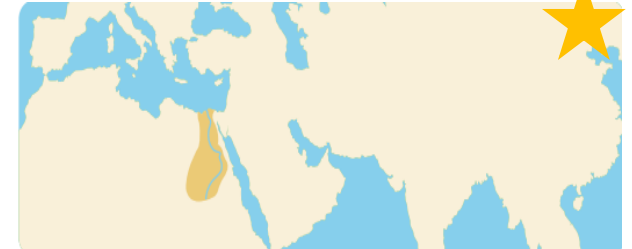
Ancient Civilisations

A civilisation is a developed society. Civilisations share common features, including cities, inventions, language, writing, hierarchy, leadership, infrastructure, arts and culture, trade and religion. Ancient civilisations first appeared over 6000 years ago in, or near, a semicircular area of land in the Middle East known as the Fertile Crescent. The climate, availability of water and variety of plants in the Fertile Crescent meant that nomadic hunter-gatherers could settle in one place and begin to farm for the first time



Ancient Egypt

The ancient Egyptian civilisation began on the banks of the Nile, in the Fertile Crescent. Egypt was initially split into Upper Egypt in the south and Lower Egypt in the north. It became one kingdom c3150 BC. The civilisation lasted for around 2970 years.



Ancient Sumer was the very first civilisation. It originated between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers in modern Iraq. Being near a river was important for early civilisations, providing water for drinking and fertile soil for agriculture. The ancient Sumerian civilisation began c4500 BC and lasted for around 2600 years.

Food and farming

The ancient Egyptians grew crops in the fertile soil next to the Nile. The most important crops were wheat and barley, which they used to make bread, porridge and beer. They also grew vegetables, fruits and flax to make into linen. Agriculture was essential to the ancient Egyptian economy. It provided food for the people, with enough left over to store for years of drought.

Inventions – Ancient Sumer

The ancient Sumerians invented many things to make work easier and life more comfortable. They developed a type of writing, called cuneiform, and a numbering system to communicate and keep records. The ancient Sumerians also invented the wheel, the plough, astronomy, irrigation and beer.

Rulers

Pharaohs ruled over ancient Egypt with absolute power. The ancient Egyptians believed that the pharaoh was the earthly representative of the gods. The most well-known pharaoh is Tutankhamun. His tomb was discovered in the Valley of the Kings by Howard Carter in 1922. The vast number of priceless artefacts found buried with the pharaoh provided a lot of information about life in ancient Egypt.

Inventions – Ancient Egypt

The ancient Egyptians improved earlier innovations and invented many useful items to make life easier. They created clocks and calendars for telling the time. They made paper from the papyrus plants to record information. To help move water for their crops, they invented a shaduf, which used a lever mechanism to move a heavy bucket of water from a low to higher level

Vocabulary

civilisation	The developed culture and way of life of a society.
fertile crescent	The semicircular area of land where the first ancient civilisations began.
irrigation	The digging of channels to allow water to flow through a field to water crops.
nomadic	A lifestyle involving moving from place to place.
ziggurat	A large pyramid made from mud bricks, with a temple on top.
waterfall	A cascade of water that falls from a higher level to a lower level