

Gods:

Ra



Osiris



Anubis



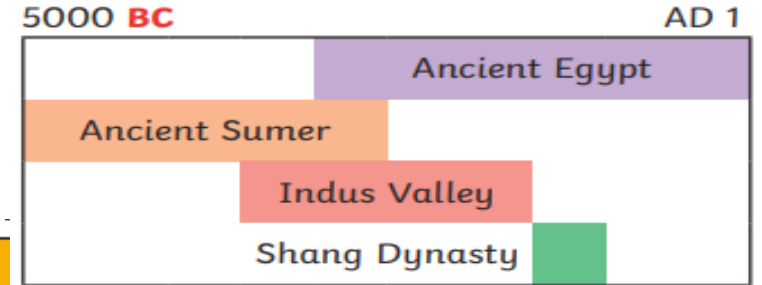
Thoth



Nut and Geb



Timeline



Key Vocabulary

ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
civilisation	A human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
Egypt	The country on the continent of Africa where the ancient Egyptian civilisation was created.
hieroglyphics	A system of writing that consists of pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters.
irrigation	A system of canals or channels dug by the Egyptians to supply water to grow crops over a larger area than the water would naturally reach.
the Nile	A river that runs through Egypt. It was essential to life in ancient Egypt.
pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt.
tomb	A sealed room where a person was placed after death.

Hieroglyphics

In ancient Egypt, scribes wrote on papyrus (a thick type of paper made from reeds). Scribes wrote using hieroglyphs. Hieroglyphs were used for religious texts and inscriptions on statues and tombs. They were also used for counting crops and animals.

The Nile

Life revolved around the Nile. Every year, it flooded and left behind a black silt that enriched the soil for growing crops. The river was also used to irrigate fields in other areas.

The Nile was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from the river banks was used to make bricks and papyrus plants were used to make paper.

Most people lived along and around the Nile. This is still true in Egypt today.

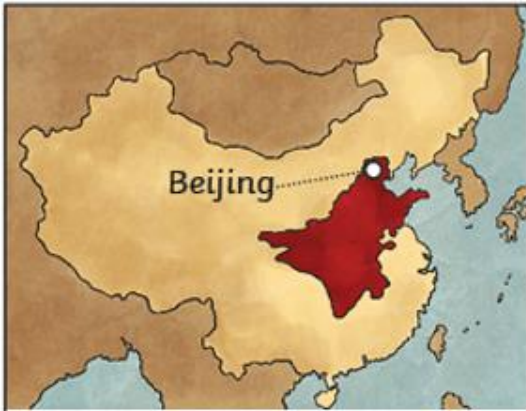
A Pharaoh's Death



The ancient Egyptians built the pyramids as resting places for the pharaohs.

When a pharaoh died, priests would prepare their bodies with a process called mummification.

The pharaoh was then placed in a tomb, often under a pyramid, with their most treasured possessions. The ancient Egyptians believed that these treasures would help them in the afterlife.



The Shang Dynasty

For 500 years, part of China was ruled by the Shang dynasty during the era 1600 - 1046 BC. Their territory was along the Yellow River which produced fertile farms for the people. These farms were very important to the success of the Shang dynasty.

Life in the Shang Dynasty

The civilisation was based on **farming, hunting and animals**. Buildings were built from **mud**. The oldest surviving records from **Anyang** tell us that under the late Shang dynasty writing was fully developed.

Crafts

Shang craftsmen used a variety of materials, including **bronze, jade, clay, wood, stone and bone**. Many of the artefacts that have been found were buried with their owners when they died.



Jade figure found in the tomb of Fu Hao



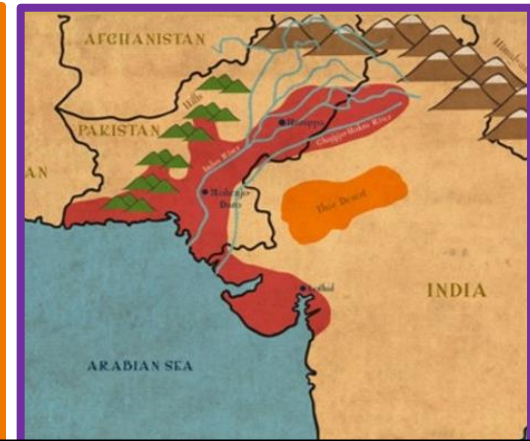
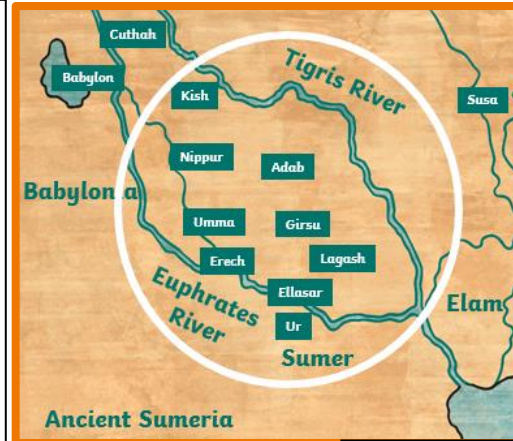
Ancient Sumerian Civilisation

The Sumerians were the first civilisation to form on Earth. They developed in an area known as Mesopotamia between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers in modern-day Iraq.

As well as having the first recorded example of writing, the ancient Sumerians also invented the wheel, sailboats, and pottery. They also gave us the 24-hour clock as they were the first civilisation to divide days into 24 hours.

Writing

Early Sumerian writing used pictures called hieroglyphs, similar to those used in ancient Egypt. This developed into a script called cuneiform ('wedge-shaped') - symbols inscribed in clay tablets using a blunt reed to make marks.



Indus Valley Civilisation

The **Indus Valley** was home to one of the world's first large civilisations. It began **nearly 5,000 years ago** in an area of what is now **Pakistan and Northern India**. The first farmers liked living near the river because it kept the land green and fertile for **growing crops**. These farmers lived together in **villages** which grew over time into large ancient cities, like Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.

The Indus people needed river water to drink, wash and to irrigate their fields. They may also have used water in religious ceremonies. To the Indus people, their river was **'The King River'**.

Some city districts inside were raised on **mounds**. The highest mound was known as the **citadel**, which might have been where the priests or rulers lived.

Artefacts

The Indus people were some of the first to create jewellery. Beads were made from clay at first, but later from precious stones.

This soapstone statue was found at Mohenjo-Daro. It has a headband with a jewel and a religious pattern on the shawl, leading to this person being called the 'Priest-King'.



Building City States

The Sumerians built their cities on isolated areas of fertile land, separated by desert. Each city became its own self-governed unit of **civilisation** or 'city state' centred around a temple to the gods. People were roughly divided into the **free classes** and the enslaved, who were forced to serve them.

Key questions:

Why did these civilisations all develop around water?

What similarities are there between the Sumerians, Indus Valley, Egyptian and Shang civilisations?

What did the Ancient Egyptians believe about death? How did they prepare a body for the afterlife?