

Which Ancient Civilizations Still Resonate With Us Today?

Ancient Sumer

The Sumerians built their cities on fertile land. Each Sumerian city became its own **self-governed civilisation or 'city state'** centred around a temple to the gods. Buildings in Sumer were mostly made out of **sun-baked mud bricks**. Over time, wooden moulds were developed to make bricks a uniform shape and size.

One of the main benefits of settling between the **Tigris and Euphrates** rivers was that the land would regularly flood, **fertilising the soil and bringing water**. The Sumerians invented a seeder plough, the rake, a sickle and shovel. Early writing shows that the Sumerians were among the first to **keep animals, as a supply of food**. Oxen were used to work in fields and donkeys were used as transport. Animals were also used for **their wool or hair to make clothes and rugs**.

Ancient Egypt

The river Nile was **central to life in ancient Egypt**; most Egyptians still live along and around it today. It had many uses as it provided:

- **Silt from annual floods**
- **Irrigation**
- **Water for drinking and washing**
- **Fishing**
- **Trade**
- **Mud for making bricks**
- **Papyrus plants for making paper**

Where in the world are...



The Indus Valley

It is thought that up to **80,000 people lived in Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, the biggest of many cities**. A huge amount of planning went into the cities before they were built. **Water was very important and cities had complex drainage systems**. Reservoirs were built for storing water.

It is thought that the most important buildings were located in a city's citadel and that the rulers of the city lived there. **Buildings were made from mud bricks and had thick walls to keep them cool inside**.

The Ghaggar-Hakra river now only flows during the monsoon rain season. It is thought that it **dried up around 2000 BC and that this led to the decline of the Indus civilisation**.

The Shang Dynasty Of China

In 1600BC - The **Shang dynasty is founded when Cheng Tang** overthrows the **Xia dynasty**. He has the support of 40 other kingdoms.

Shang **craftsmen used a variety of materials, including bronze, jade, clay, wood, stone and bone**.

Family was very important to the Shang people and they worshipped their ancestors after they had died. Their **supreme god was called Shang Di**, whom they believed communicated only with the king through his royal ancestors.

