



Endpoints for History

Year 4 – Ancient Civilisations



Through this topic, we will be learning about three of the world's first ancient civilisations: Ancient Sumer, ancient Egypt and the Indus Valley civilisation. We will be learning about the rise, life, achievements and fall of each of these empires.

What I know and can explain

Key terms to describe the features of a civilisation include art, city, culture, hierarchy, infrastructure, invention, religion, trade and writing

Ancient Sumer was the first civilisation to develop c4500 BC. Nomads settled there because of the food and water available in the Fertile Crescent

Ancient Sumerian inventions made tasks quicker and easier, such as the wheel, the plough, moulded bricks, and numbering and writing systems

In ancient Sumer, thousands of people lived in the cities, which contained mud brick public buildings and houses, defensive walls, winding streets, temples and ports

Ancient Egyptian civilisation grew around the banks of the Nile c3100 BC to 30 BC because there was fertile soil in the floodplains

A pharaoh was a ruler of ancient Egypt. The pharaoh was in charge of everything, including laws and religion, and the people of Egypt worked to fulfil the pharaoh's wishes

Useful Vocabulary

Ancient Egypt - A civilisation that existed around the banks of the Nile from c3100 BC until 30 BC

Ancient Sumer - The first civilisation in the world that existed in Mesopotamia, modern-day Iraq, from c4500 BC until c1900 BC

Canopic jar - A wood, stone or clay container with a lid used in ancient Egypt to hold organs from a mummified body

Hieroglyph - A picture or symbol representing a word used in ancient Egyptian writing

Mesopotamia - An ancient historical area in modern-day Iraq where the Ancient Sumerian civilisation developed in c4500 BC