

Preston Primary School Knowledge Organiser

History: What were the achievements of the early civilisations?

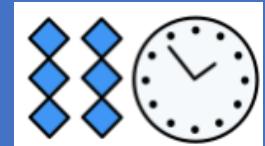
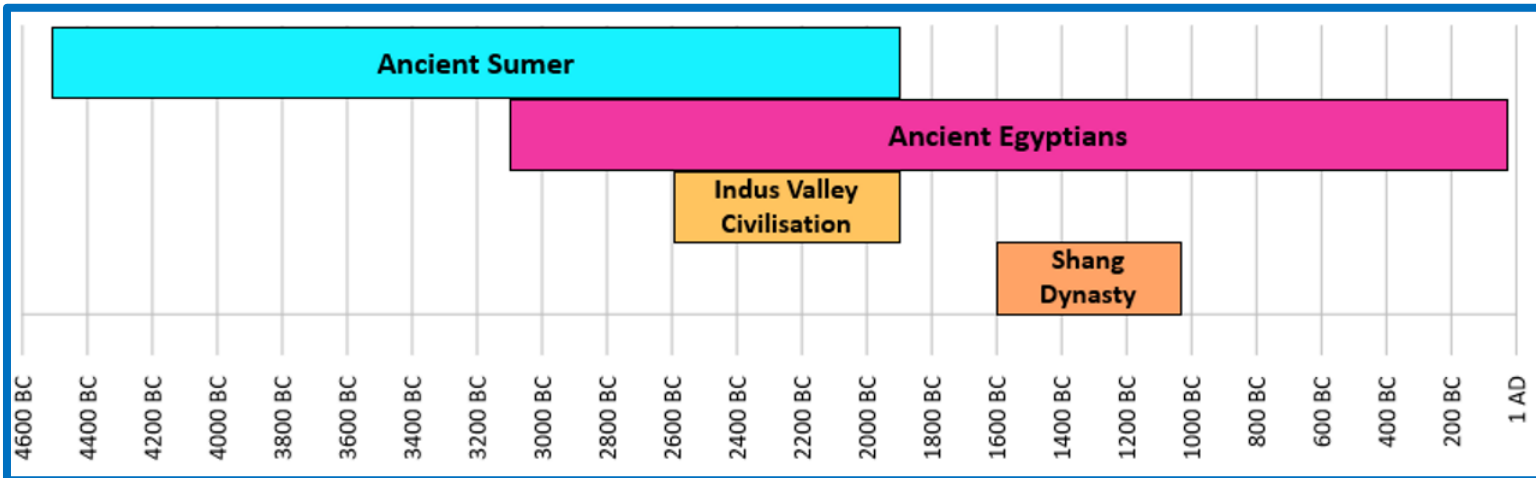
Term: Summer
2

Unit 4 - Year 5 and
6


Duration: 6 weeks

Four Key, Ancient Civilisations: Ancient Sumer, Ancient Egyptians, Indus Valley, and Shang Dynasty

They are some of the earliest in the world. They are also known as cradles of civilisation — areas where a civilisation is believed to have developed independently of any other civilisations.



Some of these civilizations were happening at the same time, which means they were concurrent.

 **WHERE**



The Ancient Egyptians were located in the continent of Africa. They were situated by a river, called the Nile River.



Similarities
and
Differences:

The Ancient Sumer civilisation, Shang Dynasty, and Indus Valley were all located in what we now call the continent of Asia. They all lived near rivers because rivers made life much easier and helped civilizations grow.

Achievements:

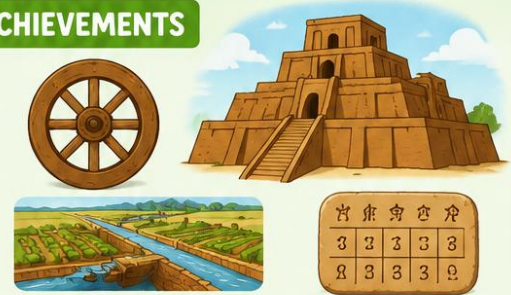
1 EGYPTIAN ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Ancient Egyptians built huge **pyramids** for their pharaohs.
- They created a writing system called **hieroglyphics**.
- They used **irrigation** to help crops grow in the desert.
- They made **papyrus**, which was like paper.



2 ANCIENT SUMERIAN ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Sumerians invented the **wheel**.
- They developed ways to control water for farming.
- They built large temples called **ziggurats**.
- They created a **calendar** with 12 months.



3 INDUS VALLEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Indus Valley people built clean, well-planned cities with **drains** and **sewers**.
- They used standard **measurements** to measure length, weight and time.
- They played **games**, such as dice games.
- Many people kept animals as **pets**.



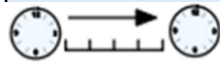





4 SHANG DYNASTY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Shang Dynasty made strong **bronze** weapons and statues.
- They used **calendars**, including a 365-day solar year.
- They developed early Chinese **writing**.
- They created systems of **government** and **social classes**.



Key Vocabulary

Civilisation		A large well-organised group of people, who are united by shared laws, trade, culture, and values.
Achievements		Accomplishing something that required great skill, courage, and effort.
Chronology		Putting something in time order
Primary Source		A primary source is an artifact that existed at the time we are studying.
Secondary Source		A secondary source is something about the time we are studying but was made afterwards.
Concurrent		Happened at the same time