

POS: Children should be taught about the earliest civilisations- where and when the civilisations appeared

Prior content: Pre-historic Britain from Stone Age to Iron Age

Overview of 4 Earliest civilisations

Indus Valley

1. The Harappa culture thrived in the Indus River Valley which is now modern Pakistan
2. They built sophisticated cities- Mohenjo-Daro was the biggest city with 40,000 people living there
3. They invented sewerage systems
4. People would build houses and cities close to the river so they had access to the water for cooking, drinking and cleaning.
5. Urban town planning- Mahenjo Daro
6. long distance trade with settlements in Mesopotamia
7. Trade goods include terracotta pots, beads, gold, silver, gems, metals, seashells and pear

Ancient Egypt

1. Egyptian pyramids were built as tombs for Pharaohs
2. Over 130 pyramids have been discovered
3. Great pyramid of Giza was the largest pyramid
4. The river Nile provided fertile black silt that allowed agriculture to flourish.
5. The Egyptians preserved a dead person's life through a process called mummification.
6. The Egyptian alphabet contained more than 700 hieroglyphics
7. The Egyptians invented pens, paper, locks, keys and toothpaste!

Ancient Sumer:

1. The Sumerians built large cities along the river banks of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers.
2. The area was known as 'Mesopotamia', meaning 'between 2 rivers'.
3. They were the first inventors of the wheel, mathematics, time and sailboats.
4. They achieved a total of 39 'firsts'.
5. Today, Sumer no longer exists
6. The area today is known as Southern Iraq.

Shang Dynasty – Ancient China

1. Established 1760 BC the same time as the Bronze Age.
2. In China, based around the Yellow River.
3. An agricultural society who's tradesmen had skills in bronze and jade work.
4. The first Chinese dynasty to develop a form of writing using pictograms.
5. Oracle bones were discovered and used when asking the Gods for help.
6. They invented chop sticks, the calendar, glazed pottery and the chariot.
7. They used bronze weapons including spears, arrows, daggers and swords.
7. Horse-drawn chariots where their tanks

Vocabulary

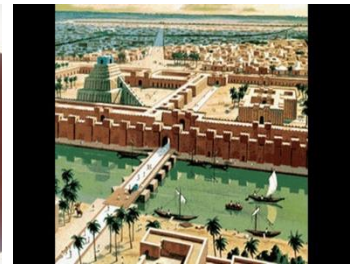
1. Agriculture- The practice of farming, growing crops and rearing animals
2. Civilisation- The society, culture and way of life of a particular area
3. Traders- A person who buys and sells goods
4. Architecture- Designing and constructing buildings
5. Craftsman- A worker skilled in a particular craft
6. Valley- A low area of land between hills and mountains-
7. Excavation- digging something up in an archaeological site



Ancient Egypt  
Great Pyramids of Giza



Shang Dynasty  
Oracle Bone



Ancient Sumer  
Mesopotamia



Indus valley

