Alder Coppice Primary School — Knowledge Organiser

HISTORY **Year 3**

Links to: Year 3: Stone Age to Iron Age & Roman Empire.
Year 4 - Anglo Saxons, Ancient Egyptians. Year 5 - Benin Kingdom

Unit 3: Introduction to the early Civilisations: Sumer and other early civilisations: what made them similar?

Skills & Enquiry:

- Place people, events and objects in Chronological order. Chronology
- Know that we can find out about the past from a variety of different sources. Interpretation
- Ask and answer questions about the past. Enquiry
- Know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world. Significance
- Can identify some similarities and differences between ways of life, buildings and artefacts from different times. Similarities & Difference, Characteristic Features & Settlement.

Unit Specific Vocabulary:

Ancient – belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.
Achievements – a result or something accomplished, especially by superior ability, special effort or great courage.
Archaeologist - Someone who studies the past by exploring old remains.
Artefacts - an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest.
Beliefs - an acceptance that something exists or is true, especially one without proof.
Civilisation - A human society with its own social organisation and culture.
Cuneiform - a type of ancient writing invented in Sumer
Dynasty – the time in which a family reigned as rulers of a country
Evidence - the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.
Irrigation – the supply of water to land or crops to help growth
Mesopotamia - meaning 'between two rivers', Mesopotamia is the name given to the region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers
Nomadic - nomadic people do not settle to live in one place but move from place to place
River Valley – a stretch of land that has a river flowing through it
Settlements - a place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community.

Source - a place, person, or thing from which information can be obtained
Sumer - Sumer was an ancient civilisation that existed 5000 years ago in the Middle East
Trade - people trade by buying or selling items they need or want.
Ziggurat - is a large religious building made from stone during Mesopotamian civilisations.

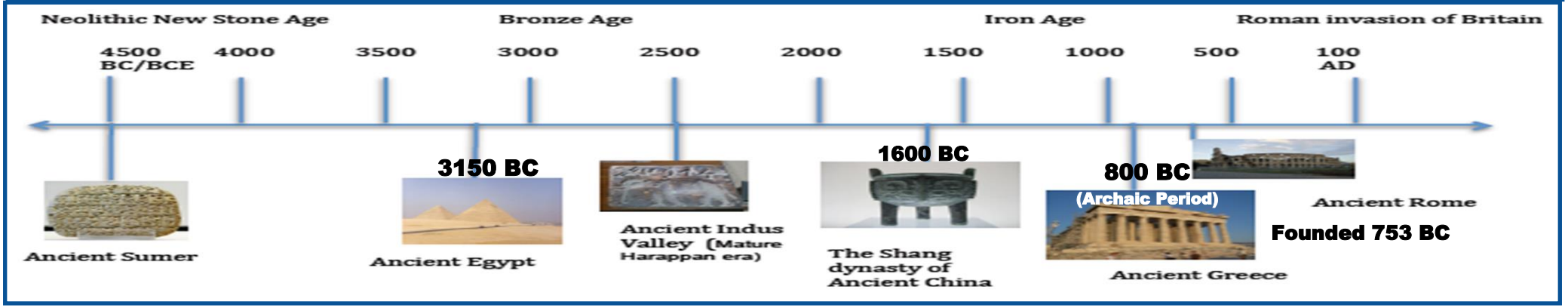
What I Should Already Know:

- **Know what a civilisation is**
- **Know that the first civilisations were hunter-gatherers**
- **Know that archaeology provides evidence that informs us about early civilisations**
- **Know that farming was an important part of life**
- **Know some of the inventions that influenced life today, such as weapons, roads, farming, etc.**

What I should know by the end of the Unit:

- Know some Ancient Societies and name some of their key achievements.
- Know how civilisations are similar or different

Ancients Evidence Time Line:



Key Achievements:

ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA (SUMER)

4500 BCE to 1750 BCE

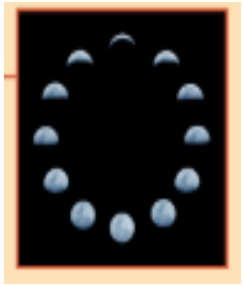
CRADLE OF CIVILISATION

There were ancient cultures in Mesopotamia from before 10,000 BC. By 3500 BC, the Sumerians had built several early centres of civilisation, including the cities of Eridu, Ur and Kish.

FIRST WRITING SYSTEM

This writing called **cuneiform,** was a system of characters and signs (like pictograms) pressed into tablets of clay.

SUMERIAN CALENDAR



The Sumerians were probably the first people to make a calendar, which they based on the phases of the Moon.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

The Sumerians contributed to the development of metalworking for tools and weapons, wheeled carts, and potter's wheels.

RULERS: Ur-Nammu: (2047-2030 BCE) was perhaps the most influential of the rulers of the third 'dynasty'. The most impressive ziggurat he built was the 'Great Ziggurat of Ur'. These were stepped temples to the Gods.

THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

c.2500 BCE to 1700 BCE

AGRICULTURE

As early as 3000 BC, cotton was grown in the Indus Valley of India. They also grew wheat, barley and rice and may have been the first people to raise chickens. This stone carved seal is one of many thousands found, believed to be used for trading purposes.

MATHEMATICS

The concepts of zero and decimals were known to the ancient Indian mathematicians. This civilisation was one of the first known to have a precise measuring system for weights.

ARCHITECTURE

The ancient Indus Valley used bricks for building work and had a drainage system which allowed waste to be transported away from homes. Major cities were Harappa and Mohenjo-daro.

OTHER

It is the location of the oldest discovered measuring ruler, and for the first known clothing buttons!

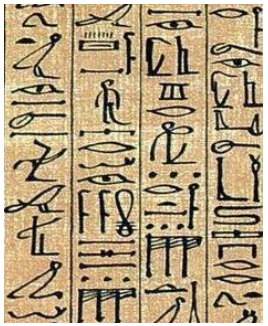
There is still much we do not know about the Indus Valley civilisation because we still cannot decipher their writing and because no one can read this ancient Indus script.

WHERE WERE THE ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS?

Mesopotamia - Ancient Sumer – River Tigris and Euphrates River (Middle East/Modern Day Iraq)
Ancient Egypt – Nile River (Modern Day Egypt)
Indus Valley (Ancient India) – Indus River (Modern Day Pakistan/India)
Ancient China – Shang Dynasty – Yellow River (Modern Day China)

Key Achievements:

Ancient Egyptians
(3150BCE to 332BCE)



Writing
One of the most important inventions of the Ancient Egyptians was writing. They wrote in hieroglyphics.

Mathematics
The Egyptians needed a good understanding of mathematics and geometry to build the pyramids and other large buildings.

Farming
They also invented tools like the shaduf. A shaduf is a long pole with a bucket attached to the end, which people could use to raise and move water from rivers or lakes to irrigate the land.

Solar Calendar
The ancient Egyptians used a solar calendar which contained 365 days per year.

THE SHANG DYNASTY (ANCIENT CHINA)
1600 BCE to 1046 BCE

WRITING
The ancient Chinese developed one of the world's great writing systems, made up of characters that stand for words or parts of words and was inscribed on animal bones. This writing is still used today.

METALWORKING
The ancient Chinese also excelled in *bronze work.* Many Chinese bonzes were ceremonial Vessels.

SILK PORELAIN AND PRINTING INDUSTRY
The silk industry began in China more than 4500 years ago. They were also the first country to develop a method of printing and papermaking and also produced the first porcelain, a fine form of pottery.