

Key Facts about Ancient Civilisations

Indus Valley

The Indus Valley civilisation settled in the Indus Valley near the River Indus in India. The civilisation covered a huge area - approximately half a million square miles or 1400 cities. Most people lived in small villages and were farmers or craftsmen. They are believed to be the first people to grow cotton and weave cloth.

Shang Dynasty

The Shang Dynasty were a civilisation who lived around the Yellow River in North East China. They are the first Chinese dynasty that we have archaeological evidence for.

Ancient Sumer

The Sumerian civilisation lived in Sumer where the river Tigris and Euphrates met. This area is now known as Iraq. They were excellent mathematicians and they were also the first civilisation to develop writing.

Ancient Egypt

The Ancient Egyptians settled near the River Nile in Egypt, Africa.

Ancient Civilisations

Map of Ancient Civilisations



4500 BC 4000 BC 3500 BC 3000 BC 2500 BC 2000 BC 1500 BC 1000 BC 500 BC YEAR 0 PRESENT

4500 – 1900 BC

4500 – 1900 BC

4500 – 1900 BC

4500 – 1900 BC



Ancient Sumer



Ancient Egyptians



Indus Valley



Shang Dynasty

Key Vocabulary

ancient	belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence
civilisation	the society, and way of life of a particular area
artefact	an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest
law	the system of rules which a particular country or community recognises
defence	a means of protecting something from attack
chariot	a two-wheeled vehicle drawn by horses, used in ancient racing and warfare
irrigation	the supply of water to land or crops to help growth, typically by means of channels
well	a long hole sunk into the ground to obtain water
technology	using scientific knowledge to develop new equipment for practical purposes
script	writing using a particular alphabet
latitude	the distance of a place north or south of the earth's equator
climate	the weather conditions in an area in general or over a long period of time.