

Key vocabulary

afterlife	The life that is believed to begin after death.
canopic jar	A wood, stone or clay container with a lid used in ancient Egypt to hold organs from a mummified body.
civilisation	The developed culture and way of life of a society.
cuneiform	Ancient writing used by the Sumerians made up of simple pictures.
Fertile Crescent	The area of land in the Middle East where the first ancient civilisations began.
hieroglyph	A picture or symbol representing a word used in ancient Egyptian writing.
irrigation	The digging of channels to allow water to flow through a field to water crops.
mummification	The process of preserving a dead body by drying and wrapping that was used by the ancient Egyptians.
nomad/nomadic	A person/lifestyle involving moving from place to place to find food, water and shelter.
papyrus	A material made in ancient Egypt from the stem of a water plant and used in sheets for writing or painting.
pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt.
pyramid	A structure with a square or triangular base and sloping sides used as a royal tomb in ancient Egypt.
sarcophagus	A stone coffin usually decorated with carvings or inscriptions used in ancient Egypt.
ziggurat	A large pyramid in ancient Sumer made from mud bricks, with a temple on top.

Civilisations share common features, including cities, inventions, language, writing, hierarchy, leadership, infrastructure, arts and culture, trade and religion. Ancient civilisations first appeared over 6000 years ago in, or near, a semi-circular area of land in the Middle East known as the the Fertile Crescent. The climate, availability of water and variety of plants in the Fertile Crescent meant that nomadic hunter-gatherers could settle in one place and begin to farm for the first time.

Sumerian plough



Sumerian Ziggurat



Tutankhamun



What will I learn about?

Development of ancient Sumer

Food and farming

Necessity is the mother of invention

Sumerian city states

Hierarchy of ancient Sumer

Ancient Egypt

City life in ancient Egypt

Hierarchy of ancient Egypt

Role of the pharaoh

Tales from the tomb

Investigating the Indus Valley civilisation

Making comparisons

How does this link to my previous learning?

Y2 Magnificent Monarchs: vocabulary such as empire and civilisation.

Y3 Through the Ages; Y3 Emperors and Empires; Y4 Invasion

Life in Ancient Egypt



Pyramids of Giza

