

History Subject Knowledge Bank

Year 4: The achievements of the earliest civilisations- Ancient Egyptians

<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Imhotep	Considered to be the first architect, engineer, and physician in recorded history.
Conquest	Taking control of a place
Decade/Century	A period of 10/100 years
Interpretation	A way of explaining
Kingdom	A territory ruled by a monarch
Polymath	A person of wide knowledge or learning
Society	How people are organised as a community
Citizen	Someone who belongs to society
Pharaoh	King of Ancient Egypt

What happened to the Ancient Egyptians?

- By around 1000 BC Egypt had become divided by war, the south ruled by priests, the north by the pharaohs. A lot of the great tombs were raided at this time by bandits.
- In 332BC Alexander the Great and his Greek army conquered Ancient Egypt. After this the descendants of his general, Ptolemy, ruled for nearly 300 years.
- In 30 BC the Romans invaded Ancient Egypt and Emperor Augustus defeated Pharaoh Cleopatra VII. Cleopatra was the last pharaoh in Ancient Egypt. After her rule, Egypt became part of the Roman Empire.

Where were the earliest civilisations?

Ancient Sumer was the very first civilisation. It originated between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers in modern Iraq. It began c4500 BC and lasted for around 2600 years.

The Indus Valley civilisation developed next to the Indus River in modern Pakistan and north-west India. The civilisation began c2500 BC and lasted around 800 years.

The Shang Dynasty was the first Chinese dynasty with written records. The Shang ruled from around 1600 BC to 1046 BC.

Who were the Ancient Egyptians?

- Ancient Egyptian civilisation began on the banks of the Nile.
- Egypt was initially split into Upper Egypt in the south and Lower Egypt in the north. It became one kingdom in 3150 BC. The civilisation lasted for around 2970 years.
- The ancient Egyptians built cities on the fertile banks of the Nile, with easy access to water for crops and drinking.
- Pharaohs ruled over ancient Egypt with absolute power. They believed that the pharaoh was the earthly representative of the gods.
- The most well-known pharaoh is Tutankhamun. His tomb was discovered in the Valley of the Kings by Howard Carter in 1922.

What did the Ancient Egyptians do?

- The Nile was the source of much of ancient Egypt's wealth. Great cities grew up along the Nile as they became experts in irrigation and were able to use the water from the Nile to grow rich and profitable crops. The Nile provided food, soil, water, and transportation for the Egyptians.
- Their technology included the ability to build large construction projects such as pyramids and palaces, simple machines such as ramps and levers and a complex system of government and religion.
- One of the most important inventions of the Ancient Egyptians was writing. They wrote in hieroglyphics. Writing allowed them to keep accurate records and maintain control of their empire. They had a good understanding of mathematics and geometry which enabled them to build the pyramids and other large buildings.
- There was a large variety of jobs in Ancient Egypt. There were bakers, scribes, priests, doctors, craftspeople and merchants. They did not have schools but they did have apprenticeships. This meant that many children had jobs or were learning a trade. Enslaved people worked as forced labour but also in trades.
- The Egyptians observed the stars and worked out calendars based on the phases of the Moon and on the solar year.

Who was Imhotep?

Imhotep (2667 BC - 2648 BC) lived in service to a pharaoh in Ancient Egypt. Imhotep was a polymath. He excelled as a mathematician, priest, writer, doctor as well as founding the Egyptian version of the studies of architecture and astronomy. He is credited with building the first pyramid created entirely with stone by human hands – the Pyramid of Djoser, near Memphis.

Timeline

6000 B.C.	5000 B.C.	4500 B.C.	3500 B.C.	3000 B.C.	2500 B.C.	1500 B.C.	1325 B.C.	332 B.C.	30 B.C.
People settle near the River Nile	Farmed wheat, barley and cattle	Use of sails for the first time	First use of hieroglyphics	Buildings of mud brick	Sphinx and Giza Pyramids	Valley of the Kings tombs built	King Tutankhamun buried	Alexander the Great rules	Death of Cleopatra

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