



Shang Dynasty - silk



Ancient Sumer - wheel

## Y3: Ancient Civilisations



city of Mohenjo-Daro, Indus Valley



### Key Vocabulary

|                     |                                                                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>civilisation</b> | A large group of people who share organised ways of living, like laws |
| <b>ancient</b>      | belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence         |
| <b>legacy</b>       | something that is passed from one period of history to another        |
| <b>European</b>     | belonging to or coming from Europe                                    |
| <b>Non-European</b> | not belonging or coming from Europe                                   |
| <b>agriculture</b>  | practice of farming and growing crops                                 |
| <b>significance</b> | the quality of being worthy, important                                |
| <b>irrigation</b>   | the supply of water to land or crops to help growth                   |
| <b>dynasty</b>      | a succession of rulers who come from the same family                  |

### How we know? Key artefacts:

**Sumer:** Clay tablets written on with reeds and buildings still remain. **Indus Valley:** city of Mohenjo-Daro. **Shang:** oracle bones. **Egypt:** pyramids, mummies, objects, monuments.

### Who were they? Where and when did they first appear?

**Indus** - The Indus Valley was associated with towns, trade, early drainage systems and rich remains including early writing. People settled by the River Indus which flows through modern Pakistan. The Indus valley Civilisation was important by 2600 BC and ended in 1500 BC. They built great cities like Mohenjo-Daro. The Indus Valley's cultural legacy is of small and well-crafted art.

**Shang** - The Shang Dynasty is associated with the development of writing, the calendar, chariots, large underground tombs, bronze bowls, silk and weapons. The Shang lived in the area by the yellow River in China and ruled from 1600 BC to 1100 BC.

**Sumer** - Ancient Sumer has been called 'the cradle of civilisation'. It developed around the Tigris and Euphrates rivers which are in modern Iraq from 3200 BC until it became part of the Babylonian Empire in 1792 BC. Sumer was associated with the development of the first cities, writing and the wheel. They could weave, write, and make pots and use things made out of metal.

**Egypt** - Ancient Egypt evolved around the River Nile from about 3150 BC and ultimately declined as an individual culture in the reign of Cleopatra in 30 BC, becoming part of the Roman Empire. It is often associated with writing, trade and the pyramids. The Egyptians settled by the River Nile and ruled from about 3500 BC to 500 BC

### Ancient Civilisations Timeline



All of these civilisations emerged by rivers in warmer parts of the world and were supported by agricultural communities.