

## Key Vocabulary

**Agriculture:** growing and farming of crops and animals.

**Civilisation:** a large group of people who have reached an advanced stage of development and organisation.

**Hierarchy:** a system used to organise people from most to least important.

**Hieroglyphics:** writing consisting of hieroglyphs; pictures representing a word, symbol or sound.

**Irrigation:** the supply of water to land or crops, typically by channels.

**Pharaoh:** a ruler of Ancient Egypt (like a king or emperor).

**Pyramid:** a monumental structure with a square base and sloping sides that meet in a point at the top.

**Scribe:** a person who could read and write hieroglyphics.

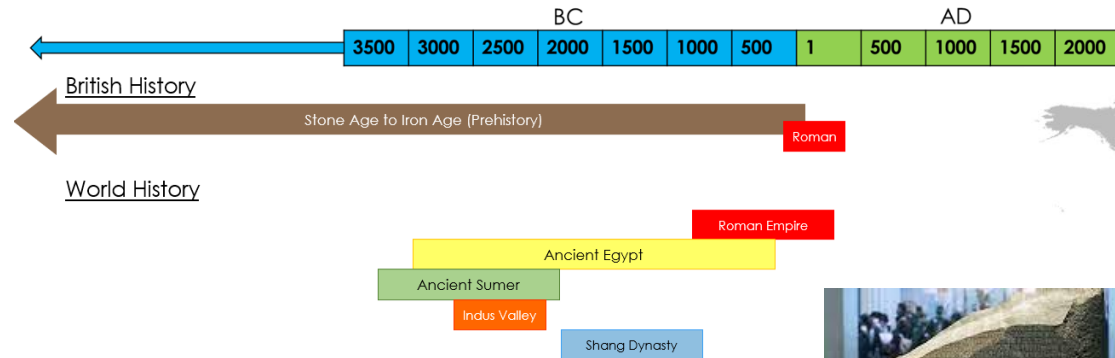
**Shaduf:** a tool or device they used to lift water from channels.

**Tomb:** a large chamber for burying the dead.

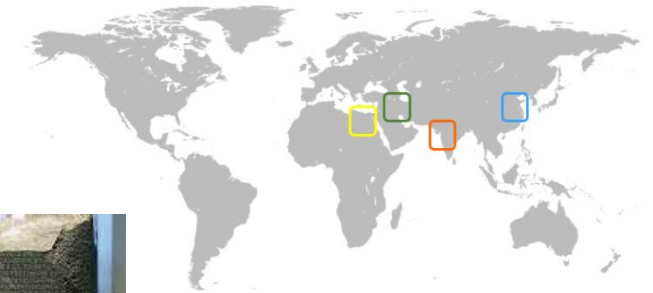
**Vizier:** a high-ranking political advisor.

## Year 5 & 6 History – Ancient Civilisations and Ancient Egypt Knowledge Organiser

The timeline shows where the Ancient Civilisations fit into history. The four ancient civilisations are **Ancient Sumer**, **the Indus Valley civilisation**, **Ancient Egypt** and the **Shang Dynasty**. All four civilisations were located on similar lines of latitude and could all be found near a river. The civilisations settled close to a river as the land around it was often fertile, making it good for growing crops. As a result, these civilisations developed agricultural tools and systems and were able to keep their people fed and watered. They also had a form of written communication. Society in these civilisations was clearly organised into social hierarchies of power.

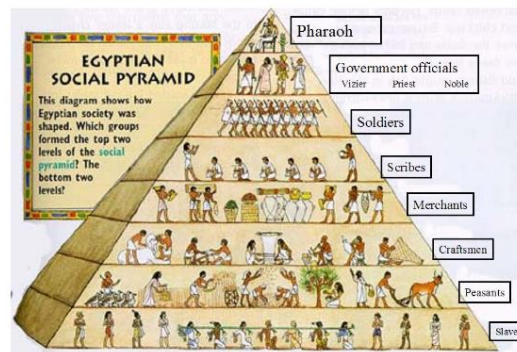
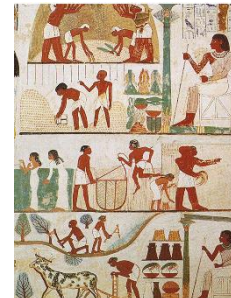


This map shows the location of the four ancient civilisations.



### How was Egyptian society structured?

There was a social hierarchy in Ancient Egypt. The Egyptians were ruled by pharaohs, who were regarded the most important in society. The pyramid shows how the rest of society was organised and reflects the number of people too.



### What were some significant achievements for the Ancient Egyptians?

Two of the most significant achievements for the Ancient Egyptians were the developments they made in agriculture and in writing during their time.



The Egyptians improved agriculture with the use of ox-drawn ploughs, hoes, sickles and other tools. They also developed irrigation, using a shaduf to keep crops growing in the heat. Their advances in agriculture allowed them to have a range of specialised roles including embalmers and priests, as well as sustaining workforces responsible for monuments like the pyramids.

Scribes were very important in Egyptian society as they were highly-trained and responsible for keeping written records of everything. They had roles in agriculture, administration, trade and even the army. Scribes wrote using hieroglyphics, which can be seen on the Rosetta Stone. Advances in scribing meant monuments could be precisely planned and constructed. Scribing was also involved in preparations for the afterlife, a big part of their belief system.

