

## Key Vocabulary

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

**Civilisation:** group of people who have reached a high level of organisation.

**Hieroglyphics:** picture writing used by the Ancient Egyptians.

**Irrigation:** the supply of water to land or crops.

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

**Pyramid:** a monumental built 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.

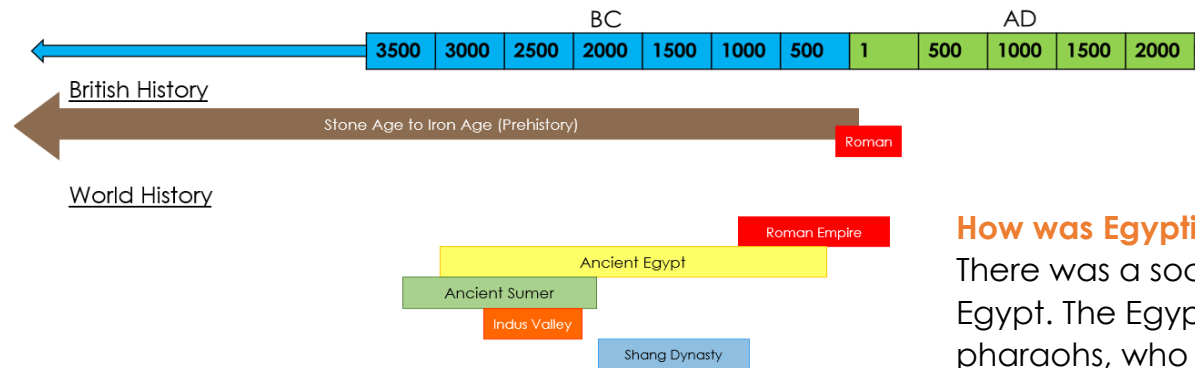
**Shaduf:** a device used to move water for crops.

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

**Vizier:** an important advisor to the pharaoh.

## Year 3 & Y4 History – Ancient Civilisations and Ancient Egypt Knowledge Organiser

This 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 could be found near a river, making it easier to grow crops. These civilisations developed agricultural tools and systems and were able to keep their people fed and watered. They also all had a form of writing.



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

The Egyptians improved agriculture with the use of ox-drawn ploughs, hoes, sickles. They also developed irrigation, using a shaduf to keep crops growing in the heat.

Scribes were very important in Egyptian society as they were highly trained and responsible for keeping written records of everything. They worked in agriculture, administration, trade and even the army. Scribes wrote using hieroglyphics. 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.

### How was Egyptian society structured?

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

