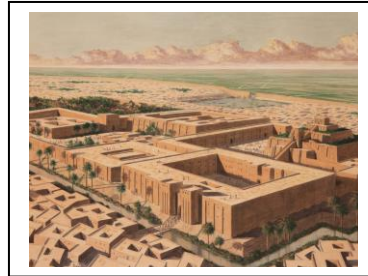


Subject Specific Vocabulary

Civilisation	The developed culture and way of life of a society.
Fertile Crescent	The semi-circular area of land where the first ancient civilisations began.
Irrigation	The digging of channels to allow water to flow through a field to water crops.
Nomadic	A lifestyle involving moving from place to place.
Ziggurat	A large pyramid made from mud bricks, with a temple on top.
Hierarchy	An organisation which ranks people one above another according to the power or authority that they hold.



Sticky Knowledge

A civilisation is the most advanced form of society. It includes cities, inventions, leadership, a form of writing and trade.

Ancient Sumer was the first civilisation in the world. It developed in the Fertile Crescent in Mesopotamia, c4500 BC, on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Nomads settled on the banks because the land was rich in nutrients and there was plenty of water. People started to farm the land and created inventions, such as the plough, the wheel and irrigation, to make work more productive and life easier. As the populations grew, city states, trade and writing developed.

The ancient Sumerians invented many things to make work easier and life more comfortable. They developed a type of writing, called cuneiform, and a numbering system to communicate and keep records. The ancient Sumerians also invented the wheel, the plough, astronomy, irrigation and beer.

After nomadic people settled down as farmers instead of hunter-gatherers, small villages grew into cities. Public buildings and temples were built, surrounded by a protective wall. The ancient Sumerians used mud bricks to build homes and huge ziggurats.

The king or *lugal* was at the top of the ancient Sumerian hierarchy. He made laws, led the army and ordered taxes to be paid. Priests and priestesses were next. They were powerful and told people how to behave to please the gods. The upper classes were successful merchants, scribes, high-ranking soldiers and other professionals. The lower classes were craftspeople, farmers and other workers. Slaves were prisoners of war who were at the bottom of the hierarchy. They worked for the king, priests or upper classes.

King Sargon, of the kingdom of Akkad, conquered ancient Sumer. He was the world's first emperor.

Link From



THROUGH THE AGES (Y3)
Historical events occurring concurrently in different locations.
Ancient Egypt and the Stone Age. Chronological Link: 3,000BC-300BC.

Link To



MAAFA (Y6)
Make comparisons between different civilisations in the past- The Kingdom of Benin.