

Year 3/4	Topic Title: The earliest civilisations with a focus on Ancient Egypt
NC Programme of study	Key Knowledge and Vocabulary. Children should know:
<p>Pupils should continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study.</p> <p>They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms.</p> <p>They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. They should construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information. They should understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.</p> <p>Pupils should be taught about: <i>the achievements of the earliest civilizations – an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared and a depth study of one of the following: Ancient Sumer; The Indus Valley; Ancient Egypt; The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • historical terminology including: BC, AD, CE, BCE, ancient, decade, century, centuries • the names of some early civilisations: Ancient Sumer; Indus Valley; Ancient Egypt; Shang Dynasty • what is meant by a civilisation and how they evolved and that in many ways these civilisations were similar - all evolved around rivers and the development of farming on fertile soils • when these early civilisations existed and that they overlapped each other in terms of chronology but the Ancient Egyptians outlasted them all • what is meant by significant/significance <p>Ancient Sumer civilisation developed around the Euphrates and Tigris rivers - the area of modern-day Iraq.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • referred to as Sumerians • were renowned for their innovation, including the development of the 60-minute clock system we use today as was writing and the recording of a number system <p>Indus Valley civilisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developed around the Indus river in the area of modern-day Pakistan • were significant because they were one of the first in the world to introduce sanitation systems to their cities with a network of drains • less is known about this civilisation because of the difficulty deciphering their writing system <p>The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developed around the Yellow river in central China - now the People’s Republic of China (PRC) • was significant because it was the first well-documented dynasty in China <p>Ancient Egyptian civilisation (depth study) developed around the River Nile (today’s Egypt in north Africa)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the history of the lands is usually broken into three kingdoms: Old, Middle and New and that they were ruled by a sequence of Pharaohs • evidence about rich and powerful Ancient Egyptians comes from tombs and pyramids which remain today • most people who lived in Ancient Egypt were farmers. Slavery existed in Ancient Egypt • some women in Ancient Egypt had more rights than in many civilisations of similar times, including the right to own land and property, to trade and make contracts. Some pharaohs were female, including Cleopatra • the country’s riches eventually made it vulnerable to attack and caused many territories to be lost • the kingdoms eventually came to an end, after a period of Greek Rule, when the Romans ended the reigns of Marc Anthony and Cleopatra