

Year 4: Cradles of Civilisation (Ancient Mesopotamia and Ancient Sumer)

Knowledge Organiser

Year 4
Autumn 2

History Cradles of Civilisation

Vocabulary

Assyria: Assyria was a major ancient Mesopotamian civilization which existed as a city-state from the 21st century BC to the 14th century BC

Cradle: A cradle of civilization is a location and a culture where civilization was created by mankind

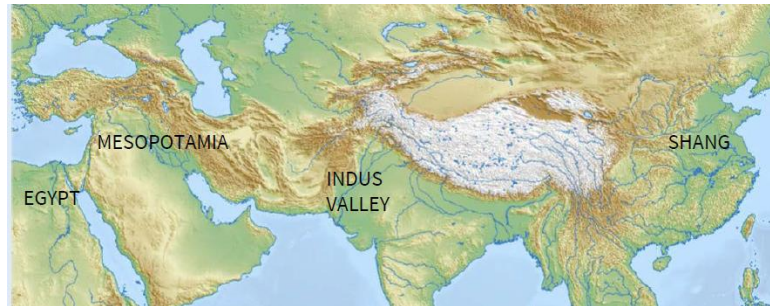
Fertile: land which is healthy for crops to grow

Nomadic: a person who moves from place to place

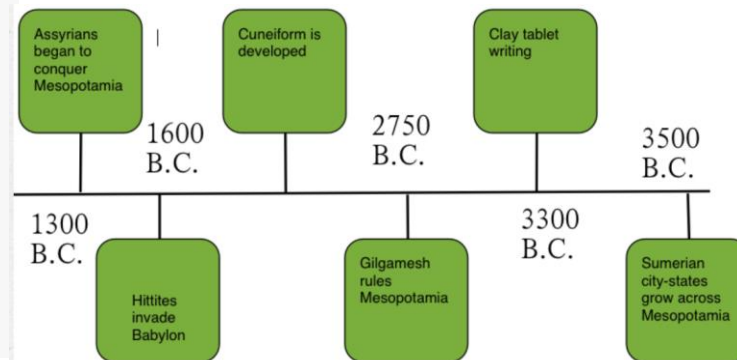
Mesopotamia: formed from two ancient words. 'Meso' meaning between, and 'potamos' meaning river

Ziggurat: a stepped temple tower in the shape of a pyramid,

Key Knowledge:



1. There were ancient cultures in Mesopotamia from about 10,000 BC.
2. Ancient Sumer was an important civilisation in Mesopotamia
3. Mesopotamia is now the Arab world including: Syria, Iraq and Iran
4. Around 3000BC Sumerians created the world's first writing system- written on clay
5. Sumerians created one of the first known calendars
6. Sumerians are thought to have been from the Indus Valley and then moved to Mesopotamia



What we will learn by the end of the unit:

- The land of Sumer was where two rivers flowed into the sea. The rivers were the Tigris and Euphrates
- The Land of Sumer is a small part of Mesopotamia
- People in this civilisation were the first to write and record about their trade- hence the name 'cradle'
- Read the epic: Gilgamesh. Understand the importance of storytelling in the Ancient Sumerian civilisations



We Are Historians:

- Analyse maps and artefacts
- Compare civilisations and changes
- Interpret how cradles of civilisations influenced societies and cultures