Class 3 – Summer 1 Hunted – The Achievements of the Earliest Civilisations

What will we be learning?

Enquiry question: How did the Ancient Egyptian civilisation end?

Substantive concept: Society, Power, Economy and innovation.

Leisure and entertainment Throughout this unit of work children will:

 Learn about the achievements of the earliest civilisations including those of the Ancient Sumer, the Indus Valley, The Shang Dynasty and Ancient Egypt.

• Compare and contrast these periods, identifying the particular strengths of each one and drawing parallels between them.

• Explore what daily life was like in each civilisation, depending on your social status, gender and age.

Key vocabulary

- BCE: Before common era (BC)
- Ancient: Belonging to the very distant past
- Civilisation: The society, culture, and way of life of a particular area.
- Archaeologist: A person who studies human history and prehistory by looking at artefacts and other sources.
- Historian: An expert in or student of history, especially that of a particular period.
- Tomb: A large vault, typically an underground one, for burying the dead.
- Achievements: A thing done successfully with effort, skill, or courage.
- Significance: The quality of being worthy of attention and importance.
- Reliable: Consistently good in guality or performance; able to be trusted.
- Priestess: A female priest of a non-Christian religion.
- Military: Relating to or characteristic of soldiers or
- armed forces.
- Artefacts: An object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest.

Key Facts

- Ancient Sumer started around 5000 BCE, in the southern part of a place called Mesopotamia (now Irag). Cities were built along the rivers. Being close to the rivers allowed people to grow crops, travel and transport goods easily. Sumerian people were some of the first to have schools. Teachers could be very strict and only boys were allowed to attend. The wheel, writing, and the 60-minute clock are all thought to have been invented by the Sumerians.
- The ancient Indus Valley people existed 3200 BCE based around the Indus River in modern day Afghanistan, Pakistan and north-west India. The Indus River was important, both for farming and for trade and travel.
- The Ancient Maya lived (in Mexico & Central America) from 2000 BCE to 1600AD. During the Maya civilisation, Britain went through the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages, including Stonehenge, to Roman Britain, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Tudor England!
- The Shang Dynasty (ruled by the Shang family) in China spanned from 1600 BCE until 1046 BCE.



Ancient Sumer on a world map







Ancient Maya location on a world map

Describe an achievement of the ancient Sumer.

How has the Ancient Maya civilisation shaped the world we have today?

How has the role of women changed over time?

Vhat I have le	earnt.			

Shang Dynasty in China