ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

Which was the greatest Ancient Civilisation?

Year 3

Summer Term

ST RICHARD'S SCHOOL

STICKY KNOWLEDGE

ANCIENT SUMER (5300 BC - 1940 BC)

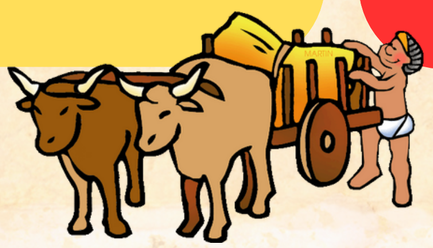
- Ancient Sumer lasted from the late **Neolithic** period to the early **Bronze Age**.
- It was located in southern **Mesopotamia**, modern-day **Iraq**.
- Cities were built along the **river Tigris** and **Euphrates**. Being close to the **river** allowed people to grow **crops**, travel and **transport goods** easily.
- Each **city state** had its own **ruler**.
- **Sumerians** had the first schools. The **wheel**, **writing** and the **60-minute clock** were invented by them.
- The **civilisation** weakened when city rulers began **fighting** with each other and **flooding** destroyed crops.
- In the end, Sumer was **invaded** by the Elamites.

INDUS VALLEY (3300 BC - 1700 BC)

- The Indus Valley began almost 5,000 years ago in an area of modern-day **Pakistan**.
- There were more than **1,400 towns and cities**, which were neatly planned in grids.
- The Indus people lived on the banks of the **Indus River**, the longest river in Pakistan.
- They needed the river water to drink, wash and to **irrigate** their fields.
- No one has been able to translate the Indus writing system.
- The Indus civilisation seems to have been a **peaceful** one, with little evidence of **weapons** or **war**.
- Historians have found evidence of **drains** and **wells**. However, they do not know why the civilisation ended.

SHANG DYNASTY (1600BC - 1046 BC)

- For 500 years, part of **China** was ruled by the Shang Dynasty.
- They came to power through **battle** using stone and **bronze** weapons and **chariots**. The **army** was made up of between 3,000 and 13,000 soldiers.
- Their **territory** was along the **Yellow River**, which produced **fertile** farmland.
- Historians know they had a fully developed **writing system**, had **musical instruments** and practised **astronomy**. They also had a **religion** where they worshipped many gods and performed **sacrifices**.
- The **dynasty** was ruled by a **King** who was buried in a decorated **tomb** with objects for the **afterlife** when he died.
- **Fu Hao** was the most powerful woman in the Shang Dynasty. She was a military general and **priestess**.
- The Shang Dynasty ended when **King Di Xin** was defeated in battle. He then killed himself!

KEY VOCABULARY

Afterlife - Life after death
Ancient - From a very long time ago and no longer in existence
Archaeology - The study of human history using artefacts and historical sites
Archaeologist - A person who studies archaeology
Artefact - An object of historical interest
Astronomy - The study of space, planets and stars
Citadel - The central fort or castle of a city or town
Civilisation - An organised society in a particular place
Dynasty - A line of people in a family who take on an important role e.g. King
Trade - Buying and selling goods