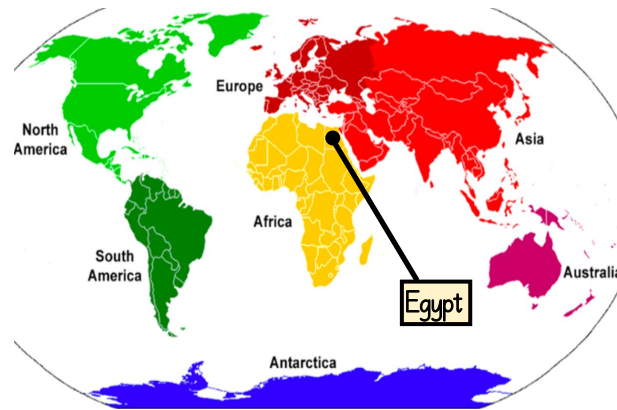
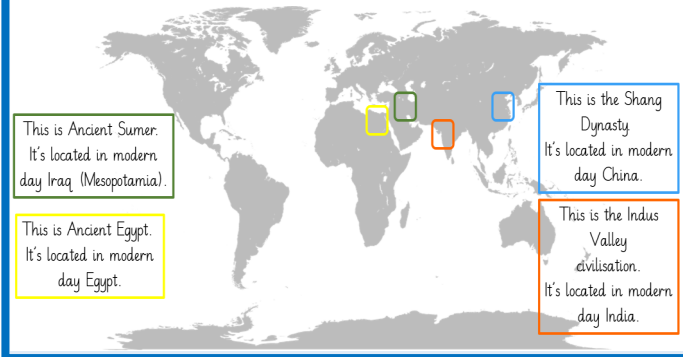


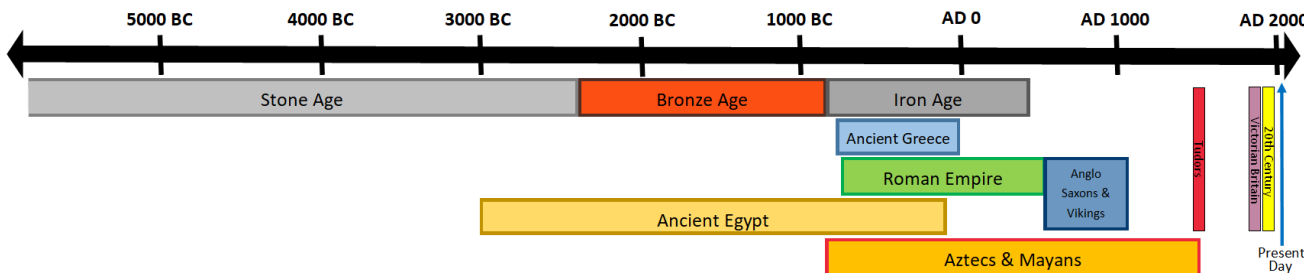


Ancient Egypt = The Nile River
 Ancient Sumer = Tigris and Euphrates rivers
 Indus Valley = Indus River
 Shang Dynasty = Huang He and Yangtze rivers

Where did each of the Ancient Civilisations begin?



Howard Carter was a famous Egyptologist. He became well-known in 1922 after he discovered the tomb of a Pharaoh in The Valley of the Kings that was untouched – no tomb robbers had broken in and stolen items. Howard Carter was a very good example of an Egyptologist as he was very meticulous in all his excavations and approached archaeology in a scientific way – he made detailed notes and drawings of his work and only removed items from Tutankhamun's tomb once he had photographed them, listed and measured them, This process took 10 years!



Year 4 - Ancient Civilisations

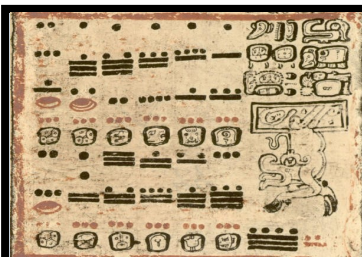
Key Vocabulary

civilisation	a large group of people who share advanced ways of living and working
AD	AD is used to show that a date is after the year 0.
BC	BC is used to show that a date is before the year 0.
fertile	land rich in minerals and able to produce lots o crops
irrigation	supplying the land with water
dynasty	a series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family
pharaoh	an ancient Egyptian king or queen
tomb	burial places for Egyptian royalty and their consorts during the Old Kingdom
scribe	a highly skilled individual, who specialised in writing and recording important in-formation using hieroglyph-ics
papyrus	a plant that grew on the banks of the river Nile that was used as an early form of paper
hieroglyphics	letters or symbols that are written or imprinted on a surface to represent the words or sounds
archaeologist	somebody who looks at ancient sites and objects to learn about the past
society	a large group of people who live together in an organ-ised way
empire	a group of countries ruled by a single country or leader

The **Maya civilisation** originated in Mesoamerica, a region that is now known as Central America. The civilisation began to develop around 2000 BC. The Maya were a captivating group of people, who made many important scientific discoveries. They were highly advanced in art, architecture, writing and mathematics. They made astronomical observations and understood a lot about the Moon as well as many stars and planets. It was a story divided into three separate chapters: Preclassic, Classic and Postclassic periods, each with its own special characteristics and advancements. Unlike other ancient civilisations, the Maya faced the challenge of not having a large river at their disposal. Yet, their ingenuity shone as they developed clever techniques like terrace farming and canals to manage water resources and cultivate their crops.



Religion was very important in ancient Maya culture. They were polytheistic, believing in a many of gods. Religious rituals took place in grand temples and sacred pyramids. It was thought that priests and shamans connected the human and spiritual worlds.



The ancient Maya were advanced **mathematicians** and used the number zero and place-values. They were able to calculate extremely large numbers. The Maya developed sophisticated calendars that were used for tracking time, agricultural cycles and religious events. Their number system enabled them to make really accurate **astronomical** predictions and they traced movements of the sun, moon, stars and even planets like Mars!

Mayan society was structured a bit like a pyramid. The higher up the pyramid you were, the more important you were.

Key Vocabulary

mathematics	the study of numbers, shapes, and patterns, used to solve problems and make calculations
astronomy	the study of celestial objects like stars, planets and the sky
polytheistic	believing in and worshipping many gods
ritual	a formal and often religious ceremony or set of actions
sacred	something considered holy, special or connected to a religion
shaman	a spiritual leader who communicates with the spirit world
pyramid	a large structure often used for religious and ceremonial purposes
terrace farming	a farming technique using stepped platforms to grow crops on hillsides
Preclassic Period	the earliest period of the Maya civilisation
Classic Period	the peak of Maya civilisation marked by advanced culture and architecture
Postclassic Period	the final period marked by changes in society, culture and the decline of some major cities