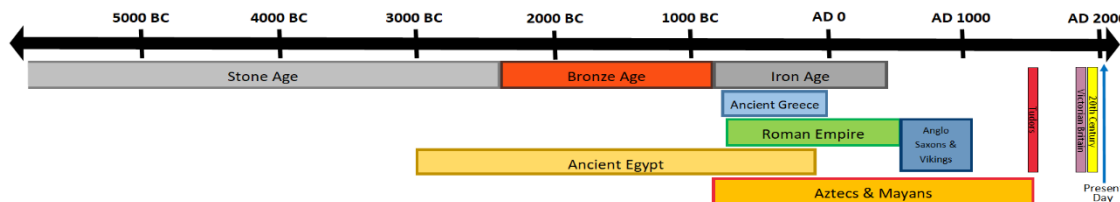
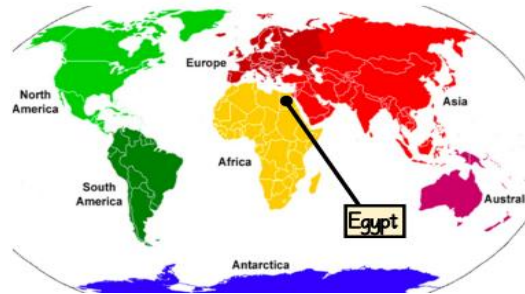




Vocabulary

civilisations	a large group of people living in an organised way with laws
pharaoh	a ruler of Ancient Egypt
afterlife	life after death, as believed by the Ancient Egyptians
mummification	preserving a body after death
dynasty	a series of rulers or leaders who are from the same family
archaeologist	a person who studies the past by digging up remains and artefacts
artefact	an object made or used by people in the past

The Ancient Egyptians, like many other ancient civilisations, built their cities near rivers and natural wells because water was essential for survival.



A **civilisation** is a large group of people who:

- share an organised government and laws
- have specialised jobs (farmers, builders, priests, scribes)
- use a writing system
- follow shared beliefs and culture

Ancient Egypt

- **Pharaohs** ruled as kings or queens.
- Pyramids and later tombs were built as burial places for pharaohs, to protect their bodies and possessions for the afterlife.
- Egyptians made medical advances, such as herbal remedies, surgery and **mummification**.

Chronology and Timelines

The first civilisations appeared thousands of years ago.

They include:

- Ancient Sumer (Iraq, c. 4500 BC)
- Ancient Egypt (Egypt, c. 3100 BC)
- Indus valley (India and Pakistan, c. 2600 BC)
- Shang dynasty (China, c. 1600 BC)
- Ancient Maya (central America, c. 2000 BC)

Civilisations often developed near rivers, which provided:

- water for drinking and farming
- fertile soil for crops
- food (fish, animals nearby)



Ancient Civilisations

Vocabulary

civilisation	a large group of people with organised government, jobs, beliefs and culture
hierarchy	a system where people are ranked by importance and power
priest	a religious leader
sacrifice	offering (sometimes food, objects or even people) to the gods
pyramid temple	large stepped buildings used for worship and ceremonies
astronomy	the study of the sun, moon, stars and planets

The ancient Maya made important advances in mathematics, including the use of a base-20 number system and the early use of zero as a placeholder.

Society and Religion

The Maya had a strict social hierarchy:

- priests at the top
- rulers and nobility
- warriors and craftsmen
- farmers
- enslaved people at the bottom



Maya civilisation is divided into three periods:

- Preclassic (c. 2000 BC – AD 250)
- Classic (AD 250 – 900)
- Postclassic (AD 900– 1500s)

The Maya civilisation declined, but Maya people and aspects of their culture still exist today.

Geography and Environment

The Maya civilisation is unique among ancient civilisations because it developed without being based around a major river. Instead, the Maya adapted to dense rainforest and seasonal rainfall.

The Maya developed large-scale farming techniques:

- terrace farming on hillsides
- canal systems for irrigation

These methods helped them grow crops such as maize (corn) and beans.

Religion was central to Maya life:

- Belief in many gods linked to nature and daily life
- Rituals and ceremonies at pyramid temples



8 Point Compass



A compass helps us find direction. The main directions are called **North, East, South, and West** — these are the **cardinal points**. Between them are four more directions: **North-East, South-East, South-West, and North-West**. Together, these make an **8-point compass**. Compasses use a magnetic needle that always points north, which helps us work out the other directions.