



Vocabulary

civilisation	a large group of people living in an organised way with laws
pharaoh	a king or queen of Ancient Egypt who was believed to be chosen by the gods
afterlife	what some people believe happens to a person after they die
mummification	the process of keeping a dead body from decaying to make a mummy
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

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 Egyptian Achievements

Pyramids (and later tombs) were built as grand burial places for pharaohs, designed to protect their bodies and possessions for the afterlife.



The Ancient Egyptians studied the human body through the process of **mummification**, when bodies were prepared for burial.

They used herbal remedies to treat illness.

They used simple surgical techniques, such as treating wounds and broken bones.

Ancient Civilisations

Chronology

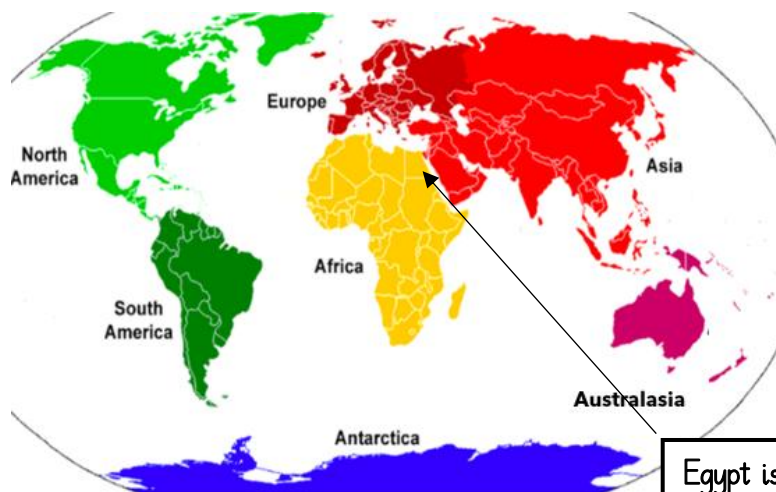
The first civilisations appeared thousands of years ago.

They include:

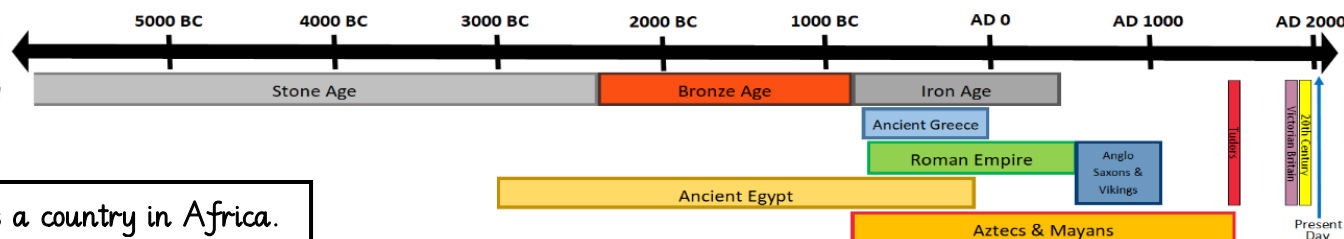
- Ancient Sumer (Iraq, c. 4500 BC)
- Ancient Egypt (Egypt, c. 3100 BC)
- Indus valley (India and Pakistan, c. 2600 BC)
- Shang dynasty (China, c. 1600 BC)
- Ancient Maya (central America, c. 2000 BC)

Civilisations often developed near rivers, which provide:

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



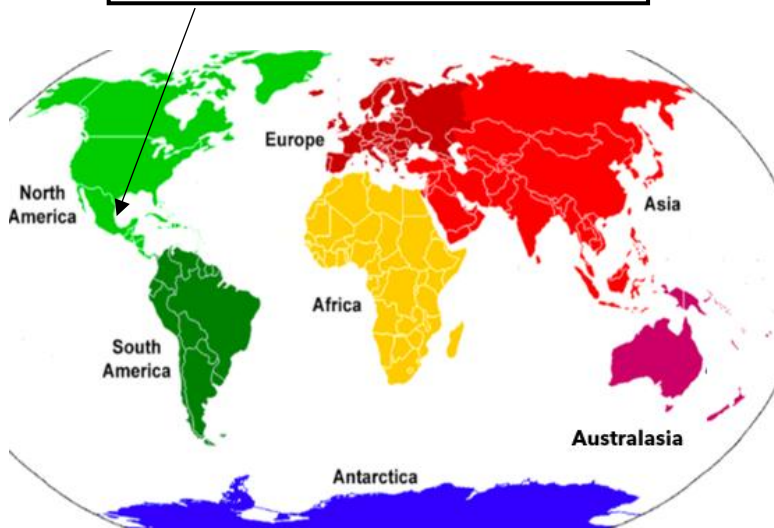
Egypt is a country in Africa.





Vocabulary	
hierarchy	a system where people are ranked by importance and power
priest	a religious leader who helps people worship and teaches about their religion
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

Mexico is a country in North America.



Geography and Environment

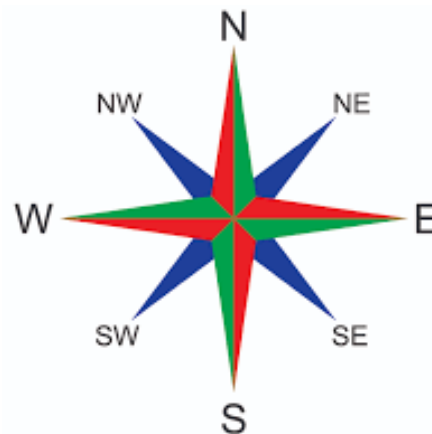
The Maya civilisation is unique among ancient civilisations because it developed without being based around a major river. Instead, the Maya adapted to dense rainforest and seasonal rainfall.



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.



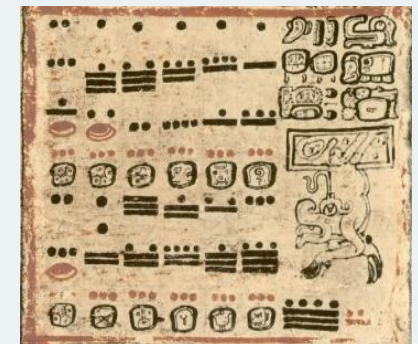
Ancient Civilisations

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.

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

