



Knowledge Organiser

Summer Term B

History – The Egyptians

Vocabulary

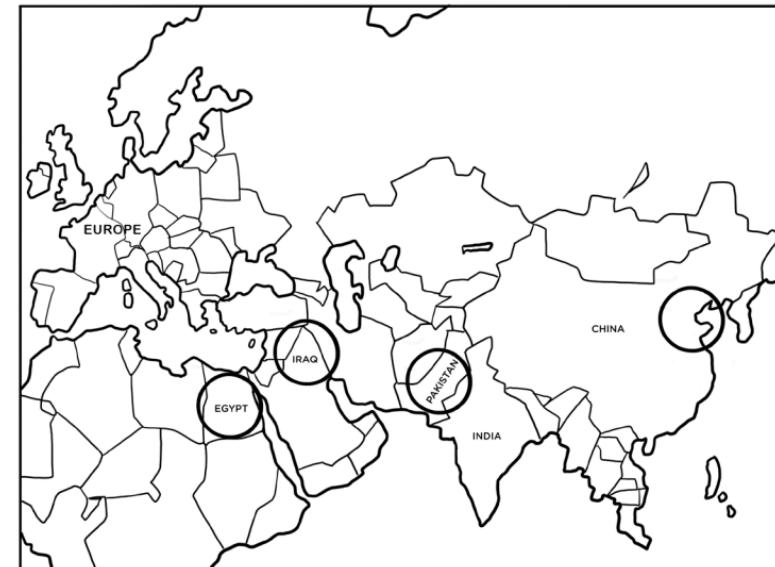
Civilisation	the culture of a particular society that has reached an advanced level of development, as judged by such things as having a system of government and laws, using a written language, and keeping written records
tomb	a structure built to hold the bodies of one or more dead persons
pharaoh	a king of ancient Egypt
pyramid	a huge stone structure that is shaped like a pyramid. Pyramids were built long ago as tombs in Egypt and as temples in Mexico
sarcophagus	a carved stone coffin
mummy	A body that has been preserved with special chemicals and wrapped in cloth, ancient Egyptians are famous for mummies
hieroglyph	The ancient Egyptian system of writing using pictures
cartouche	In Egyptian hieroglyphs, a cartouche is an oval, indicating that the text enclosed is a royal name
Egyptologist	a historian or archaeologist who specializes in Egyptology, the scientific study of Ancient Egypt and its antiquities
sphinx	a creature in Egyptian mythology that has a lion's body and the head of a human or animal.
Sphinx	(capitalized) the huge stone statue of such a creature that is located in Egypt

Ancient Egypt (around 3150–330bc)



The ancient Egyptian civilisation was based in the desert of Northeast Africa. Every year the Nile River would flood, watering the surrounding land so that crops could be grown. Successful farming helped the country trade, become rich and grow into a large empire. The Egyptians wore jewellery made of gold and precious stones. They built massive monuments and statues out of stone, in honour of their rulers (pharaohs) and the many gods they worshipped. Many of these still stand today. The most famous are the pyramids at Giza. British archeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun, one of the most famous pharaohs.

Other Early Civilizations



The Shang Dynasty of ancient China (around 1600–1050bc)

The Chinese Shang dynasty ruled in the Yellow River valley. The Shang people had a calendar with 360 days in a year and 30 days in a month. They were mainly farmers ruled by the king and his nobles. The people enjoyed music and played instruments such as chimes, bells and drums. They made beautiful pots and bowls and carved jade and marble to make ornaments and weapons.

Ancient Sumer (around 3300–1900bc)

Sumer was located in what is now Iraq in the Middle East, between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. The country was divided into 12 city-states. Each of these was ruled by a king and worshiped a different god. Each had a city, based around a temple and surrounded by land and villages. The people farmed, bred animals, fished and grew date palms and traded with other countries. They also developed one of the earliest forms of writing.

The Indus Valley (around 2500–1700bc)

The Indus Valley civilisation was based around the Indus River in modern Pakistan. Most Indus people were farmers who grew crops and kept animals – perhaps even elephants. There is still very little known about the Indus Valley people. Archaeologists have found many seals (stone tablets), which show different symbols and animals. They have also found a few statues. The most famous is called the 'Priest King' but nobody knows who it represents.

