

Year 3 History Knowledge Organiser - Cradles of Civilisation

Cradles of Civilisation

1. First human writing found on clay tablets in ancient Sumer.
2. The land of **Sumer** was where two rivers flowed into the sea: the Tigris and the Euphrates.
3. The **fertile crescent** had good soil for growing crops (this stretched from Sumer to Egypt).
4. Historians think the people of **Sumer** came from the Indus Valley and moved to **Mesopotamia**.
5. The **Mesopotamians** dug a maze of waterways and ditches so that the water went from the rivers to their fields.
6. The **Tigris** river and the **Euphrates** river made the soil fertile for growing crops.
7. The Indus river and the Yellow river had human civilisations settling nearby as well: the **Indus Valley** and **Shang**.
8. The **Indus** river flows through the countries of Pakistan and India. The **Yellow** river is in China.
9. Early civilisations are civilisations at the very beginning of the period when humans stopped wandering from place to place hunting for food.
10. **Cradle** is also used to describe the place where the earliest humans began to settle.
11. Ancient civilisations heated and melted copper and tin together to form a new, even stronger metal called **bronze**. Archaeologists still find **bronze** pots and jars in these cradles of civilisation.

First writing by humans called *cuneiform* was on clay tablets



Gilgamesh (an epic poem)

1. Gilgamesh was a man from a city called Babylon.
2. Gilgamesh's story is full of monsters, heroes, gods and goddesses, adventures and drama.
3. His story is actually a very long poem called an **epic**.
4. The most complete version of this story was discovered in the palace of a king (Ashurbanipal) from **Assyria**.
5. The story is about two powerful men (Gilgamesh and Enkidu) embarking on adventures, the monsters they had to fight and heartbreak.

Art in ancient civilisations



Similarities between civilisations

1. All ancient civilisations built religious monuments for their gods to show the importance of their religions.
2. Altars were built by the Shang people in China which is where **sacrifices** were offered to gods.
3. Egyptians and Indus people also offered **sacrifices**.
4. Archaeologists have found writing in Egypt and **Mesopotamia**: hieroglyphics in Egypt and cuneiform in Sumer. Indus Valley civilisation also wrote.
5. These civilisations also settled by a river and build permanent places to live.

Trade, building, writing

1. The ancient Sumerians traded food as they grew so much. Farming meant the ancient Sumerians did not need to hunt.
2. **Ziggurats** were huge religious buildings in Sumer with built in steps.
3. The gods lived at the top of the **Ziggurat**
4. The writing of ancient **Sumer** is **cuneiform**: it is made by pressing a wedge stick into clay.
5. The more Sumerians traded, the more symbols they needed in their writing.

6. Priests lived in Ziggurats



Vocabulary

1. Tigris	A river to the east.
2. Euphrates	A river to the west.
3. Mesopotamia	A historical region situated between the Tigris & Euphrates rivers. It means between 2 rivers
4. Sumer	A place.
5. Cuneiform	Different strokes and lines that make symbols.
6. Fertile Crescent	The whole region from Mesopotamia to Egypt was fertile and called this.
7. Trade	Buying and selling of goods.
8. Ziggurat	A place of worship built on many levels.
9. Nomadic	Those who wander from place to place hunting for food.
10. Cradle	A place where the earliest humans began to settle.
11. Sacrifices	Giving up something, usually to get something else or help someone.
12. Sculptures	A statue created by carving stone or wood.
13. Assyria	A place.
14. Ashurbanipal	A king.