

CIVILISATION

A civilisation is the society, culture and way of life of a particular area. It is usually used to refer to a society that has reached a high level of social development and organisation.



What does this word mean?

There have been many great civilisations throughout history. These civilisations have all found out new things and discovered new ways of making life better and more advanced. A lot of evidence for these civilisations can still be seen today.

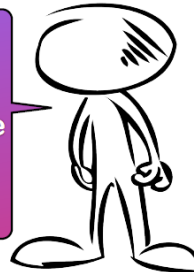


People have not always lived in permanent settlements. Before there were villages, towns or cities, people used to be hunter-gatherers. This means they travelled around from place to place, hunting animals for food and gathering fruits, nuts, seeds and other vegetation.

Once people had started farming, settlements began to be developed in some parts of the world. Some of these settlements turned into villages, which then turned into towns, which then developed into advanced cities.

Slowly, people realised that certain crops could be grown and cultivated. They also realised that some animals could be domesticated to provide meat, milk, wool and leather. People started farming the land.

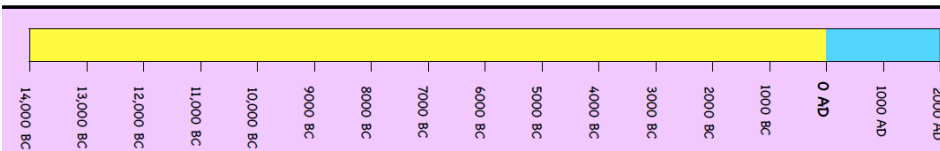
How do you think farming changed the way people lived?



History is split up into two eras: BC and AD.

BC means 'Before Christ'.

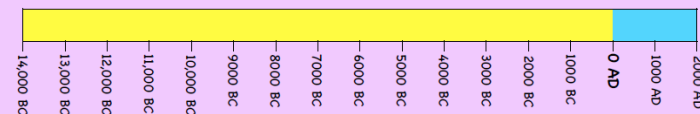
AD means 'Anno Domini' which is Latin for 'the Year of our Lord'.



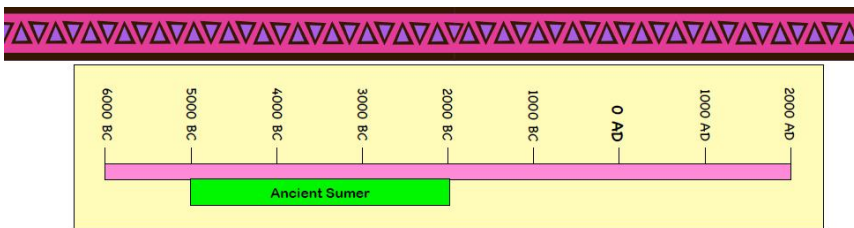
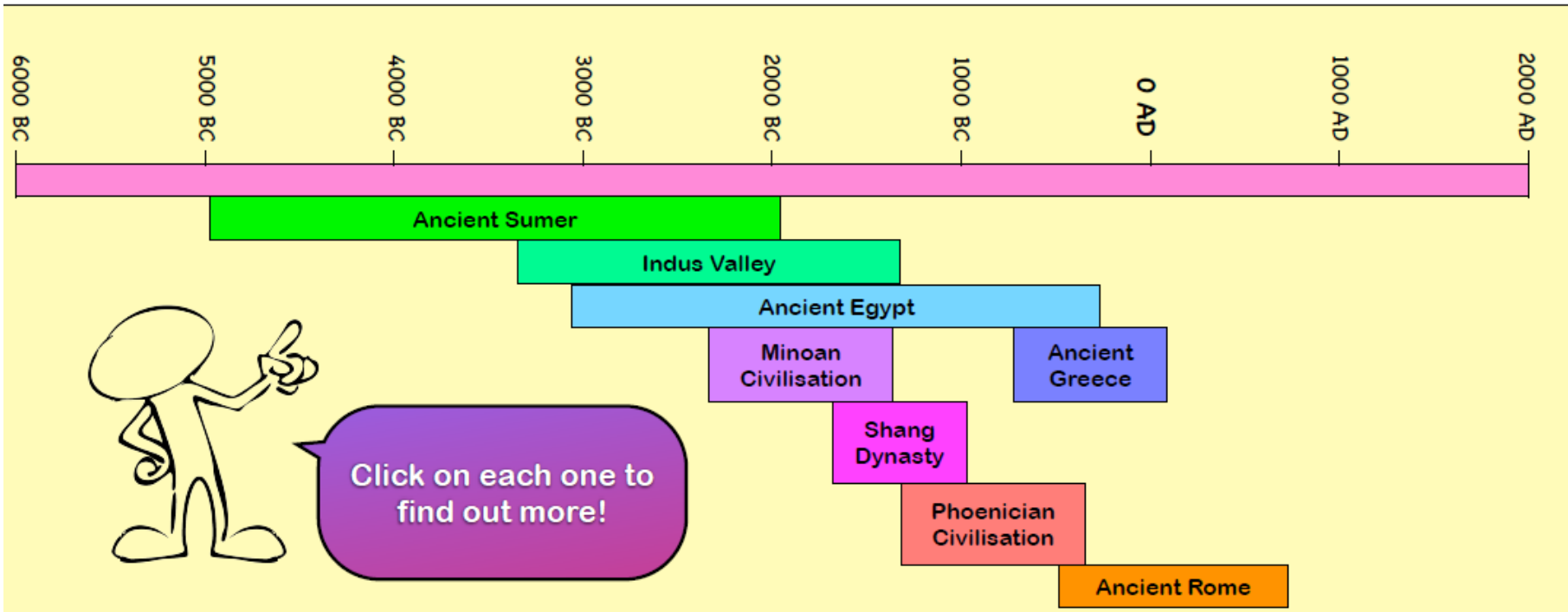
When do you think the first civilisations began?



Everything in history is marked from when Jesus Christ was born. Anything before Jesus (BC) counts backwards. For example, 2000 BC is 2000 years before Jesus was born. Anything after Jesus (AD) counts upwards. For example, 1000 AD is 1000 years after Jesus was born.



This timeline shows some of the world's earliest and greatest ancient civilisations.



Ancient Sumer was the first great civilisation in the world. They lived in Sumer, an area that is now southern Iraq. Sumer was bordered by the River Euphrates and the River Tigris. Ancient Sumerians were very clever and inventive.

Have a read through the information and then answer the question: What is a civilisation?

We are going to be focusing on the Sumerians. In preparation of our learning, have a look at an atlas or online, to find out where Ancient Sumer was on the map.