

Y4: 'Ancient Civilisations' project knowledge organiser



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomadic people settled as farmers so villages grew into cities Public buildings and temples were built, surrounded by a protective wall Cities such as Uruk and Ur had ports on the river for trade and canals for irrigation Mud bricks were used to build homes and huge ziggurats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City states grew and were often at war A king/queen ruled each city in a palace King Lugalzaggisi united the states under one ruler, but King Sargon of Akkad conquered all of Sumer – Sumer became part of the Akkadian empire
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cuneiform – a type of writing A numbering system for communication and records The wheel, the plough, astronomy irrigation and beer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grew food in fertile soil next to rivers Plenty of food meant the population grew The invention of the plough developed farming and skills

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cities were built on fertile banks of the Nile, with easy access to water Most cities had a surrounding wall and two entrances with small, narrow streets connected to the main roads Lived in mudbrick houses, with two storeys and an open courtyard
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharaohs ruled with absolute power and represented a living god Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered by Howard Carter in 1922, in the Valley of the Kings. It contained priceless artefacts, giving great insights about
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clocks and calendars Papyrus paper to record information Invented a shaduf – a lever mechanism to move heavy water buckets higher
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grew vegetables and fruits in the soils next to the Nile Wheat and barley was used for bread Much of the crops were stored for drought years

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largest cities are Harappa and Mohenjo-dara Each city had a citadel, marketplace, granary, workshops and sewage systems House built from mud bricks with toilets and baths inside– e.g. the Great Bath
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historians don't know how it was ruled Possible that there were kings or priests, or perhaps a council No royal tombs uncovered
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flushing toilets and wastewater pipes Weights and measures Dice to play games
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertile floodplain beside the Indus river ensured enough crops for population growth Wheat, barley, peas and lentils used

Fertile – soil rich in nutrients and water
Irrigation – digging of channels to allow water flow to crops
Ziggurat – a pyramid made from mud, with a temple on top
Civilisation – the developed culture and way of life of a society

Nomadic – a lifestyle of moving from place to place
Fertile Crescent – semi-circular area of land where ancient civilisations began