



# Key Ancient Civilisations History Knowledge Organiser

## Key Knowledge

- ❑ The Sumerian civilization (Sumer) is the oldest civilization known to mankind. Sumerians invented or improved a wide range of technology, including the wheel, cuneiform script, arithmetic, geometry, irrigation, saws and other tools, sandals and chariots
- ❑ The Shang Dynasty (China) is known for its technological advancement and sophisticated craftsmanship in bronze, ceramic and silk.
- ❑ The Ancient Egyptians were responsible for creating the pyramids, hieroglyphs and developing mummification to preserve their dead. It is also believed that the Egyptians devised the earliest clocks
- ❑ The Indus cities are noted for their urban planning, a technical and political process concerned with the use of land and design of the urban environment. They are also noted for their baked brick houses, elaborate drainage systems, water supply systems, and clusters of large, non-residential buildings.
- ❑ Interestingly, despite having no one to learn from, some common inventions appeared across these four civilizations as they developed more complex societies simultaneously.



## Key Vocabulary

|              |                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| civilisation | the stage of human social and cultural development and organization that is considered most advanced                                |
| river valley | An elongated lowland between ranges of mountains, hills, or other uplands, often having a river or stream running along the bottom. |
| location     | a particular place                                                                                                                  |
| irrigation   | the supply of water to land or crops to help growth, typically by means of channels                                                 |
| achievements | a thing done successfully with effort, skill, or courage.                                                                           |
| dynasty      | a line of hereditary rulers of a country.                                                                                           |

## A comparative time-line of the first civilisations

