







Topic Knowledge Organiser KS2 – Ancient Civilisations

Hazel Class – Year 4

What Should I Already Know? <i>(History knowledge from Early Years and Key Stage 1, Year 3)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use simple sources of information such as artefacts, photos and books to answer simple questions about the past. • Use key evidence to support judgements and reasoning made about aspects of the past. • Ask and answer questions about an archaeological site • Talk with increasing accuracy and detail about events, places and people beyond living memory. • Use an increasing range of historical terms to describe the passage of time, e.g. modern, recent, long ago, older etc. • Place a range of objects, people and events beyond own experiences in time order. • Talk about and describe the home and the way people lived, e.g. day to day life, things they did, their house, their family etc. • Describe the changes and differences in lifestyle in the past and present. 	
Key Vocabulary		
Chronology	The arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence.	
Civilisation	Human society which is organised.	
Artefact	An object that is made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest.	
Calendar	A printed table showing all the days, weeks and months of the year.	
Dynasty	A series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family, or a period when a country is ruled by them.	
Empire	A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.	
Hieroglyph	A system of writing using pictures not words.	
Kingdom	A place ruled by a king, queen or important person.	
Temple	A building used for the worship of a god or gods in some religions.	
Worship	To show a strong feeling or respect for a God or Goddess	
Traditions	Customs that have existed for a long time	
What We Will Investigate	Key Questions/Lesson Focus	Fun Facts about the Maya
Ancient Mayan Civilisation (Central America) 	<p>Who were the Ancient Maya? Where did the Maya Live? How did the Maya Live? What food did they eat? Which Gods did they worship? How long ago did they live?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayans predicated that the world would end in 2012. • Flat foreheads were fashionable so they would put baby's heads in a press to squash them. • It was considered beautiful to be cross-eyed so parents would hang balls in-between their children's eyes to make them look inwards. • Mayans sacrificed humans for religious and medical reasons. It was an honour to be sacrificed! • Noblewomen would file their teeth into sharp points

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<p>Indus Valley Civilisation (India)</p> 	<p>Where was the Indus Valley? Who lived there? What were their homes like? What happened to them?</p>	
<p>Shang Dynasty (China)</p>	<p>Where did the people of the Shang Dynasty live? What did they eat? Which Gods did they worship? What were their homes like?</p>	<p>The craftsmen of the Shang Dynasty (1600 -1046 BC) were known for their skill and artistry in producing artifacts made from bronze. Many of the bronze pieces made during the Shang Dynasty are surprisingly heavy and indicate that a high level of craftsmanship and technology existed at the time</p>
<p>The Ancient Kingdom of Benin (West Africa)</p> 	<p>Where was the kingdom? What artefacts have they left behind? What happened to the kingdom? Where are the bronze figures from Benin?</p>	 
<p>Ancient Greece (Europe)</p>	<p>How did people live in Ancient Greece? Who were the Greek Gods? What was important to the Ancient Greeks? What was their architecture like?</p>	