

Timeline

3200 BC - 1792 BC	Ancient Sumer civilisation
3150 BC - 30 AD	Ancient Egyptian civilisation
2600 BC - 1900 BC	Indus Valley civilisation
1760 BC - 1046 BC	Shang Dynasty civilisation

What were the advantages of civilisations being located near rivers?

Most great civilisations began near rivers. They were attractive locations because they provided drinking water, hygienic ways of dealing with sewage, irrigation of the fertile land used for farming as well as enabling people to fish and hunt. Goods and people could be easily transported which also facilitated trade.



Key Places and People

Uruk	The first ever city, located in Iraq.
Indus River	One of Asia's mightiest rivers.
Fu Hao	Female head of the army in the Shang Dynasty. She was very important and buried with treasures.
Pharaoh Tutankhamun	A famous ancient Egyptian king.
Yellow River	A river in central China, which is sometimes called the cradle of civilisation.
Euphrates and Tigris river	Rivers which run through Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq)
Cheng Tang	Said to be the founder of the Shang Dynasty, who overthrew the legendary Xia Dynasty
Ur-Nammu	Leader of the greatest Sumerian civilisation before the empire got overtaken

What is a civilisation?

A civilisation is a group of people with their own language and ways of life. Most civilisations have agriculture (a way to grow food) and system of government such as kings and queens or elections. Civilisations have common systems for living and can have a shared religion of some kind that the population follows.

Significant Inventions

The clock system we use today, of 60-minute hours, was devised by the Ancient Sumerians, as well as the writing and recording of the number system. The Indus people invented sewage systems which became essential features of cities today. Indus people also invented bricks, which many great buildings are constructed from. The Shang Dynasty was where writing was first developed, often carved on to oracle bones. The Ancient Egyptians also achieved great inventions including using papyrus for writing paper and pyramid structures.

Key Vocabulary

urban	An area where many people live and work.
plough	A heavy farm tool used for turning over and cutting through soil.
tradition	Handing down information, beliefs or customs from one generation to another.
agriculture	Another word for farming.

