



Runnymede St. Edward's Primary Catholic School

- Knowledge Organiser

Subject: History

Cradles of Civilisation

Year: 3

Term: Autumn 2

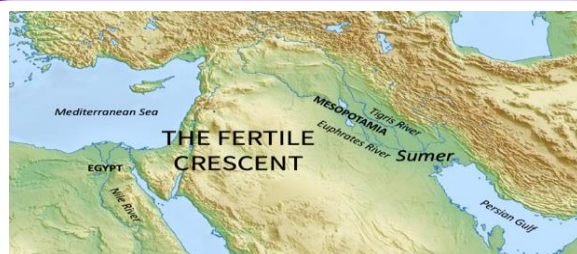
	Key Knowledge and Vocabulary
Civilisation	A settled and organised society with its own culture and way of life
Early Civilisation	A civilisation at the very beginning of the period when humans learned to farm
Cradle of Civilisation	A place where the earliest humans began to settle
Sumer	An ancient civilisation around 3,000BC which is the country we now call Iraq
Mesopotamia	An area of land between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers, it means 'between two rivers'
Fertile Crescent	The land from Mesopotamia down to the River Nile in Egypt, good for growing crops.

The Land of Ancient Sumer

The ancient land of ancient Sumer was where two rivers flowed into the sea. The rivers were called the Tigris and the Euphrates.

Mesopotamia means 'the land between the two rivers.'

The **Fertile Crescent** stretched from Sumer to Egypt and had good soil for growing crops.



Clay Tablets

The first writing by humans was on clay tablets.

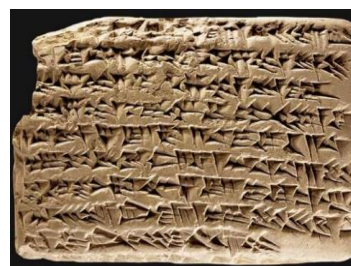
Archaeologists found these tablets when they were excavating in ancient Sumer.



Cuneiform

The writing of ancient Sumer is called cuneiform.

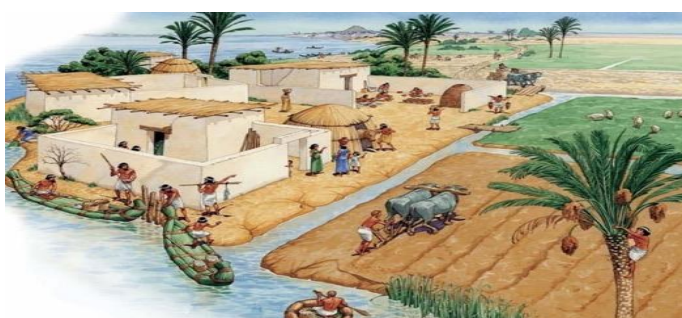
Cuneiform is made by pressing a wedged stick into clay



Farming

Early civilisations are where humans stopped being nomadic. They stopped moving from place to place to hunt for food and instead settled by rivers. The Indus Valley and the Shang were built by rivers just like Sumer and Egypt.

Ancient civilisations were built by rivers so they could farm. The land around the rivers would regularly flood this fertilised the soil and made it perfect for growing crops.



Ziggurat

A Ziggurat was a huge religious building in Sumer.

The King and priests lived in the ziggurat.

The gods lived at the top of the ziggurat.

