



History - Year 5 and 6

Asian Empires

Shang Dynasty

Yellow River	The civilisation grew along the Yellow River now Central China
Cities	The major cities were Anyang (capital), Zhengzhou, and Bo
Rulers	The first ruler of the Shang was Tang Shang, a military leader. There were thirty Shang Emperors
Classes	The royal family, then came priests, an administrative class, warriors, craftsmen, traders, farmers and slaves
Writing	They used pictographs, characters which could convey more than one meaning.
Religion	A supreme God, Shang Di , as well as subsidiary powers or spirits

Indus Valley

Indus River	The civilisation grew along the Indus River now Pakistan
Cities	The major cities were Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro
Rulers	The lack of palaces, royal tombs or images of rulers leads historians to think that there was no central ruler
Classes	Little is known. However, square stone seals were important symbols of power
Writing	Indus valley writing has not been deciphered so less is known about them
Religion	People worshipped a great father and mother figure, and certain animals

Sumer

Euphrates and Tigris Rivers	The civilisation grew along the Euphrates and Tigris now Iraq
Cities	The major cities were Ur, Uruk, Eridu, and Lars
Rulers	The area was ruled by warring kings. Gilgamesh, king of Uruk, is the most famous among them
Classes	The ruling class, upper class, middle class, working class, and enslaved class.
Writing	Sumerian cuneiform is the earliest known writing system. Its origins can be traced back to about 8,000 BC
Religion	Belief in gods embodying natural elements and cosmic phenomena

Key Vocabulary

Civilisation	An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular time
Ancient Sumer	The earliest known civilization in the historical region of Mesopotamia
Indus Valley	A Bronze Age civilization in the north-western regions of South Asia
Shang Dynasty	The earliest ruling dynasty of China
Archaeology	The study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and analysis of artefacts
Artefacts	Objects found which are evidence of past human life

