History ‘Cheat Sheets’
Starting points for KS2 statutory and optional units

Initial information and guidance for teachers
for each unit of Key Stage 2 History
About the Resources

These sheets were prepared during 2014-15 to support schools in preparing to teach new and unfamiliar units of History. I am hugely grateful to the individuals who helped by sharing their expert knowledge to create many of the topic sheets. These were:

Kim Biddulph of SchoolsPreHistory.co.uk (units 1 and 9); Tim Taylor of Imaginative-inquiry.co.uk (unit 2), Jo Pearson of Teamworks TSA (unit 5), Ilona Aronovsky, archaeologist (unit 7), Rich Farrow of St Marks School, Stockport (units 10 and 11) and Alison Leach of ks2history.co.uk (unit 12)

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Michael Tidd

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Unit 1: Prehistoric Britain

Period Overview
The Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age covers 98% of human history in Britain. The evolution of humans from the earliest hominins to Homo sapiens occurred in this period. Some of the major advances in technology were achieved during this period, including the control of fire, agriculture, metalworking and the wheel. The earliest sign of humans is marked by footprints of Homo antecessor on a beach at Happisburgh in Norfolk dated to 800,000 years ago. Traditionally the end of the Iron Age is marked by the second Roman invasion under Claudius in 43CE. The useful term prehistory was coined by a Scottish archaeologist, Daniel Wilson, in 1851 to refer to this time before written history. The main way to study this period is through archaeology.

Life in Prehistoric Britain
For most of prehistory people who lived in Britain were hunter-gatherers. During the Ice Ages they hunted woolly mammoth, reindeer and wild horses and, as the climate warmed, new species such as red deer, roe deer, aurochs (wild cattle) and wild pig. The warmer climate also brought more plant life to forage, including fruit, nuts, berries, mushrooms and leafy plants. During the Ice Age people were very mobile. The same people roamed from the south of France to the Peak District. In the warmer phase that followed, rich returning plant and animal life meant that groups did not have to move around quite as much and may have had very small territories, perhaps around a single lake. When farming was introduced people still moved around, this time with cows, pigs and sheep in tow. Communities came together regularly to feast, exchange gifts and perhaps marriage partners. Significant places in the landscape were elaborated with stone or earth monuments, often associated with the dead. There were times when an elite seem to have held power, such as the Early Bronze Age, but other periods were more egalitarian.

Changing Times
During the first 790,000 years of human activity in Britain, the climate oscillated between Ice Ages and interstadial warm stages. Britain was usually connected to the continent by a land bridge, but this was periodically flooded. The last time this happened was 6000BCE. The earliest hearth in Britain was found at Beeches Pit in Suffolk, and also dates to about 400,000 years ago, possibly tended by Neanderthals. Homo sapiens (us) arrived around 30,000BCE. The end of the last Ice Age was about 10,000BCE. Agriculture was developed in the Near East soon after but wasn't adopted in Britain until 4000BCE, and then only piecemeal. Britain was quicker on the uptake with metalworking. Copper was used on the continent from 3000BCE or earlier, and spread to Britain by about 2300BCE. The addition of tin to make bronze was then exported from Britain back to the continent. Proper mixed farming with crops, permanent settlements and fields kicked in during the Middle Bronze Age for most areas of England. Iron working took a couple of centuries, from 800-600BCE, to overtake the use of bronze as it took skill to make better blades.

Possible Enquiry Questions
- Would you like to be a hunter-gatherer or a farmer?
- Why did people build Stonehenge?
- Did the Beaker folk really exist?
- Who were the kings and queens in prehistory?
- Barrows, bogs and druids: what did people believe in prehistory?
- Which is better, bronze or iron?
- Did Celts ever come to Britain?

Key Individuals
- Swanscombe woman – three parts of a cranium of a Neanderthal woman c. 400,000-350,000BCE
- Red Lady of Paviland – actually a young man buried in a cave in South Wales c. 26,000BCE
- Amesbury Archer – visitor from the Alps buried with earliest bronze near Stonehenge c. 2300BCE
- Wetwang tribal queen - buried with a spectacular chariot in a Yorkshire village c. 200BCE
- Lindow Man – sacrificed in a religious ceremony and placed in a bog in Cheshire c. 40CE
Timeline of Key Events:

**Stone Age:**
- Palaeolithic to 10,000 BCE
- Mesolithic to 4000 BCE
- Neolithic to 2300 BCE

**Bronze Age:** 2300 BCE to 800 BCE

**Iron Age:** 800 BCE to 43 CE

All dates below are approximate
- 800,000 BCE Earliest footprints in Britain
- 400,000 BCE Earliest hearth in Britain
- 10,000 BCE End of the last Ice Age
- 6000 BCE Land bridge to Europe flooded
- 4000 BCE Adoption of agriculture
- 3000 BCE Stonehenge started
- 3000 BCE Skara Brae built
- 2300 BCE Bronze working introduced
- 1600 BCE Stonehenge abandoned
- 1500 BCE Villages and mixed farming
- 1200 BCE First hillforts
- 800 BCE Ironworking introduced
- 120 BCE Coins introduced from Europe
- 100 BCE Belgae arrived from Europe
- 80 BCE Roman amphorae imported
- 54 BCE First Roman invasion (Julius Caesar)
- 43 BCE Second Roman invasion (Claudius)

**Places to Visit:**

There are hillforts, barrows, cairns and stone circles on public land across England as well as plenty of collections in local, regional and national museums.

Possible visit sites include:
- **Cresswell Crags**, Nottinghamshire
- **Butser Ancient Farm**, Hampshire
- **Bodrifty Iron Age Settlement**, Cornwall
- **Museum of the Iron Age**, Hampshire
- **Flag Fen**, Cambridgeshire

**What have Prehistoric people ever done for us?**

Most of the major technological achievements were made during the prehistoric period, such as control of fire, metalworking and farming, without which our modern life would not be possible. British culture, though disturbed and modified by incursions of Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, was also forged in this period, and one prominent archaeologist, Francis Pryor, believes it is essentially the same.

“I genuinely believe that the British belief in individual freedom has prehistoric roots.”

**Big Concepts**

The nature of the evidence for prehistory is essentially material, rather than written. It is the record of human impact on the landscape and the artefacts they made, used and left behind. The development of the economy from a mobile hunter-gatherer lifestyle to settled farming, contrasting long-distance trade and gift exchange to the adoption of coinage can all be explored in this period. The extent of a hierarchy fluctuates throughout prehistory. Religious activities range from building monuments to depositing objects in wet places.

**Broader Context**

- Hominins evolve in East Africa c. 2.5 mya
- *Homo erectus* travels out of Africa c.1.8mya
- *Homo sapiens* evolves in East Africa c. 200 kya
- *Homo sapiens* travels out of Africa c. 60kya
- Agriculture developed in Near East c. 10,000 BCE
- Agriculture spreads to Germany c. 6000 BCE
- Bronze working starts in the Near East c.3000 BCE
- First Egyptian pyramid built c. 2600 BCE
- Ancient Greek civilisation starts c. 500 BCE
- Philip II of Macedon issues coinage 359 BCE
- Romans conquer Greece 133 BCE
- Romans conquer Gaul (France) 55 BCE

**Further Information:**

Unit 2: Roman Britain

← Stone, Bronze & Iron Ages 43CE – 410CE Anglo-Saxons & Scots →

Period Overview
Roman Britain was a province of the Roman Empire from 43 to 409. Before the invasions the tribes of Britain had already established cultural and economic links with continental Europe, but the Roman invaders introduced new developments in agriculture, urbanisation, industry, and architecture. After the initial rebellions of Caratacus and Boudicca, the Romans controlled the lands south of Hadrian’s wall in relative peace & a distinctively Romano-British culture developed. From 400 Britain suffered repeated attacks from barbarian invasions and in c. 409 Roman officials departed. Over the next 150 years most of the Roman cities fell into ruins, nevertheless, the legacy of Roman rule was felt for many centuries.

Roman invasions & revolt
After Julius Caesar’s failed invasions of 55 & 54 BC, a successful Roman invasion, led by Aulus Plautius landed in 43. Ordered by Claudius, Plautius’ forces quickly took control of the country, building alliances with local tribes. During the early years after the invasions the tribes of Wales (initially led by Caratacus) proved difficult to defeat & occupied much of the Roman army. In 60, while Governor Gaius Suetonius Paulinus was campaigning in Wales, a rebellion started in the SE of England, led by Queen Boudicca, widow of Prasutagus, king of the Iceni. The Iceni, who felt betrayed by the new emperor, Nero, attacked first Colchester, then London, and then St Albans, leaving between seventy & eighty thousand people dead. Paulinus on hearing the news led his army back to England and met Boudicca’s Iceni forces at the Battle of Watling Street. Despite being massively outnumbered the superior battle discipline of the Roman army won the day and the Iceni forces were scattered. Gradually the Roman administration took firm control of the south of the British Isles, although they never defeated the tribes of Scotland.

“Romanisation” of Britain
Trade: During the Roman period Britain’s continental trade was principally directed across the Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel. Imports included: coin, pottery, olive oil, wine, olives, salt fish, & glass. Exports (more difficult to prove archeologically): metals (silver, gold, lead, iron & copper), salt & agricultural products.
Economy: Mining very important & agriculture. By the 3rd century, Britain’s economy was diverse and well established.
Government: Country run by Governor, whose role was primarily military, but also maintaining diplomatic relations with local client kings, building roads, ensuring the public courier system functioned, supervising the civitates & acting as a judge in important cases.
Settlements: Romans established a number of important settlements, many of which still survive. They introduced the idea of a town as a centre of power and administration.
Religion: Druids outlawed by Claudius, however, Britain’s continued to worship Celtic deities. Christianity introduced to Britain in c. 200.

Possible Enquiry Questions
• Social: How did the Roman invasions change the way people lived, traded and socialised?
• Cultural: How did the Roman invasions affect the cultural development of Britain?
• Political: What were the political issues surrounding the invasion?
• Historical: What effects did the Roman invasions have?
• Environmental: How did the Roman invasions change the British landscape?

Key Individuals
• Aulus Plautius – General who led Roman invasion army in 43
• Claudius – Emperor who ordered the invasion
• Gaius Suetonius Paulinus – 1st Governor
• Prasutagus – King of the Iceni
• Boudicca – Queen of the Iceni
• Hadrian – Emperor who orders the building of the wall between Scotland & Roman Britain
• Tacitus – Roman historian who writes an account of the Iceni revolt.

Downloaded from michael1979.wordpress.com/freeresources
Timeline of Key Events:

54BC Julius Caesar’s invasion attempt
43 Successful invasion ordered by Claudius
51 Defeat of Caratacus
61 Iceni revolt led by Boudicca
122 Construction of Hadrian’s wall
200 Introduction of Christianity
306 Constantine proclaimed emperor in York
406 Suevi, Alans, Vandals and Burgundians attack Gaul, and break contact between Rome and Britain: Remaining Roman army in Britain mutinies
408 Devastating attacks by the Picts, Scots and Saxons
409 Britons expel Roman officials and fight for themselves
410 Britain is independent
440–500 Civil war and famine in Britain; Pictish invasions: Many towns and cities are in ruins.
c. 480 – 550 Arrival of Anglo-Saxons

Further Information:

General background:
Encyclopaedia Britannica – eb.com
BBC – Historical Figures
Encyclo – Online Encyclopedi
BBC Primary History: Romans
BBC History: Romans
Timeline – Romans in Britain
Celts & Iceni:
British Celtic Nobles of the early Roman Era
Romans:
History of Ancient Rome – History Learning Site
Media:
BBC – Battlefield Britain: Boudicca Revolt 61AD – Caution, please watch this first to judge if it is suitable for your students, as it does contain some graphic descriptions of violence.
BBC – Horrible histories: Boudicca
Decisive Battles: Boudicca Revolt – Computer animation retelling of the defeat of the Iceni army. Again please use with caution, some descriptions of violence.
BBC Learning Zone – Boudicca’s Attack on Colchester
BBC – In our time Podcast

Themes:
• Roman army – legions, training, weapons, armour, tactics, discipline
• Roman worship – gods, temples, rituals
• Architecture, cities, villas, embellishments (jewellery, art etc).
• Technology – roads, machines, heating, aqueducts, buildings
• Entertainment – Gladiators, chariots, plays
• Iceni – Settlements, tribes, religion, weapons, jewellery, buried treasure
Ref. for a mind map & further planning visit: imaginative-inquiry.co.uk

National Curriculum:

Roman Empire and its impact on Britain: Could include:-Julius Caesar’s attempted invasion in 55-54 BC- the Roman Empire by AD 42 and the power of its army- successful invasion by Claudius and conquest, including Hadrian’s Wall- British resistance, e.g. Boudicca- “Romanisation” of Britain: sites such as Caerwent and the impact of technology, culture and beliefs, including early Christianity.

Places to Visit:

There are many sites, famous & otherwise scattered around the Britain, these a just a few:

• Hadrian’s Wall - The North
• Bath, South West
• Colchester, East Anglia
• British Museum, London
• Senhouse Roman Museum, North West
• Chester – Welsh borders

Statue of Boudicca in Westminster

2 Boudicca statue image [http://bit.do/boudicca] by BableStone is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License. The licence can be viewed at http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/
Unit 3: Anglo-Saxons & Scots in Britain

Period Overview
The Anglo-Saxon period is usually considered to begin from around 410 following the withdrawal of the Romans from Britain, although some Saxon incursions had taken place earlier. The Anglo-Saxons came from modern-day areas of northern Germany, southern Denmark and the borders of the Netherlands. Tradition also suggested that some invasions of Gaels from the north or Ireland had taken place on the west coast of Scotland, although more recent findings indicate that there is no evidence for such an invasion, and that rather the Scot cultures existed alongside one another in the two modern nations, sharing a common language. The Anglo-Saxon period in England extended over 600 years, right up to the invasion of William the Conqueror in 1066.

Life in Anglo-Saxon Britain
Many of the Anglo-Saxon settlers came to Britain seeking land to farm, having previously lived in frequently-flooded areas of northern Europe. The majority of the influx took place after the departure of the Romans, although in many cases Anglo-Saxons did not occupy existing Roman settlements but rather developed their own more rural settlements. Families usually lived all under one roof in small communities living in wooden houses with thatched roofs. During this period most communities were self-sufficient with relatively little trade between communities, although this changed significantly by the later Anglo-Saxon period. There were craftsmen, and some evidence has been found of things including pottery from the early Saxon period. The residents of Britain were largely pagans at the start of the period, although Christianity was brought to the islands particularly in the 7th Century. Common clothing included tunics for men, and longer robes for women. Popular drinks included beer and mead, which were brewed and therefore much safer to drink than water. A common diet was made up of bread and items such as eggs and cheese.

Changing Times
In the years after the departure of the Romans from Britain, Angles and Saxons from Germany and Jutes from Denmark settled in various places across what is now England. In the past it was thought that these were all invasions, but more recent historians suggest that coexistence was agreed, although with Celtic Britons becoming ‘lesser’ citizens. Originally settling in small communities they gradually developed into larger kingdoms, and by the middle of the 6th Century there were 7 main kingdoms in England, stretching from Northumbria in the north, to Wessex on the south coast. During this period, Christianity was first brought to England by St Augustine in 597, and spread widely over the following centuries. By the last 8th Century power had begun to centralise with stronger kingdoms either over-taking or combining with others, such that by 757 Offa – king of Mercia – became King of the whole of England below the River Humber. It is Offa after whom the defensive ditch on the Welsh borders – Offa’s Dyke – is named. Much of what we know of this period comes from a history of the English church and people written by a monk named Bede.

Possible Enquiry Questions
- Where are English people from?
- Are all English people immigrants?
- Who was the first king of England?
- Was England always a Christian country?
- Why isn’t England part of the Roman Empire today?
- Who wrote history books in Anglo-Saxon times?
- Who was buried at Sutton Hoo?
- Was King Arthur real?

Key Individuals
- St Augustine – Christian missionary considered to be responsible for the widespread adoption of the faith
- King Aethelbert – King of Kent who created the first Germanic law code in the early 7th Century
- King Offa – King of Mercia, and of most of England in mid 8th Century
- King Arthur – possibly mythical King of Wessex, acclaimed for defeating Saxon expansion
- Bede – monk in a Northumbrian monastery who wrote a history of the English church and people
What have the Saxons ever done for us?
One of the most obvious legacies of the post-Roman period is the language we use. English has its roots in Old English which was spoken during the time of the Saxons. Many words that we use today are based on Saxon original words, including the days of the week. Also, the administration of England is still very much based on Saxon lines in lots of cases. The modern counties are often based on – sometimes even identical to – old Saxon shires. Also, many county courts are still based in the same place as a court from Saxon times.

Big Concepts
Traditionally the Anglo-Saxon period has been thought of as a series of invasions. However, more recently historians have doubted this simple narrative, explaining that some settlements may have been far more peaceful.

It also makes a very good unit in which to consider the values of Britishness, in the context of both our island nation, and the many centuries of immigration.

Timeline of Key Events:
All dates below are approximate:

- **350 CE** Some arrivals from north Europe
- **410 CE** Last Romans leave Britain
- **430 CE** First Christian church in Britain is built in Whithorn, Scotland
- **450 CE** German Saxons settle in Kent
- **516 CE** Battle of Mount Badon
- **570 CE** Heptarchy* emerges in England
- **597 CE** St Augustine brings Christianity to England from Rome
- **600 CE** First Law Code written in English in Aethelbert’s kingdom in Kent
- **613 CE** Northumbrian kings rule over most of England
- **664 CE** Synod of Whitby held
- **731 CE** Bede completes ecclesiastical history
- **757 CE** Offa becomes king of Mercia and arguably first king of all England
- **789 CE** First recorded Viking attack (Dorset)
- **793 CE** Viking attack on Lindisfarne

*The Heptarchy refers to the seven kingdoms of Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Sussex, Wessex and Kent

Places to Visit:
Many local museums will have information and artefacts from the Saxon period. Possible visit sites include:
- Tatton Park, Cheshire
- Sutton Hoo, Suffolk
- Butser Ancient Farm, Hampshire
- Alice Holt Forest, Hampshire
- West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village, Suffolk

Further Information:

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1Staffordshire Hoard [http://bit.do/hoard] image by David Rowan is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License. The licence can be viewed at https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0

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3Staffordshire Hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold
Unit 4: Anglo-Saxons & Vikings in Britain

Period Overview
The Anglo-Saxon period has been broken into two parts in the National Curriculum, differentiating between the periods before and after the main Viking invasions. Several Viking raids took place during the 8th Century, with increasing numbers towards the end of the century. The period is often considered to have begun with the raiding of Lindisfarne in 793. Vikings were largely from Denmark, Norway and Sweden and it is not known for certain why they began to raid other lands and settle in places such as England. Within a century Vikings had taken over large parts of the land in northern England, although failed to over-rule the large kingdom of Wessex. By 884, after years of battles, a treaty was agreed that left Vikings ruling over ‘Danelaw’ in the north of England.

Life in Saxon & Viking Britain
Vikings have traditionally had a fierce reputation as invaders and for violent attacks. While these are not entirely unfounded, there is certainly evidence that some attacks – including that at Lindisfarne in 793. The Vikings occupied much of north-eastern England, including their stronghold of York. We now know that the city was a busy place with up to 15,000 inhabitants. Gradually as the Vikings spread, in between skirmishes with Saxons elsewhere in England, the Viking farming, language and laws spread across the north and east. Traditional Viking families had men working the land, with a wife taking care of the home and of the family valuables. Clothes and housing were not dissimilar from those in the rest of England. There was little furniture in the single-room homes and certainly no bathroom – most families used a cesspit for discarding waste. When they first arrived, most Vikings followed pagan religions, but soon converted to Christianity as they became settled in England. With some invasions in the 10th Century, invaders were bought off with silver, known as Danegeld, which was raised by taxing locals. The Danegeld land tax became permanent.

Changing Times
After years of small-scale attacks and invasions, and the commencement of the main attacks in 793, Viking incursions continued into the 9th Century. In 865, a substantial army was raised to conquer England, known in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as the Great Heathen Army. The Army landed in East Anglia and reached York by the following year. Over the next 10 years the Vikings took over more land, leading to Wessex as the only unconquered kingdom. Battles between the two groups continued until the Battle of Edington, at which King Alfred (the Great) defeated the Vikings. Consequently, the Treaty of Alfred and Guthrum was agreed which essentially separated England into parts ruled by the Saxons and by the Vikings. The two populations co-existed, although not without on-going battles, until 954. In this year, Eric Bloodaxe – king of the Vikings – was killed, perhaps as part of an internal Viking feud, from which time the Saxon king, Eadred took control of the kingdom. Following this period, a series of Saxon kings ruled, interrupted by the reign of Danish king Sweyn and later Cnut and his grandsons, before Edward the Confessor.

Possible Enquiry Questions
- Where are English people from?
- Are all English people immigrants?
- Where does our town’s name come from?
- Were Vikings really brutal invaders?
- What is the Anglo-Saxon chronicle?
- Who was the last English king?

Key Individuals
- King Alfred – King of Wessex from 871 to 899, defended Wessex from the Viking conquest
- Athelstan – First King to unite English kingdoms, 927
- Guthrum – King of the Vikings in Danelaw at the time of the treaty with the Saxons
- King Cnut – King of England, Denmark and Norway between 1028 and 1035
- Edward the Confessor – penultimate Saxon King of England (before Harold II who lost at Hastings)
Timeline of Key Events:
All dates below are approximate:
- 787 CE First Scandinavian raids
- 793 CE Viking attacks on Lindisfarne
- 842 CE Viking raids on London
- 865 CE Great Heathen Army invade
- 878 CE Battle of Edington
- 892 CE Vikings from Ireland & Isle of Man raid the west coast of Wales
- 991 CE Battle of Maldon leads to the first payments of Danegeld
- 994 CE Danish attack on London fails
- 1000 CE Vikings reach Newfoundland
- 1013 CE King Sven of Sweden lands and becomes King of England
- 1016 CE King Cnut becomes King of England
- 1042 CE Saxon Edward the Confessor returns to become King of England
- 1066 CE Edward the Confessor dies, leading to several contenders claiming the throne. Harold Godwinsson becomes King, but is killed by William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings

What have the Vikings ever done for us?
The English language was greatly affected by the invasions of the Vikings, in particular through town and village names in the north and east of England.

It is also thought that Vikings may have been the first Europeans to have explored the Americas, around 1000.

The Vikings also were responsible for the world’s now oldest parliament – the Tynwald – in the Isle of Man.

Big Concepts
The battles between Saxons and Vikings provide an interesting study in the nature of *treaties* and other agreements and accords.

The Tynwald parliament also presents a good example of changes to democracy and national leadership.

The spread of the Vikings, including Norse Men who later became the Normans who then invaded England in 1066, presenting an opportunity to consider the role of *migration* in the developments of civilizations.

Broader Context
- Decline of the Mayan civilization
- Byzantine rule in Southern Europe
- Charlemagne crowned Holy Roman Emperor, 800
- Baghdad becomes largest city in the world, 800
- Ghana Empire is established, 830
- House of Wisdom in Baghdad established, 830
- Treaty of Verdun signed, dividing the Carolignan empire in western Europe, 843
- Schism between eastern and western churches, 863
- First use of gunpowder in battle in China, 919

Places to Visit:
Many local museums will have information and artefacts from the Saxon & Viking periods
Possible visit sites include:
- Jorvik Centre, Yorkshire
- Murton Park, Yorkshire
- Tatton Park, Cheshire
- Butser Ancient Farm, Hampshire
- West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village, Suffolk

Further Information:

* Nested bracelet [http://bit.do/vhoard] image by Ian Richardson is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License. The licence can be viewed at [https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0)
Unit 5: Ancient Greece
Statutory Unit 1200BCE – 500CE (Classical period: 490BCE-350BCE)

Period Overview
The first thing to realise is that this a long chronological period: Ancient Greek culture begins with the Minoan civilisation in around 2700 BCE and ends with the collapse of the Hellenistic period in 150 BCE. Most units focus however on the period known as Classical Greece: 490-350 BCE. The second thing to appreciate is that the Ancient Greeks did not think of themselves as belonging to a single country; what made you Greek was a shared culture and language. Your citizenship was of your town or city; you were Athenian first and Greek second. The geography of Greece, dominated by the sea and by mountain ranges, created and supported this local identity. Finally it is vital to appreciate the huge legacy the Ancient Greeks have given to modern Europe: civilisation, democracy, scientific and mathematical knowledge, written history, satire and brass to name but a few!

Life in Ancient Greece: farming and food
Greece was primarily an agrarian society with most people, even in the classical period, spending every day growing crops and tending animals. The most important crops were: wheat, barley, grapes, olives and vegetables. Small numbers of animals were kept such as sheep and goats, useful for their milk, wool and for sacrificing in religious ceremonies. Oxen, for ploughing, and some pigs and cows were also kept. Hunting supplemented the food for many, wild boar and hares were hunted with traps, bows and spears which proved useful in maintaining skills for warfare. Fishing was a vital industry to the Greeks, most fish were caught close to shore with large nets but huge prices could be gained for fish caught further out in deeper waters. The Greeks loved fish (our word oesophagus comes from the Greek oesophagus meaning fish eater). They ate a fish sauce with many other foods. A typical breakfast would be bread dipped in olive oil, lunch cheese or beans, lentils, chick peas with bread with the main meal, including meat for the more wealth being in eaten in the evening. They drank lots of wine but mixed it with water.

Homes and families
Greek homes were simple. The door from the street opened onto a courtyard and all rooms opened off from this. A main living room for the family, the andron (men’s room) where visitors would be received and the women’s quarters. Cooking was done outside and washing in private quarters. The Greeks used the word Oikos to describe the home, all their possessions there and the people living in it. Women were second class citizens at best in most cities. They were expected to spend most of their time in the home and in some households veiled in front of guests. They could not own property and any the held upon marriage became part of their husband’s oikos. Poorer women however had to work, often working alongside their husbands in the markets or farms. Marriage was an important feature of Greek life, girls married at around 14 and men at 25. Divorce was possible for men and women. Many boys were formally educated but only within rich families. Girls received a domestically focused education teaching them skills such as needlework. Slavery was fundamental to Greek society. In 431BC Athens had 50,000 male citizens and 100,000 slaves. Religion formed a central part of everyday life throughout the region.

Possible Enquiry Questions
• What mattered to Ancient Greeks? This question allow children to explore ideas around empathy, why people thought and felt as they did.
• How similar was life in Ancient Greece to today? This change/continuity question allows children to compare disparate time periods.
• Which individual was the most important? (to the Ancient Greeks/to us today). This explores the idea of significance, what makes some individuals more or less important can and does change over time.

Key Individuals
Philosophers: Plato, Socrates, Aristotle.
Scientists/mathematicians: Euclid, Archimedes, Anaximander, Aspasia the Physician
Writers: playwrights (Aeschylus, Euripides, Sophocles. Aristophanes) poets (Sappho) historians (Thucydides, Herodutus)
Athletes: Milo of Criton, Cyniska of Sparta, Theagenes of Thasos
Gods/Goddesses: Zeus, Athena, Apollo, Demeter, Poseidon, Artemis, Ares, Hera (women in italics)

Downloaded from michael1979.wordpress.com/freeresources
Timeline of Key Events:
All dates are approximate:
- 505 BCE Cleisthenes introduces democracy in Athens
- 490 BCE Greek/Persian wars led by Xerxes
- 468 BCE Sophocles writes his first tragedy
- 461 BCE Peloponnesian wars begin between Sparta and Athens (to 446 BCE)
- 449 BCE Construction of Parthenon begins
- 443 BCE Pericles leads Athens (to 429 BCE)
- 441 BCE Euripides writes his first tragedy
- 431 BCE Second Peloponnesian wars
- 430 BCE Outbreak of Bubonic Plague in Athens
- 420 BCE Construction of Temple of Athena
- 399 BCE Socrates executed for his opposition to the Thirty Tyrants
- 386 BCE Plato found the Academy
- 384 BCE Aristotle born
- 359 BCE Philip II becomes King of the Greeks
- 356 BCE Alexander the Great born
- 356 BCE Alexander the Great defeats Persians at Issus and is given Egypt
- 323 BCE Alexander the Great dies at Babylon

What have Ancient Greeks ever done for us?
An obvious discussion point in this unit is the development of democracy, often considered a great gift from the Greeks. In addition, much of mathematics has its roots in the work of Greeks in this period.

Many towns and cities will have some elements of architecture in Greek style, including Ionic, Doric and Corinthian columns. There are also plenty of Greek myths which have lasted until today.

Athens vs. Sparta
Sparta: a region on the Peloponnesian peninsula known as Laconia; the only state to have a professional army. A fixed and unchanging system of government: 2 kings took the role of general and priest; elected officials (ephors) and a council (gerousia) administered the state. A huge population of slaves allowed the economy to function whilst the male citizens fought and ruled. Boys began military training at 7. Spartan women had an education and married later (around 18), owned property and ran the business affairs of the family whilst men fought.

Athens: on the Greek mainland in the region known as Attica. State most associated with democracy. Ekklesia was the general assembly open to all male citizens over 18, the boule was the council of 500 that administered the decisions made by the ekklesia. Athens formed a defensive league of Greek states to protect against the Persians, the Delian league. This helped to spread Athenian power and influence.

The Peloponnesian Wars lasted 30 years from 431BC but lead to the weakening of both states. Following the end of the war it was Thebes who became the dominant state until Macedonia under Philip and Alexander took over.

Places to Visit:
Inevitably there are relatively few places to visit in the UK relating to the Ancient Greek period. However, some museums do include interesting artefacts:

- British Museum, London
- Leeds City Museum, Yorkshire
- World Museum, Liverpool

Further Information:

\(^5\)Image of the Parthenon is in the public domain, having been released by ‘Mountain’. The Wikimedia page can be seen at [http://bit.do/parth](http://bit.do/parth)
Unit 6: Ancient Sumer
Ancient Civilizations Options

Period Overview
The Ancient Sumer civilization grew up around the Euphrates and Tigris rivers in Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq), because of its natural fertility. It is often called the ‘cradle of civilization’. By 3000 BCE the area was inhabited by 12 main city states, with most developing a monarchical system. The fertility of the soil in the area allowed the societies to devote their attention to other things, and so the Sumer is renowned for its innovation. The clock system we use today of 60-minute hours was devised by Ancient Sumerians, as was writing and the recording of a number system. The civilization began to decline after the invasion of the city states by Sargon I in around 2330 BCE, bringing them into the Akkadian Empire. A later Sumerian revival occurred in the area.

Life in Ancient Sumer
Although starting out as small villages and groups of hunter-gatherers, Sumer is notable because of its development into a chain of cities. Within the cities the advantages of communal living soon allowed individuals to take on other roles than farming, and a society of classes developed. At the top of the class system were the king and his family, and the priests. Administrators, scribes, craftsmen and traders made up an upper class strand, with labourers and farmers of the lower classes earning a lesser wage. Slaves were also common, particularly after conquests of neighbouring areas.

Families lived in houses, quite possibly built from the earliest design of bricks, in communities which often centred around the temple or Ziggurat. These places of worship were busy places, and were used for worshipping a number of gods who were thought to live in the sky. Offerings of food and drink would be left at the top of the buildings for the gods.

Education was important to Sumerians, with writing becoming widely used. Only boys could attend schools, although many women learned to read and write.

Changing Times
During the 5th Millennium BCE, Sumerians began to develop large towns which became city-states. This was made possible by their systems of cultivation of crops, including some of the world’s earliest irrigation systems. These developing communities then were able to devote time to pursuits other than gathering food. This freedom may explain why the area was home to the first known form of writing. During the late 4th Millennium, inventions abounded which seem second-nature to use today, including the use of the wheel, writing and even a base-60 number system (like we still use for time).

During this period, Uruk in Sumer became the busiest city in the world, with something around 50,000 residents. Later, increased violent clashes between the groups led to the development of walled cities.

During the late 3rd Millennium, the Akkadian empire of northern Mesopotamia began to attack Sumerian city states, led by the king of the empire Sargon. His dynasty later came to control much of the area for 150 years. During this period the population rapidly declined & the area was invaded by the Elamites.

Possible Enquiry Questions
- What were the first civilizations?
- When was the wheel invented?
- Where does writing come from?
- What is the greatest invention in history?
- Who were the greatest inventors of all time? (could link nicely with Greeks/Victorians, etc.)

Key Individuals
- Eannatum of Ur – one of the first individuals in the world to create an empire.
- Gilgamesh – King of Uruk, featured in an epic tale often considered to be the oldest written story.
- Ur-Nammu – leader of the last great Sumerian renaissance before the empire was overtaken.
- Sargon the Great – first king to unit all of the Mesopotamian cities into a single empire.
Ancient Sumerian Cuneiform Writing

What have Ancient Sumerians ever done for us?
Some people argue that the Sumerians were the world’s greatest inventors. They are famed for the introduction of the wheel, and of both writing and the measurement of time – all things that today are a regular part of daily life. Alongside these major changes, the Sumerians also developed the first books, schools, historian, legal precedent, proverbs... the list is near endless. We have Sumerians to thank for the 360° in a circle, for basic geometry and even the very first toys designed for children.

Big Concepts
The Sumerians are often considered to have developed the earliest empires, and then were later taken over by a larger empire, making a good study for this model of control. They also proved themselves to be great innovators of technology. The fact that writing was invented at this time makes a good starting point for the consideration of the role of recorded history, particularly when combined with other archaeological comparisons from the period. It is also a society in which clear class divisions were evident.

Places to Visit:
Inevitably there are relatively few places to visit in the UK relating to the Ancient Sumerian period. However, some museums do include interesting artefacts:
- British Museum, London
- Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Timeline of Key Events:
All dates are approximate:
- 5000 BCE First Sumerians arrive
- 4000 BCE First Ziggurat temples are built
- 3500 BCE Unification of city states
- 3300 BCE Writing invented (pictoral)
- 3200 BCE Wheel first used on carts
- 3000 BCE Introduction of base 60 mathematics
- 2700 BCE Gilgamesh rules in Uruk
- 2350 BCE Cuneiform writing develops
- 2300 BCE Sargon the great of Akkad conquers the city states creating the Akkadian empire
- 2100 BCE Akkadian empire collapses
- 2400 BCE Sumerian language replaced by Akkadian
- 1950 BCE The Elamites begin their capture of Sumerian city states, leading to the end of the period
- 1800 CE First Sumerian cities excavated
- 1900 CE First translations of cuneiform

Broader Context
- Stonehenge built in Britain c.3000 BCE
- Old Kingdom in Egypt c.2700-2200 BCE
- First Egyptian pyramid built c. 2600 BCE
- Mammoth becomes extinct, c.2500 BCE
- Bronze Age in Britain in around 2300 BCE
- Completion of Stonehenge, c2200 BCE
- Emergence of Minoan civilization c.2000 BCE
- Early Mayan civiliziation emerges, c.2000 BCE

Further Information:
- Mr Donn’s history: [http://bit.do/SumerMrDonn](http://bit.do/SumerMrDonn)

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6 Image of cuneiform writing displays information about the allocation of barley rations. The image is in the public domain having been released by Gavin Collins. The Wikimedia page can be seen at [http://bit.do/cuneiform](http://bit.do/cuneiform)
Unit 7: Indus Valley
Ancient Civilizations Options

Period Overview
The Indus is a river which runs through what is now known as Pakistan. The Valley is a fertile area around the river basin which spreads across Pakistan, and into modern-day India and Afghanistan. The civilization which developed in the valley is considered to have been very advanced for its time, but less is known about it than other contemporary civilizations. This is partly because attempts to deciphering the writing system used in the region have been unsuccessful. Nevertheless, archaeological evidence shows that hundreds of towns became established in the area, with common features which indicate that they formed part of a common civilization. In the early 20th Century, two of the largest cities – Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro – have been uncovered.

Life in the Indus Valley
The Indus Valley civilization is unusual in that excavations have been unable to identify any certain palaces or leaders’ residences. Many of the residents of Indus Valley cities were tradesmen or craftsmen, with various pieces of pottery and other evidence having been found. The cities themselves were often walled, although it isn’t certain that these walls were intended for defence purposes; they may have been to prevent flooding. The culture was certainly mathematically astute, being one of the first known to have a precise measuring system for weights. It also used bricks for building work that were formed in standard ratios, and had a drainage system which had drains of a steady gradient allowing waste to be transported away from homes. The civilization also used transport to trade goods, including wheeled vehicles and using the river system to travel across wide areas. Because of the inability to decipher the writing system, less is known about this civilization than some others, but clues are provided by the seals, figurines and buildings uncovered.

Changing Times
By the turn of the 3rd millennium BCE communities had begun to form into towns in the Greater Indus Valley along the rivers. These peoples (often called Harappan, after one of the main cities) were among the first known in the world to introduce sanitation systems to cities, with a network of drains taking waste water away from homes. The civilization is known to have traded both around the local area and with communities as far away as Mesopotamia. Relatively little is known about the changes in the society, and indeed it is not certain what led to its decline in the second millennium BCE. It is now thought that climate may have had a part to play, with flooding, rivers failing, or political troubles causing problems. Archaeological evidence suggests that quality of buildings and materials declined before the broader decline of the civilization. Later the Indo-European speaking peoples, known as Aryan, moved into the area and became more dominant, with much of the previous culture becoming superseded.

Possible Enquiry Questions
- What were the first civilizations?
- When was the wheel invented?
- How can we find out about history without relying on written evidence?
- What do we know about the world’s oldest civilizations?
- Why do cities need sewers and water systems?

Key Individuals
- It is hard to specify key individuals for this period, since little is known about specific people. One of the most fascinating aspects of study of the civilization is the investigation to identify rulers.
Timeline of Key Events:

All dates are approximate:

- **5000 BCE** First evidence of religious practice in the Indus Valley area
- **3200 BCE** Some precursors of Indus Script Signs date from this period.
- **3000 BCE** Settlements and small Towns begin to develop in the Indus Valley
- **2600 BCE** Start of ‘Mature Period’ of the Indus Civilization, with urbanization around the floodplain
- **2600 BCE** Evidence of farmers using ploughs for fields
- **2300 BCE** Indus Valley traders with seals travel to Mesopotamia for trade
- **1800-1900 BCE** Beginning of the decline of the civilization; abandonment of cities
- **1500 BCE** Indus Valley cities are in ruins
- **1920 CE** Archaeological Survey begins large scale excavations after the realisation that the ruined mounds of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa belonged to the same unknown urban civilisation

What has the Indus Valley Civilization ever done for us?

It’s hard to be certain of the direct impact of the Harrapan societies on modern life, as it was lost and forgotten. However, it shows how a system of writing was important in an urban civilization. It is possible that the Indus Valley was the birthplace of a game very much like modern Chess. Also cubical dice have been found in the area suggesting that perhaps this is where they were first used. It is also the location of the oldest discovered measuring ruler, and for the first known clothing buttons!

Big Concepts

The Indus Valley civilization raises fascinating questions about how societies are organised and methods of government. It is considered that the civilization was perhaps more egalitarian than others such as Ancient Egypt of around the same time.

It can also been used as a case study of how historians use evidence in forms other than written, especially when little is fully understood about the form of writing.

Places to Visit:

Inevitably there are relatively few places to visit in the UK relating to the Indus Valley civilization. However, some museums do include interesting artefacts:

- **Cambridge University Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology**, Cambridge
- **British Museum**, London
- **Ashmolean Museum**, Oxford

Further Information:

- **www.harappa.com** has a section especially for primary teachers at www.harappa.com/teach

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7 Mohenjo-Daro [http://bit.do/mohenja](http://bit.do/mohenja) image by Saqib Qayyum is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License. The licence can be viewed at [http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)
# Unit 8: Ancient Egypt

## Period Overview
The timeline of Ancient Egyptian studies runs over a lengthy period of time, usually focusing on the period from the late part of the fourth millennium BCE - and the unification of upper and lower Egypt - up until the domination of the Roman empire some 3000 years later. Within that timeframe, the history of the lands is usually broken into three kingdoms: Old, Middle and New. During these three kingdoms, the lands were ruled by a sequence of pharaohs, including several of whom we know a great deal about. The use of pyramids and other tombs as burial places means that we have lots of evidence about the lives and riches of the most powerful people in the empire, as well as some about the poorer sections of Egyptian life.

## Life in Ancient Egypt
The majority of the people who lived in Ancient Egypt were farmers. The land around the River Nile provided excellent soil for agriculture as a result of the annual flooding of the rivers between June and September. Many cereal crops were grown, much of which was in turn developed into bread and beer. These became staple foodstuffs in the kingdoms. Farmers' produce was owned by the landowner or the state. Other Ancient Egyptians worked in professional roles, such as doctors and engineers, while the upper classes of scribes and officials could be identified by their white kilts.

Slavery existed in Ancient Egypt, although it was possible for a slave to buy his freedom, and they were often shown some good treatment, including access to doctors' services.

Women in Ancient Egypt had more rights than in many civilizations of similar times, including the right to own land and property, and to trade and make contracts. It was also possible for a number of women – including the infamous Cleopatra – to become pharaohs of the kingdom.

## Changing Times
In the period around 3100 BCE the lands around the Nile in Egypt were united under a single pharaoh – possibly called Menes. This began the first of the main dynastic periods in Egypt.

The period of the Old Kingdom is noted for its significant building projects, including the pyramids at Giza and the Sphinx. This period also saw the construction of a canal system to support irrigation of crops during the dry months. However, towards the end of the period, significant droughts caused problems for Egypt leading to a period of famine.

The Middle Kingdom saw an increase in spending and organisation of defences to protect the kingdom. Religion became more widespread, and pyramids were gradually replaced by more hidden tombs.

During the period of the New Kingdom, the reign of Egyptian pharaohs was initially spread over a greater area. However, the country's riches made it vulnerable to attack and many territories were lost. The kingdoms eventually came to a demise after a period of Greek Rule, when the Romans ended the reigns of Marc Antony and Cleopatra.

## Possible Enquiry Questions
- Can a woman be a king?
- What gods did the Ancient Egyptians believe in?
- Why was Ramses II so great?
- Who built the pyramids of Ancient Egypt?
- What do we know about Tutankhamun?
- What would you find inside a pyramid?

## Key Individuals
- **Narer** – said to be the first pharaoh of all Egypt, around 3150 BCE. Also known as warrior Menes.
- **Khufu** – pharaoh responsible for the building of the Great Pyramid at Giza
- **Hatshepsut** – first and longest-reigning female pharaoh
- **Tutankhamun** – youngest pharaoh, famed for his burial tomb in the Valley of the Kings
- **Ramses II** – often known as Ramses the Great, his mummy still rests in Cairo’s Egyptian Museum.
What did the Ancient Egyptians ever do for us?

Hieroglyphs were obviously a precursor to more modern forms of writing relating to spoken sounds. Related to this, the Egyptians were the first to form writing material in the form of papyrus. In farming, some of the earliest ploughs were used in Ancient Egypt, and the first ploughs drawn by oxen too. Egyptians also invented the first key-operated locks.

Hieroglyhs from the tomb of Seti I ²

Big Concepts

Significant concepts in study of Ancient Egypt could include that of monarchy, particularly when contrasted with the democracy of Ancient Greece, also studied in KS2. This could be extended into a wider study of class or status in different places.

In addition, the significance of agriculture is notable in Egypt, particularly in relation to the Nile.

Further Information:

British Museum information :  
http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/

Children’s University:  
http://bit.do/CUegypt

Primary Homework help:  
http://bit.do/PHHegypt

Eyelid:  
http://www.eyelid.co.uk/

Birmingham Museum:  
http://bit.do/BMegypt

ÉHieroglyphs image [http://bit.do/glyphs] by Jon Bodsworth is provided copyright-free and accessed from Wikimedia Commons.

Timeline of Key Events:

All dates below are approximate

**Old Kingdom**: 2600 BCE - 2100 BCE
**Middle Kingdom**: 2000 BCE - 1650 BCE
**New Kingdom**: 1540 BCE - 1075 BCE

- 7500 BCE First settlers in Nile valley
- 3500 BCE First use of hieroglyphic symbols
- 3100 BCE Narmer unites regions of Lower and Upper Egypt.
- 2650 BCE First step pyramid built
- 2550 BCE Pyramids at Giza built
- 2335 BCE Pyramid texts written (magical spells to protect pharaohs)
- 1472 BCE Hatshepsut becomes caretaker ruler. (Later declares herself pharaoh)
- 1336 BCE Tutankhamen becomes pharaoh
- 1279 BCE Ramses II becomes pharaoh
- 1100 BCE Upper & Lower Egypt split
- 332 BCE Alexander the Great conquers Egypt
- 196 BCE Rosetta stone carved
- 1279 BCE Ramses II becomes pharaoh
- 30 BCE Egypt becomes a Roman Province
- 1922 CE Carter discovers Tutankhamen’s tomb

Places to Visit:

Although obviously no sites of significance exist in the UK, artefacts from Ancient Egypt are found in many British Museums, such as:

- **British Museum**, London
- **Manchester Museum**, Manchester
- **World Museum**, Liverpool
- **Leeds City Museum**, Leeds
- **Highclere Castle**, Berkshire
- **Birmingham Museum**, Birmingham

Broader Context

- The Bronze Age started in Europe around 3000 BC and continued to about 800 BC.
- Writing and the calendar was developed in Mesopotamia around 3500 BC, the earliest in the world.
- Early civilisations were:
  - The Ancient Sumer, around 5000 – 1940 BCE
  - the Indus Valley in about 2600-1900 BCE;
  - the Assyrian kingdom in 2400-1800 BCE;
  - the Minoan civilisation on Crete from 1900-1100 BCE
Unit 9: The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China

Period Overview
The Shang Dynasty is the first well-documented, through written texts and archaeology, dynasty in China though earlier ones are mentioned in Chinese legend. It was based around the Yellow River in central China and is sometimes called the cradle of Chinese civilisation. It was a Bronze Age culture, so they didn't have knowledge of iron working. Writing was first developed in China in this period and many written texts were incised onto bones found in archaeological excavations. The culture was ruled over by a king and his relatives were the government. Archaeological excavations have revealed towns with palaces, tombs and craft working areas, such as Shang near modern-day Zhengzhou and Yin near modern-day Anyang.

Life during the Shang Dynasty
The majority of the people who lived under the Shang Dynasty were farmers. They grew millet, wheat and barley but not so much rice, which was farmed further south. A large irrigation scheme was constructed to bring the water from the Yellow River to the crops. They also kept sheep, pigs and oxen. It seems as if, even at this time, the silkworm may have been domesticated to produce silk. The farmers probably lived outside the big cities. There were also craftsmen who worked in workshops just outside the city walls. Remains of jade, bone, pottery, and bronze-working have been found by archaeologists in these areas. Most of what they made would have been for use by the king and his nobles. The king and the nobles lived inside the walled cities. The palaces had rammed earth floors and pillars to keep up the roof, whereas lower ranking people lived in wooden houses. There were temples where animal and human sacrifices were made to the Shang Di, the supreme god who ruled over the lesser gods of the wind, sun and moon, among others. Bronze vessels were used to collect blood from these offerings.

Changing Times
It seems as though successive kings, possibly from competing noble families within the Shang Dynasty, moved the capital city around over the centuries. The earliest capital city may be Shang, which is thought to be a city excavated near Zhengzhou. The last capital of the Shang is Yin, near modern-day Anyang. The development of writing happened within the Shang Dynasty and made it easier for the government to conduct wars, organise craftsmen, and generally create a bureaucracy. As time went on, the religion developed from having priests who would conduct divining ceremonies to see into the future to the king himself conducting such ceremonies. The questions and method itself didn't change. Tortoise shells or ox shoulder bones were inscribed with a question, often about an upcoming war, but also about when to plant seeds or whether the king would have a son, for instance, and then a number of shallow pits would be drilled into the other side. Hot pokers would be thrust into these pits and the pattern of cracks would tell the diviner or king the answer, which was also inscribed onto the bone.

Possible Enquiry Questions
- History versus archaeology – which is more reliable?
- Why did the Shang kings need to write?
- Did people in the Shang period believe in an afterlife?
- Who was Fu Hao and why was she unusual?
- What's the difference between a king, a priest and an emperor?
- Should Chinese objects be returned to China?

Key Individuals
- Cheng Tang – said to be the founder of the Shang Dynasty, who overthrew the legendary Xia Dynasty
- Fu Hao – wife and military general of Wu Ding, buried in style in about 1200 BC
- Di Xin – last of the Shang kings who lost against the Zhou
- Sima Qian – author of the Records of the Grand Historian in 91 BC
What did the Shang Dynasty ever do for us?

Modern Chinese writing has evolved directly from the early written symbols developed in the Shang period. The writing was developed to express calendar dates and so is linked with the organisation of the year into time periods that helps farmers plan ahead. These developments are paralleled in the development of writing and calendars in Europe.

Big Concepts

Exploring how archaeological evidence and written evidence is different and complimentary. This topic also gives you the chance to talk about the reliability of oral histories written down many centuries after the events they describe.

The nature of government, and change from largely egalitarian societies to a very hierarchical structure can be explored through this topic.

The invention of writing and the calendar are notably tied into developments in government.

Places to Visit:

Although obviously no sites of significance exist in the UK, objects from the Shang Dynasty period of China are found in some British Museums, such as:
- British Museum, London
- Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
- Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
- National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh
- Museum of East Asian Art, Bath
- Durham University Oriental Museum, Durham

Timeline of Key Events:

- Erlitou phase: 1650 BCE - 1500 BCE
- Erligang phase: 1500 BCE - 1300 BCE
- Anyang/Yinxu phase: 1300 BCE - 1000 BCE

All dates below are approximate

1600-1500 BCE Capital at Shang near Zhengzhou
1300 BCE Capital moved to Yin near Anyang
1250-1192 BCE Reign of Wu Ding
1200 BCE Tomb of Fu Hao, Wu Ding’s wife
1147-1113 BCE Reign of Wu Yi
1112-1102 BCE Reign of Wen Ding
1101-1076 BCE Reign of Di Yi
1075-1046 BCE Reign of Di Xin
1046 BCE End of Shang Dynasty

1899 CE 'dragon bones' used in Chinese medicine were found inscribed
1928 CE 'dragon bones' traced back to a site near Anyang, which was excavated

Broader Context

- The Bronze Age started in Europe around 3000 BC and continued to about 800 BC.
- Writing and the calendar was developed in Mesopotamia around 3500 BC, the earliest in the world. In Mesoamerica, the two were not developed until about 300 BC.
- Early civilisations were:
  - the Indus Valley in about 2600-1900 BC;
  - the Assyrian kingdom in 2400-1800 BC;
  - the Ancient Egyptian Old Kingdom from 2700 BC to 2200 BC;
  - the Minoan civilisation on Crete from 1900-1100

Further Information:

British Museum information:
http://bit.do/BritishMuseum

Cultural China:
http://bit.do/CulturalChina

China Culture:
http://bit.do/ChinaCulture

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9 Oracle Bone image [http://bit.do/OracleBone] by Kiss Tamás is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License. The licence can be viewed at http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/
Unit 10: Early Islamic Civilisation
Non-European Study option
c.700 - 1258

Period Overview
The Abbasid caliphate based in Baghdad was a successor Empire to the initial spread of Islam out of the Hijaz (modern day Saudi Arabia) and across the Middle-East. The Caliphs (kings) decided to build a city to emphasise their greatness and they did this on the site of modern day Baghdad. During this period the city became a centre of learning and great advances were made in science, maths and the arts. The city became the effective historical successor to the scientific advances of the Greeks and Romans. The period ended (proceeded by years of decline) when the city was sacked by the Mongols, a tie-in with of the period of the nomad warriors (see the Vikings).

Life in Baghdad
Life in Baghdad was extremely exciting. There was a recognition among the elite that they were achieving great advances in maths/science. This must have led to an atmosphere of learning and a feeling of being an advanced society. It is thought that people led a pious existence, with city life centred on the mosque in the centre of the round city. The bustling markets and shops around the mosque contained goods from everywhere due to Baghdad’s position on the ‘Silk road’ to the far-east. Connected to this was the presence of traders from all across the known world who flocked to Baghdad to sell their wares. The great works of philosophy from Greek scholars like Plato and Aristotle were translated and their ideas openly discussed and expanded upon. There were great advances in medicine which contributed to the general health of the city. As the population increased they spilled out of the round city into the surrounding area, where they settled on the fertile banks of the Euphrates and Tigris.

Changing Times
Perhaps the main change of this period was the change from transient settlement to major towns and cities. By 1258 there were 5 cities with over 1 million people living in them, compared to none in 900AD. The supposed dark ages were anything but, with important Empires growing around the world, on every continent. It was an era of great scientific advances in the Middle East and China, and it took until around 1500 for Europe to catch up. This time belies the idea that history is Eurocentric. The growth of Islam across southern Europe and Asia added a new factor into the world, especially with the trend towards conquering new territory and assimilating new peoples into Islam. Contact between peoples increased during this period as goods were traded between east and west. Baghdad, at the heart of the route to the east, benefitted from this. Not only this, but ideas too were exchanged through this contact. The continents of Europe, Africa and Asia became international.

Possible Enquiries
- Islam – Practice and influence on society.
- Art – Islamic patterns.
- Great individuals: al-Khawarzimi.
- Geography – compare locations of major world cities in the 9th Century.
- Power – Monarchy – Legitimacy of this type of rule.
- Organisation of society, structure of cities.
- Diplomacy, meeting of “east/west.”

Key Individuals
- Caliph ‘Abbas – First Abbasid Caliph - moved Abbasid capital from Kufa to Baghdad
- Al-Khawarizmi, mathematician, astronomer, scientist, provided the foundations of algebra and other concepts
- Haroun al-Rashid – Caliph from 786-809, defeated Byzantines in battle (806), made links with European Empires such as Charlemagne in France.
A page from Al-Khwarizmi’s “Algebra”\textsuperscript{10}

\textbf{What did Baghdad ever do for us?}

Algorithm – a set of instructions to solve a problem
Numerals – the expanse of maths into algebra
Algebra/Trigonometry – Pioneered in this period
Rise of the city – a pioneering design based on quarters, adopted by many other cities in the region/world.
Islam – the organisation around Islam as the unifying force in society.

\textbf{Big Concepts}

Islam – how states interpreted Islam being part of the state
Empire – growth of centralised empires in areas outside Europe/China.
Philosophy – translation and introduction of great works by Aristotle and Plato to a whole new audience.
Discovery – trying to understand the world, at the time the centre of world study on big issues.

\textbf{Places to Visit:}

Visit a local mosque to understand about Islam and the centrality it takes in Muslim’s lives.
British Museum – has some objects from the time – see collection here: \url{http://tinyurl.com/qf47rrx} - main point would be to understand Baghdad’s place in the world at the time.
Oriental Museum – Based in Durham, great for understanding the Middle-East region and its links.

\textbf{Timeline of Key Events:}

c. 762 AD – The decision to build a great city in Baghdad made

c. 768 AD – The ‘round city’ finished

c. 800 AD – The city becomes the largest city in the world

c. 810 AD – Baghdad becomes a hub for learning and commerce, great scientific and maths advances made

c. 900 – Paper spreads into the region from China

c. 930 – Cordoba (Spain) overtakes Baghdad as world’s largest city

c. 950 – The decline of the Abbasid caliphate begins and continues until the 13\textsuperscript{th} century

1258 – Baghdad destroyed by Mongols

\textbf{Broader Context}

- Rise and spread of Islam (6\textsuperscript{th} C)
- Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in UK (5\textsuperscript{th} - 10\textsuperscript{th} C)
- Tang rule in China unites the country (10\textsuperscript{th} C)
- Khmer Empire, Angkor capital (10\textsuperscript{th} C)
- Yoruba people (Benin) in E. Africa (9\textsuperscript{th} C)
- Visigoth rule Spain ended by Islam (8\textsuperscript{th} C)
- Charlemagne Emperor of France (8\textsuperscript{th} C)
- Vikings spread out of Scandinavia (8\textsuperscript{th} -11\textsuperscript{th} C)
- Byzantine rule in S- Europe (4\textsuperscript{th}-15\textsuperscript{th} C)
- Mayan rule in c. America (9\textsuperscript{th} – 17\textsuperscript{th} C)

\textbf{Further Information:}

Richard Farrow’s sample Baghdad planning for KS2: \url{http://www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resource/Non-European-Study-Baghdad-c-AD900-6412028/}

Many universities in major metropolitan areas (Manchester, London, Edinburgh, Durham, Exeter and more) have Middle-Eastern departments. Getting in touch with them might lead to some useful information.

\textsuperscript{10} Al-Khwarizmi’s “Algebra” image [\url{http://bit.do/algebra}] is available having been released into the public domain
Life in a Mayan settlement

Mayan settlements appear to not have been planned, but a general centre point was the temple. It is thought that the stepped temples were built both as a statement of grandeur and as a route to the heavens above. This is something the Mayans have in common with many other civilisations across the ancient world. Rumours of human sacrifice have seeped into popular culture, but appear to be overblown. Each settlement also had wide-open plazas which served as a meeting point, as well as a ball court where games were held. Cities were generally not organised in an identikit way, but had lots of common features. There does not appear to have been a central point of authority in the Mayan empire, rather society was organised through a number of rulers at local level. This is perhaps the reason the Mayans endured; without a central powerbase that could be decapitated, agreements had to be made with a number of rulers. In a way this is similar to the Indian, or even European, city-states.

Changing Times

During the classical period and after, the Mayan civilisation evolved hugely. The Mayan civilisation cannot be credited with inventing writing or scientific advances but its position traversing Central America meant that the Mayans could assimilate and improve ideas from elsewhere. Their system of writing can be characterised as using hieroglyphs, at any one time anything from 200-500 were used, containing phonetic symbols and logograms. Urbanisation was a characterising trend of the period, centred on cities/towns with strategic geographical importance. Through these urban areas the Mayans traded extensively with the surrounding region and established links throughout the Central American continent. Agriculture was hugely important as it was in many early civilisations, with population growth entirely dependent on the ability of the land to support its people. It is through this lens that the theory about the collapse of the classical Mayan empire being caused by droughts comes from.

National Curriculum suggestions:
- PE – devise/play a version of the ball game: Pok-Ta-Pok
- Art/DT – Pyramid structures
- Science - astronomy
- Geography – compare locations of major world cities in the 1-8th centuries.
- Organisation of society, structure of cities.
- DT – chocolate
- PSCH – Mayan medicine – natural cures.

Key Individuals

The Mayans did not have ‘great’ historical figures, but each city had important people
- The Priest – Held the regular rituals surrounding the temple possibly including sacrifice.
- The Pharmacist – provided natural medicines which kept the people very healthy.
- The Farmer – irrigated fields and provided food for the city.
Timeline of Key Events:
All dates are approximate

- **c. 2000 BCE** The Mayan civilisation emerges in Central America
- **c. 100 BCE** First city states appear
- **c. 250 CE** The ‘classical’ period begins, urbanisation begins and continues
- **c. 300 CE** Mayan settlements become centres for trade across the region. Good such as stone and chocolate are traded with neighbouring city states.
- **c. 600 CE** Mayan settlements support an increasing population, growing at a fast rate due to plentiful food supply.
- **c. 650 CE** Caracol, one of the main Mayan cities is increasingly populated and expands over a large area becoming an important centre.
- **c. 900 CE** Mayan centres become less important, perhaps because of a widespread drought, but no clear reason has yet emerged.

What did the Mayans ever do for us?
Astronomy – Very accurate charts of the moon
Sculpture – Mainly of the human form, highly advanced when compared to similar empires.
Architecture – Stepped temples providing a route into understanding their religion
Medicine – many natural cures used by the Mayans still in use today
Number system – developed independent of Arabic system, more advanced and logical.

Big Concepts

**Society** – how was a settlement put together? What is important to have in a town/city?

**Trade** – The Mayans were incredibly important for trade and their transactions covered a huge geographical area

**Discovery** – the Mayans increasingly tried to understand the world around them, with great insight.

**Religion** – influenced by the elements

Possible trips:
The British Museum has some Mayan artefacts and displays further items which are from either successor or preceding civilisations around Central America. It seems a shame to teach this out of context, a comparison to an Anglo-settlement (which could be visited) would provide a greater insight into life in that period.

Broader Context
- Rise and spread of Islam (6th C)
- Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in UK (5th - 10th C)
- Yoruba people (Benin) in E. Africa (9th C)
- Visigoth rule Spain ended by Islam (8th C)
- Charlemagne Emperor of France (8th C)
- Vikings spread out of Scandinavia (8th-11th C)
- Byzantine rule in S- Europe (4th-15th C)
- Tang China (7th-10th C)
- Ife and Benin in West Africa (8th-16th C)

Further Information:


Many Internet sites have information, although be careful to cross check the information as information on sacrifice can be exaggerated.

“The Story of Chocolate” Usborne guided reading book (Y5/6, L4+) has a section on the Mayans.
Unit 12: Benin, West Africa
Non-European Study option
900 - 1300 (and later periods)

Period Overview
Although Benin Kingdom began to develop during the period 900-1300 CE, it reached its height during the later years of 1300-1700 CE. Currently found in the nation of Nigeria (not the modern-day country of Benin), the kingdom was centred on the City of Benin, and dates back to some of the earliest Ogiso Kings some 2000 years ago. The various villages and tribes of the region began to form a single kingdom that worked as a community, including trading with those from other areas. In the later period up to the 18th Century the kingdom traded with countries in Europe, including a part in the slave trade. The kingdom was eventually destroyed in the Victorian period and led to it later becoming under British rule in West Africa.

Life in Benin
As most of the sources that tell us about life in Benin Kingdom focus on powerful and rich people, little is known about ordinary men, women and children. Historians believe the most people were farmers, growing crops like yams and plantains and working hard to clear vast areas of communal land. Many people had two or three different jobs and might also have been part of one of the guilds of craftsmen, producing high quality goods for the royal court or for trading with foreign visitors. Alternatively, people became warriors, entertainers or builders, who were required to make their mud homes and the defensive walls around the kingdom. As well as looking after families, women would have been responsible for making domestic ceramic objects like cooking pots. Storytellers were very important and kept the kingdom’s history and mythology alive by telling stories aloud by the fire every evening. Children did not go to school but would have learned each day from the storytellers. The people of Benin had many stories involving gods and magic and they believed that non-human objects had spirits or souls, a belief known as ‘animism’.

Changing Times
Benin kingdom began as a group of small villages situated in the rainforests of West Africa. Around 900 CE, some of the villages decided to join together and came under the rule of a dynasty of kings called the Ogisos. The people built an impressive earthen moat around the kingdom boundaries and worked hard as farmers and craftsmen to ensure that the kingdom had high quality goods to trade with foreigners.

After 1180 CE, a new line of kings called the Obas began to rule. They were very powerful and people treated them like gods. Under their rule, Benin Kingdom began to expand and flourish. The Obas established a mighty army and gained control of large areas of land. Benin Kingdom became very wealthy after the Obas set up links with Europe to trade goods and slaves. A series of civil wars and the abolition of the trade slave caused Benin to steadily decrease in both wealth and power after 1700 CE. As European countries began racing to colonise Africa, Benin had a series of disputes with Britain and this lead to a group of British officials being killed by Benin warriors. In retaliation, Britain launched a punitive expedition and destroyed Benin City in 1897 CE by burning down buildings and looted works of art. They exiled the Oba and brought Benin under British rule.

Possible Enquiry Questions
- What is the difference between tribes and kingdoms?
- How do we know about periods of history without primary written sources?
- What were the first kings of Benin like?
- How did Benin grow from tiny villages into a powerful Empire?
- Why was the Benin wall so important?
- What did Benin have to offer foreign traders?
- Why and how was Benin Kingdom destroyed?
- Should original art from Benin Kingdom be returned to Nigeria?

Key Individuals
- Ogiso Igodo – The first king (or ‘Ogiso’) of Benin, under whom the smaller villages joined together to form a Kingdom.
- Ogiso Owodo – the last of the Ogiso kings, banished from the Kingdom with his family for bad conduct around 1130 CE.
- Oba Eweke – the first of a new dynasty of kings called the Obas, crowned around 1180 CE.
- Oba Ogoule – had the Benin City Wall built around 1283 CE.
- Oba Ewuare – expanded the kingdom greatly and set up trading links with Portugal in 1514 CE.
- Oba Ovonramwen – the last king of Benin, exiled by British troops after their invasion in 1897 CE.

Downloaded from michael1979.wordpress.com/freeresources
Timeline of Key Events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Period</td>
<td>900-1300 CE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Age</td>
<td>1300-1700 CE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period of Decline</td>
<td>1700-1897 CE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All dates shown are approximate.

- 900 CE Benin Kingdom is first established when small villages join together in a conglomerate.
- 900-1400 CE An enormous earthen moat is built around the Kingdom boundaries.
- 1180 CE The first dynasty of Ogiso kings ends and the Obas began their rule.
- 1440 CE Benin begins to expand and thrive under the rule of Oba Ewuare the Great.
- 1514 CE Oba Esigie sets up trading links with Portuguese and other European visitors.
- 1700 CE Benin Kingdom enters a period of decline due to a series of civil wars and the abolition of the slave trade with Europe.
- 1897 CE Benin City is destroyed by British troops and Benin comes under Britain’s control.

What did the Benin Kingdom ever do for us?

When European visitors discovered Benin Kingdom’s sophisticated artwork, including metal work and ivory carvings, they could not believe that a people that they had considered to be ‘primitive’ could have produced them. The discovery caused Britain to completely re-evaluate its view of West African civilization. The rich heritage of art and crafts from Benin Kingdom teaches us a lot about what it was like there. Many pieces are available to view at the British Museum, including the famous ‘bronze’ plaques.

Big Concepts

Benin Kingdom grew from a series of tribal villages to a powerful empire, providing a good study for the factors that can cause kingdoms to flourish and decline over time, including the value of trade links and the effects of colonisation.

This topic also provides opportunities to consider how we know about periods of history with no primary written sources, allowing pupils to evaluate the reliability of different types of evidence.

Places to Visit:

A handful of museums have artefacts from Benin Kingdom, including the famous Benin bronze plaques. Possible places to visit include:
- The British Museum, London
- The Horniman Museum, London

Alternatively, other museums offer information about the slave trade and African culture.
- International Slavery Museum, Liverpool

Further Information:

- Benin planning and resources (KS2 History): [http://www.ks2history.com/#/benin-lesson-plans/c1fe6](http://www.ks2history.com/#/benin-lesson-plans/c1fe6)

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Benin Plaque image [http://bit.do/plaque] by Wmpearl is provided copyright-free and accessed from Wikimedia Commons.