

Early Civilisations : History : Year 3/4

	Learning Objective	Overview	Assessment Questions	Resources
Lesson 1	To explore where and when the first civilisations began.	Children will define the term 'civilisation' and be given a brief overview of when the earliest civilisations developed. They will place these civilisations on a timeline, identifying the difference between 'A.D.' and 'B.C.'. They will also discover where in the world these civilisations arose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children know what the word 'civilisation' means? Do children know the approximate dates of some of the earliest civilisations? Do children know the locations of some of the earliest civilisations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 1A/1B/1C/1D/1E Early Civilisations Map Early Civilisation Cards Timeline Cards (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 2	To find out about the first writing systems.	Children will find out about the first writing systems and how this developed into cuneiform writing. They will explore some other early writing systems, such as ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics and the Shang Dynasty oracle script.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children know when people first started using a writing system? Can children suggest reasons why writing systems were necessary? Do children know that writing systems developed over time? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 2A/2B/2C Word Cards A/B Phoenician Alphabet sheet Clay and clay tools (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 3	To explore trade in early civilisations.	Children will explore the concept of trade, identifying how and why people in early civilisations traded with each other. Children will explore how people traded without written records or money, and will find out about the earliest coins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children know why people started trading? Do children know why people started using tokens for trading? Do children know when money was first used? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 3A/3B/3C Commodity Cards (FSD? activity only) Tokens, e.g. counters, shells, etc. (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 4	To find out about mathematical understanding in early civilisations.	Children will find out why and when the first number systems developed. They will explore the number systems of the Sumerians, ancient Egyptians and Shang Dynasty, thinking about how the systems are similar or different to each other and the modern number system. They will find out how early civilisations developed various units of measurement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children understand why writing and number systems developed? Do children know that number systems varied between early civilisations? Do children know that early civilisations developed other areas of mathematics, e.g. weights and measures? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 4A/4B/4C/4D Number System sheets Challenge Card (FSD? activity only) Counting to Sixty video (plenary)
Lesson 5	To explore the technology and inventions of early civilisations.	Children will define the term 'technology' before looking at some of the earliest technological advances, such as the wheel. They will go on to predict which inventions were made before, during or after early civilisations and use research to find out if their predictions were correct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children make predictions about the dates of inventions based on their historical knowledge? Can children use a variety of sources of information to help them answer questions? Can children evaluate what they have found out and use this to describe the inventions of early civilisations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 5A Invention Cards A/B/C Fact Cards Books, access to internet, etc. (FSD? activity only) Question Cards (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 6	To explore the buildings and architecture of early civilisations.	Children will think about how technology enabled buildings to develop over time from simple mud houses to towering pyramids. They will think about how ancient Egyptian pyramids and Sumerian ziggurats were built, and compare archaeological evidence with myths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children know how buildings developed over time? Can children identify buildings of the earliest civilisations? Can children describe or suggest how early buildings were constructed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 6A/6B/6C Picture Cards Information Sheet (FSD? activity only) Story Sheet (FSD? activity only) Sentence Cards (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 7	To consolidate knowledge and understanding of early civilisations.	Children will recap the main features and achievements of early civilisations. They will consider which achievements they think were most important, giving reasons for their choices. They will use evidence they have gathered to answer questions and express their understanding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children describe the main achievements of the earliest civilisations? Can children express their knowledge in a variety of ways? Can children use evidence they have gathered to ask and answer questions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 7A/7B Information Book Template Quiz Template End of Unit Quiz