

# ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS



**Year 5 and 6 - Spring 1**

## English

Our English this half term is based on 'Lost' by Ele Fountain. We will be learning how to:

- Write a recount to inform from the perspective of an Ancient Sumerian
- Write a diary based on our class reader 'Lost'.
- Write a section of Narrative based on our class reader
- How to use the passive voice and subjunctive form

We will also be making comparisons, giving reasoned justifications and working on our fluency within our reading sessions.

We will also continue our word study learning.

***Please remember that your child should be completing around 30 mins per week of ReadTheory home learning. You should have received a log in for this. If you have any problems accessing this, or with devices, please let Miss Leonard know.***

***Please also record any reading done at home on the reading bookmark and don't forget that all children have access to the online library from Hampshire Library Services.***

## Maths

Year 5:

- Place Value including negative numbers and roman numerals
- Addition and Subtraction including multi-step problems
- Measures including perimeter, area, volume and capacity
- Geometry including identifying and drawing angles
- Statistics and interpreting timetables

Year 6:

- Co-ordinates including four quadrants
- Shapes and their properties
- Identifying and drawing angles
- Patterns and sequencing
- Factors, multiples and primes
- Time including time tables

***Please remember that your child will have a short piece of MyMaths home learning to complete every week. You should have received a log in for this. If you have any problems accessing this, or with devices, please let Miss Leonard know.***

We will be continuing to build on children's speed and fluency of times tables recall through mental maths challenges. All children have a login to Times Tables RockStars to practise their times tables at home.

## Science

This half term we will be learning about **Forces**. They will learn that:

- Air resistance and water resistance are forces against motion caused by objects having to move air and water out of the way.
- Friction is a force against motion caused by two surfaces rubbing against each other.

## Theme

Through our theme of '**Ancient Civilisations**' the children will be learning about

- The achievements of the earliest civilisations. **Ancient Sumer, Ancient Egypt, The Shang Dynasty and The Indus Valley Civilisation**
- When and where these civilisations happened and what else was happening in the world at the time
- A more in-depth study of the Ancient Sumer.

**Don't forget, Year 5 and 6 will be going on a trip to the Ashmolean museum to support their learning.**

**Year 5 will be visiting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Year 6 will be visiting on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January.**

### School Trip

As you may know, the Year 5/6 children will be going on a trip to the Ashmolean museum.

**Year 5 will be visiting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Year 6 will be visiting on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January.**

We will be taking part in this trip to support our Theme learning on Ancient Civilisations and we hope that the children will enjoy seeing other interesting artefacts linked to their previous learning such as

- Guy Fawkes's Lantern
- Paintings by Picasso
- The Alfred Jewel

**Please see earlier letter sent home via parentmail.**

### Home Learning

All children in Year 5/6 are expected to complete a short piece of MyMaths that is related to their learning, Read Theory quizzes and Times Tables Rockstars per week. This will be set on a Tuesday and checked the following Tuesday. You should have already received log ins for these. If you have trouble accessing these, for example due to lack of devices, please let your child's class teacher know and arrangements can be made for them complete this within school, for example during Early Morning work.

### Useful Information

Year 5: PE on a Wednesday and Friday.

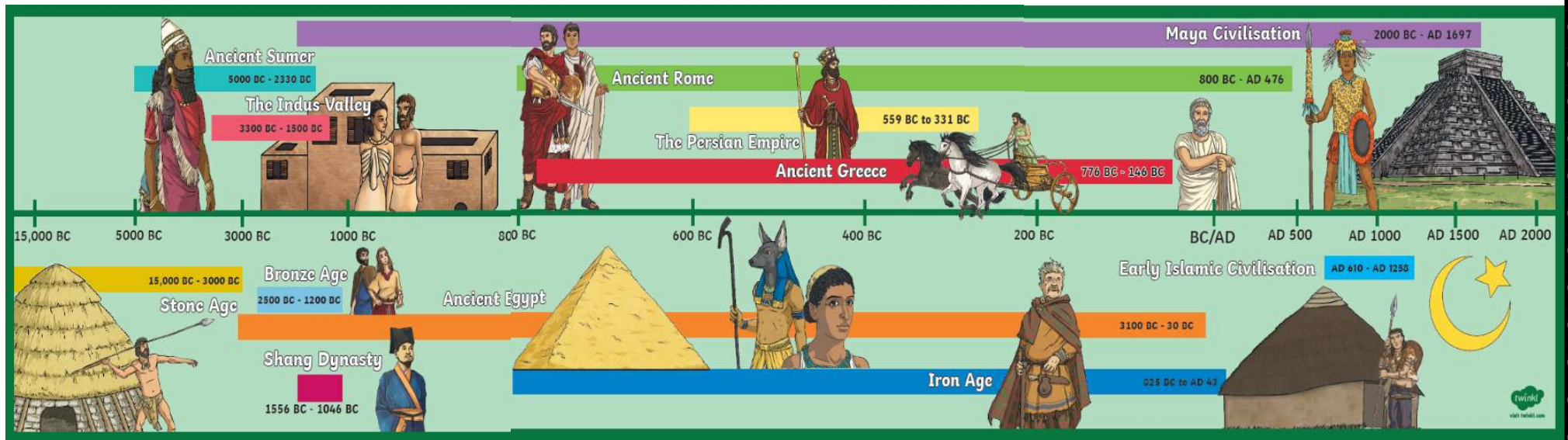
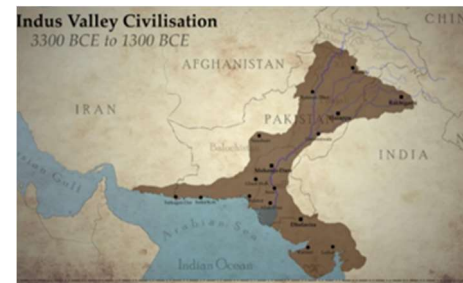
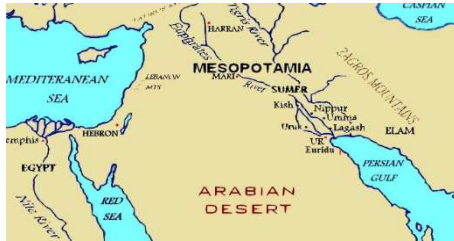
**Library- Wednesday.**

Year 6: PE on a Monday and Friday.

**Library – Elephants Tuesday, Rhinos Wednesday.**

Outdoor Learning will be on a half termly rota, which can be found on our school website.

Please ensure that your child has appropriate kit in school on that day.



### Helpful links for Children

[The Civilization of Ancient Sumer - Ancient Mesopotamia for Kids - Mesopotamia for Kids \(mrdonn.org\)](#)

[World History: Ancient Egypt for Kids \(ducksters.com\)](#)

[Indus Valley Civilization - History for Kids | Mocomi](#)

[Shang Dynasty - KS2 History - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Ancient Civilizations | Ancient History for Kids](#)

[Ancient civilization - Students | Britannica Kids | Homework Help](#)



## Ancient Sumer

The Ancient Sumer civilisation was based around the Euphrates and Tigris River in Mesopotamia. (Meso meaning middle and Potamos meaning River.) The Sumerian Civilisation began as small villages but became famous for creating a larger chain of cities. This also meant that a 'class' system developed and Sumerians were able to take up many other job roles than farming. The Ancient Sumerians valued education but only boys were allowed to go to school. They also created the clock system as we know it today.



## Shang Dynasty

The Shang Dynasty were the first Chinese Dynasty with written records. They came to power in around 1600BC. They ruled an area around the Yellow River Valley which meant they had rich and fertile land.

The Shang Dynasty worshipped one 'supreme' God, but they also worshipped the Gods of the wind, sun, cloud and moon. People in the Shang Dynasty were not allowed to choose their own jobs, they were chosen for them based on their 'class'. They also discovered bronze in their area, calendars with 12 months and a style of chariot.



## Indus Valley

The Indus Valley Civilisation were based around the Indus River, which runs through what we now call Pakistan, between 3300BC and 1300BC. Being near the river meant that they developed complex systems of controlling the flooding. They were the first people to create cities and to give them capital cities.

They used mud bricks to create their houses, the first to have drainage systems and flat roofs for extra space. They were also the first to have toilets as part of their homes. The Indus River dried up which led to their decline.



## Ancient Egypt

The majority of the Ancient Egyptian civilisation was placed along the Nile river. Egypt was ruled by Pharaohs and was rich in culture. They created a sophisticated writing system called 'hieroglyphs' and some amazing constructions, such as the pyramids and the sphinx.

They worshipped over 2000 Gods and Goddesses, who they believed controlled the world. They were typically human with animal features.

They also created:

- Paid labour
- Going 'on strike'
- Board games
- Toothpaste

