

MAJOR ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS TIMELINE

A JOURNEY THROUGH HUMAN HISTORY

(6500 BCE – 500 CE)

WHEN?	CIVILIZATION	WHERE?	FAMOUS FOR
6500 – 539 BCE	1 MESOPOTAMIA One of the world's earliest civilizations between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.	 (Modern-day Iraq)	 Cuneiform writing  Code of Hammurabi  Advances in astronomy
3100 – 30 BCE	2 ANCIENT EGYPT Built along the Nile River and lasted for over 3,000 years!	 (Northeast Africa)	 Pyramids  Hieroglyphic writing  Advances in medicine & mathematics
2500 – 1700 BCE	3 INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION Known for advanced cities and excellent town planning.	 (Modern-day Pakistan & Northwest India)	 Planned cities  Indus script (undeciphered)  Advanced drainage systems
1600 – 1046 BCE	4 SHANG DYNASTY (ANCIENT CHINA) One of the earliest Chinese dynasties with powerful kings.	 (China)	 Oracle bone writing  Bronze metallurgy  Ancestor worship
1500 – 500 BCE	5 ANCIENT INDIA (VEDIC TO MAURYAN) From the Vedic Age to the powerful Maurya Empire under Ashoka.	 (Indian Subcontinent)	 Vedas (ancient texts)  Ashoka's edicts  Buddhism
1200 – 539 BCE	6 PERSIAN EMPIRE A vast empire that connected many cultures and lands.	 (Iran & surrounding regions)	 Royal Road  Tolerant government  Advanced architecture
800 – 146 BCE	7 ANCIENT GREECE The birthplace of democracy, philosophy, and the Olympic Games!	 (Greece)	 Democracy  Philosophy & science  Art, drama & Olympics
753 BCE – 476 CE	8 ROMAN EMPIRE Grew from a small city to a huge empire that shaped Europe.	 (Italy & Mediterranean)	 Laws & governance  Engineering (roads, aqueducts)  Architecture (Colosseum)
500 BCE – 500 CE	9 MESOAMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS (MAYA) Flourished in Central America with incredible knowledge of astronomy.	 (Mexico & Central America)	 Calendar system  Pyramids & temples  Hieroglyphic writing

DID YOU KNOW?

These civilizations may be from different places, but they all helped shape the world we live in today!