

Knowledge Organiser – 2 –What was life like in the ancient world? 1000 BC to 500AD (Prehistoric and Classical periods)

50BC-450AD
Ancient and
Classical Era

1000-1250
High Medieval

1500-1800
Early Modern

1900-1950
Modern: Early
20th Century

10,000-50
BC
Prehistori
c Era

450-1000
Early Medieval

1250-1500
Late Medieval

1800-1900
Modern:
Industrial

1950-Present
Modern:
Contemporary

Key developments

1	Ancient civilisations	There are many historical remains telling us about ancient civilisations . These include the Romans in Italy, the Greeks in Greece, the Egyptians in Egypt, the Incas in Peru and the Babylonians in Syria.
2	Archaeology	Archaeology is the study of human history through the use of objects and other physical remains . Archaeology helps us to find out how people used to live. There are many debates in society about who should own archaeological artefacts and if it right to display them in museums.
3	Ancient Egypt	Ancient Egypt was ruled by a Pharaoh (king). Farmers relied on the River Nile to make their land fertile . Their houses were made from mudbricks and many lived a simple life. Richer houses were built from stone. Egyptians wore light and cool clothing because of the hot climate and many Egyptians shaved their heads and wore wigs. Scribes decorated tombs with a language called hieroglyphics . When people died, they Egyptians mummified their dead to keep the appearance of the body and performed many rituals and prayers.
4	Ancient Athens	Greeks called themselves Hellenes and they had a very large navy . The Greeks were great thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artists, architects and politicians. They loved festivals, music and beauty. Athens was very close to the sea which was good for trade. They had a way of ruling called democracy . In Athens, only boys went to school.
5	Ancient Sparta	The city of Sparta was between the mountains. Sparta had a king instead of democracy. In Sparta children did not go to school. Women would be trained to fight in Sparta, they were believed to be as powerful as men. The Spartans are famous for having strong soldiers and a powerful army they did not like the weak!
6	Ancient Rome	Ancient Rome was a powerful society that has left behind many things we can see today such as aqueducts and roads. Rome

	was ruled by an emperor and society was divided into plebeians and patricians . The Romans were the first society to have fresh running water in a city and a sewer network. Roman town planning can still be seen in cities today. Romans were famous for entertainment involving gladiators (fighters).
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A Roman gladiator helmet



An Egyptian mummified body



A Greek vase

Key terms

7	aqueduct	a way of carrying water on a bridge
8	artefact	an object made by a human
9	chronology	the order that events occurred in
10	civilisation	a group of people who work together to build a society.
11	democracy	a government that includes the views of the ordinary people
12	ethical	deciding what is right and wrong
13	fertile (land)	land which is healthy and can grow lots of crops
14	hieroglyphics	a religious language used in Ancient Egypt
15	mummification	The process of making a body last a long time by drying it
16	navy	people and ships that fight at sea instead of on land
17	patricians	the richer citizens of Rome
18	plebeians	the poorer citizens in Rome
19	remains	items that have been left behind (e.g objects)
20	smuggled	taken illegally
21	warfare	the methods used to fight in a war

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