

Ancient Civilisations



These activities are for you to do at home with an adult. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting.

Activities

1. Use your research skills to find out what an ancient civilisation is. Write a simple definition, then list the characteristics of a civilisation. List the names of some ancient civilisations found from your research.
2. Use information books and the internet to find out about archaeology, archaeologists, archaeological sites and artefacts. Create an information poster or non-chronological report to record your findings. Include images if you can. Once complete, share it with a family member.
3. Three of the world's first civilisations include ancient Sumer, ancient Egypt and the Indus Valley civilisation. Imagine that you are an archaeologist examining these artefacts. Complete a table to record your observations and ideas about each artefact. Include the name of the civilisation, artefact type, materials, possible uses and description.



ancient Sumer



ancient Egypt



Indus Valley civilisation

Afterwards, you might enjoy searching the online collections of The British Museum or The Met Museum to view other artefacts from ancient Sumer, ancient Egypt or the Indus Valley.



4. Use your existing knowledge and research skills to write a few sentences about each of the following civilisations.
 - ancient Sumer (c4500–c1900 BC)
 - ancient Egypt (c3100–30 BC)
 - Indus Valley (c2500–c1700 BC)
5. What did the ancient Sumerians invent, and how did these inventions make work easier and improve everyday life? Use information books and the internet to answer this question. Record information on a mind map. Expand on the information in your mind map by writing a summary to answer the enquiry question.
6. Use information books or the internet to find out about pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Choose two pharaohs that you find interesting, draw a picture of them, record the dates of their reign and write a fascinating fact about each one.
7. Read a book containing ancient Egyptian myths. Choose your favourite myth and retell the story to a family member. Afterwards, illustrate your favourite scene from the story. Write a description beneath your picture to explain what is happening.
8. Archaeologists have recovered over 3500 seals from the Indus Valley civilisation. Use the images and your research skills to find the answers to these questions.
 - What are these seals?
 - What were they used for?
 - Why are they important artefacts today?
9. Compare the ancient Sumerian, ancient Egyptian and the Indus Valley civilisations by finding out what life was like for the people who belonged to them, using a range of sources. Create a table to record your findings and make comparisons. Possible table headings include location, achievements, daily life, other interesting information and end of the civilisation.
10. Finish your home learning by writing a summary of the topic, explaining what you have learned about ancient civilisations.



Front view of two seals



Useful websites

- Britannica Kids – Archaeology – Homework Help
- Britannica Kids – Ancient civilisation – Homework Help
- BBC Teach – Introducing Ancient Sumer – History KS2
- BBC Bitesize – Ancient Egypt – KS2 History
- DKfindout! – Egyptian Pharaohs
- BBC Bitesize – Indus Valley – KS2 History
- BBC Bitesize – What was everyday life like in the Indus Valley?

Good reads

| Title | Author | ISBN |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| Technology in the Ancient World: Sumer and Ancient Mesopotamia | Charlie Samuels | 9781445142630 |
| Explore!: Ancient Sumer | Rachel Minay | 9781526300898 |
| Discover & Learn: Ancient Egyptians The Study Book – KS2 History | CGP | 9781782949688 |
| Ancient Egypt: Tales of Gods and Pharaohs | Marcia Williams | 9781406338324 |
| Egyptian Myths | Eric Braun | 9781474752503 |
| Facts and Artefacts: Indus Valley Civilisation | Tim Cooke | 9781445161938 |

