

Year group:	3&4	Term:	AUTUMN 2	Theme:	Cradles of Civilization	
Prior learning					Cross-curricular and visits/visitors	
- The children will know what a civilization is and will be able to name the ancient civilizations of Egypt. - The children will know the importance of rivers on early civilizations.					Geography: Using a world map to locate early civilizations	
Knowledge					New Vocabulary	
- To know why Mesopotamia was known as the land between two rivers: Ancient Mesopotamia – the unique ‘cradle’ - To locate the geographical overview of ancient civilisations of the world, inc. Big map seeing where they all were & geographical similarities (Sumer, Egypt and Shang). - To understand the importance of each Ancient Civilization being located next to a large river (Egypt- The Nile, Sumer- River Indus, Shang- Yellow River). - To learn about monuments in Ancient Civilizations such as Ziggurats built in Mesopotamia.					Sumer	The earliest known civilization in the historical region of Mesopotamia.
					Tigris	A long river that was one of the two great rivers of the ancient region of Mesopotamia.
					Euphrates	A long river that was one of the two great rivers of the ancient region of Mesopotamia.
					Mesopotamia	An early civilization called the ‘Land between two rivers’.
					Ziggurat	A stone monument built in Mesopotamia.
					Shang	An early Chinese civilization.
					Nomadic	People who do not live in one place; they move from place to place.
					Bronze	A metal used by melting and combining tin and copper.
					Altar	A table or flat-topped block used as the focus for a religious ritual.
					Sacrifices	An act of slaughtering an animal or person as an offering.
Skills (Disciplinary Knowledge)					Sculptures	Making a 3D representation out of stone or wood.
					Mythical	A mythical story that has no basis in historical events.
					Challenging Vocabulary	
- Chronology: Making some links between and across periods, such as the differences between clothes, food, buildings or transport. - Events, people and changes: Understanding some significant aspects of history – nature of ancient civilisations; expansion of empires; characteristic features of non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind. - Communication: Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information. When doing this they should use specialist terms like settlement, invasion and vocabulary linked to chronology. - Enquiry, Interpretation and Using Sources: Understand some of the methods of historical enquiry, and how evidence is used to make detailed observations, finding answers to questions about the past.					Fertile Crescent	The area of Mesopotamia with fertile soil for crop growing.
					Cuneiform	Cuneiform is one of the oldest forms of writing known. It means “wedge-shaped,” because people wrote it using a reed stylus cut to make a wedge-shaped mark on a clay tablet.
					Decipher	Trying to understand the meaning of something that is not known.