

Vocabulary	Meaning
fertile	to be able to grow or reproduce well
civilisation	the culture of a particular people, nation or time period
Mesopotamia	an ancient region of Western Asia situated between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers
irrigation	the artificial watering of land to help plants grow
stylus	an ancient writing tool with a pointed end used for marking or writing
laws	rules for what you can or cannot do based on ideas about what is right and wrong
justice	fairness is the way that all people are dealt with
protect	keep safe from harm or injury
harsh	mean or cruel
worship	to have or show deep respect or admiration
temple	a building used for the worship of a god or gods
feature	a part of something
wealthy	having a lot of money or possessions
priestess	a woman who is allowed to perform religious duties
commoner	a person who is not born into a position of high social rank or privilege.
astronomy	the study of all of the objects outside the Earth's atmosphere

### Key knowledge – What is cuneiform?

Cuneiform is Mesopotamian writing made up of marks or letters shaped like wedges. This was drawn on clay tablets by pressing a stylus into clay.

It was used to write stories or personal letters.



This is a clay tablet with special writing called cuneiform.

### Key knowledge – What is a ziggurat?

A ziggurat looks like a stepped pyramid and it was made of mud-bricks. A ziggurat had stairs leading to a gate and this led to a temple at the top. The temple is where the people of the city went to worship the god of the city.



A ziggurat

### History Timeline

3100 BC

539 BC