The Hermitage School – History		
Topic: Cradles of Civilisation	**Year: 3**	**Autumn 2**

What should I already know?

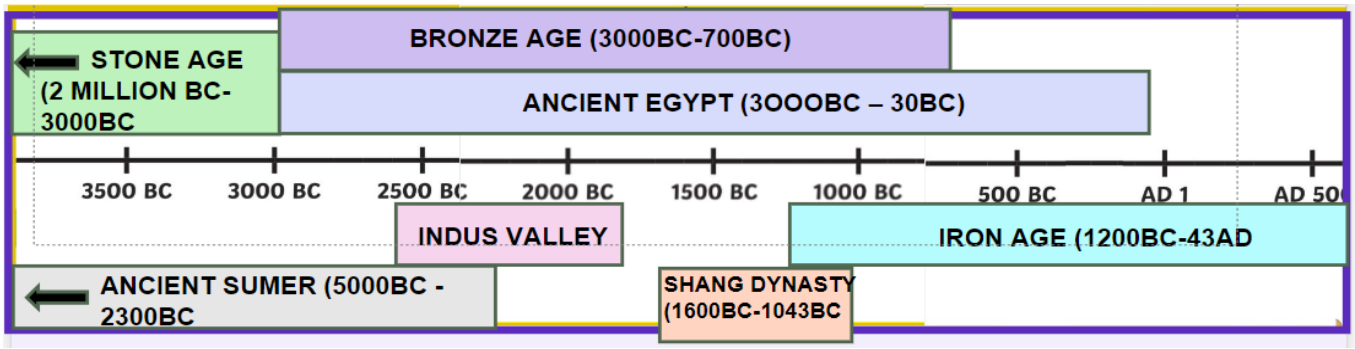
· That prehistory is time before written records
· That humans used to be nomadic and started to settle in small settlements
· That the discovery of metal was very important for early humans

What will I know by the end?

· What a civilisation is
· Where in the world earliest civilisations appeared
· The main achievements of the earliest civilisations
· How good farming allowed civilisations to develop inventions
· To compare the successes of the earliest civilisations
· That many early civilisations developed at the same time

Historical Skills and Enquiry

· To understand the importance of rivers in establishing a civilisation
· To use sources to explore the achievements of the earliest civilisations



Vocabulary

Civilisation—a large group of people who share ways of living and working
Cradle of Civilisation—a place where an ancient civilisation first began and grew
Ancient Sumer—civilisation in Mesopotamia
Mesopotamia—modern day Iraq
Indus Valley—civilisation in modern day Pakistan, India and Afghanistan
Shang Dynasty—civilisation in modern day China
Astrology—study of the stars and planets
Cuneiform—Ancient Sumerian writing
Hieroglyphics—Ancient Egyptian writing
Irrigation—rerouting water from a river to farms
Architecture—building
Archaeologist—historian who digs for artefacts and studies the past
Government—Most important people are at the top, with lower people supporting
Oracle bones—writing carved on animal bones used to speak to the Gods
Diviner—a religious leader in the Shang Dynasty