

Early Civilisations

History

Year 3/4

Lesson 1 of 7

Learning Objective		Resources
To explore where and when the first civilisations began.		Slides Worksheet 1A/1B/1C/1D/1E Early Civilisations Map Early Civilisation Cards Timeline Cards (FSD? activity only)
Teaching Input		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show children the word 'civilisation' on the slides. What does this word mean? Children to think, pair, share their ideas, then go through the explanation on the slides. Explain that people have not always lived in permanent settlements. Go through the information on the slides about hunter gatherers and when farming was first used by humans. How do you think farming changed the way humans lived? Children to share ideas. Explain that over the next few lessons we will be looking at some of the first civilisations in history and investigating what they achieved. Show children the questions on the slides: When did people first start writing? When did people first build buildings and walls? When did people first start using money? When did people first build cities? Explain that we will be finding the answers to some of these questions. Show children the timeline on the slides and explain what the terms 'BC' and 'AD' mean. Invite children to point to when they think the first civilisations began, then show the labelled timeline on the next slides. Click on each of the different civilisations as a class to find out a little more about each one. 		
Main Activity		
<u>Lower ability:</u> Provide children with the Early Civilisations Map and worksheet 1A. Children to work with a partner to answer the questions on the worksheet.	<u>Middle ability:</u> Provide children with the Early Civilisations Map and worksheet 1B. Children to work with a partner to answer the questions on the worksheet.	<u>Higher ability:</u> Provide children with worksheet 1C, the Early Civilisation Cards and maps or atlases. Children to use the clues on the worksheet to stick the cards in the correct place on the map. When finished, children could answer the questions on worksheet 1B.
Fancy something different...?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide children with worksheet 1D and the Timeline Cards. Challenge children to order the civilisations chronologically and stick on the timeline on the worksheet. When finished, challenge children to think of some questions they have about what the earliest civilisations were like. Children to list their questions on worksheet 1E, then think about how they could find the answers. 		
Plenary	Assessment Questions	
Explain that one thing that all early civilisations had was that they grew up around rivers. Why do you think this is? Invite children to share their ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children know what the word 'civilisation' means? Do children know the approximate dates of some of the earliest civilisations? Do children know the locations of some of the earliest civilisations? 	