



Early Civilisations

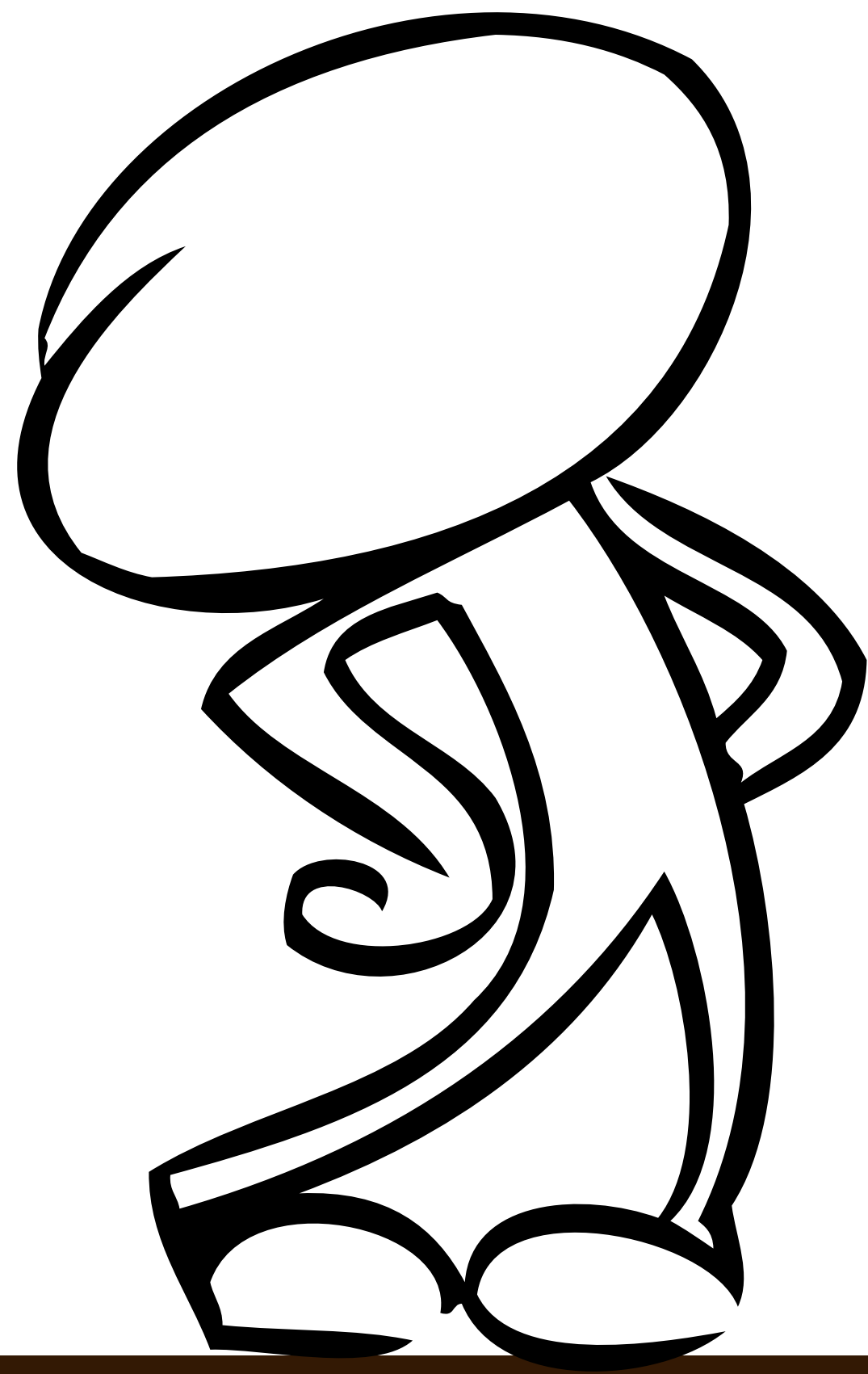
Learning Objective:

To explore where and when the first civilisations began.



NEXT

CIVILISATION



What does this word
mean?

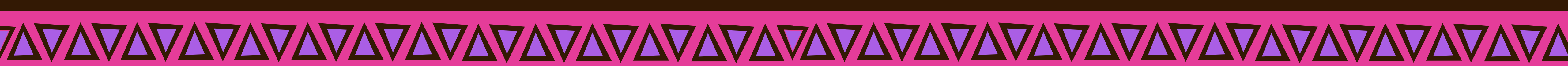
BACK

NEXT

A civilisation is the society, culture and way of life of a particular area. It is usually used to refer to a society that has reached a high level of social development and organisation.

There have been many great civilisations throughout history. These civilisations have all found out new things and discovered new ways of making life better and more advanced. A lot of evidence for these civilisations can still be seen today.

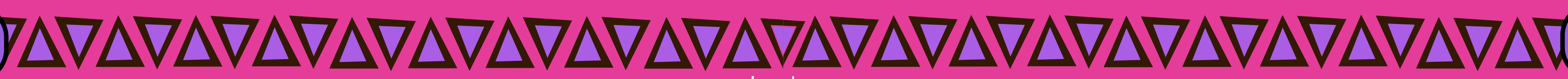




People have not always lived in permanent settlements. Before there were villages, towns or cities, people used to be hunter-gatherers. This means they travelled around from place to place, hunting animals for food and gathering fruits, nuts, seeds and other vegetation.

Slowly, people realised that certain crops could be grown and cultivated. They also realised that some animals could be domesticated to provide meat, milk, wool and leather. People started farming the land.

How do you think farming changed the way people lived?



Once people had started farming, settlements began to be developed in some parts of the world. Some of these settlements turned into villages, which then turned into towns, which then developed into advanced cities.



Over the next few lessons we will be looking at some of the first civilisations in history and investigating what they achieved.

When did people first learn to build big buildings?

When did people first start writing?

When did people first start using numbers?

When did people first start using money?

We will be finding the answers to these questions and many more...



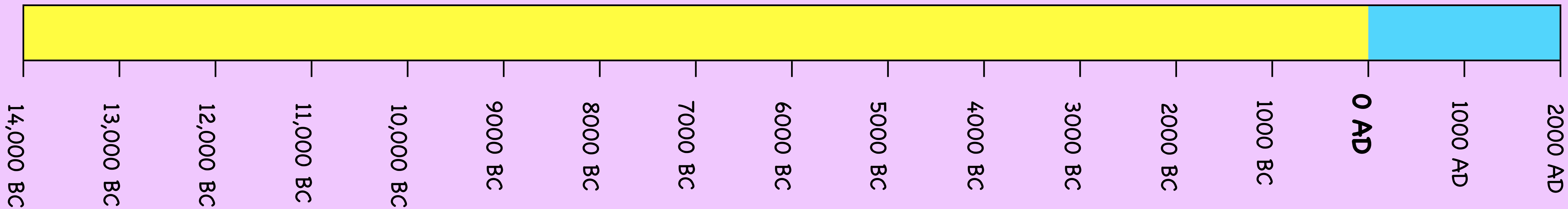
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History is split up into two eras: BC and AD.

BC means 'Before Christ'.

AD means 'Anno Domini' which is Latin for 'the Year of our Lord'.

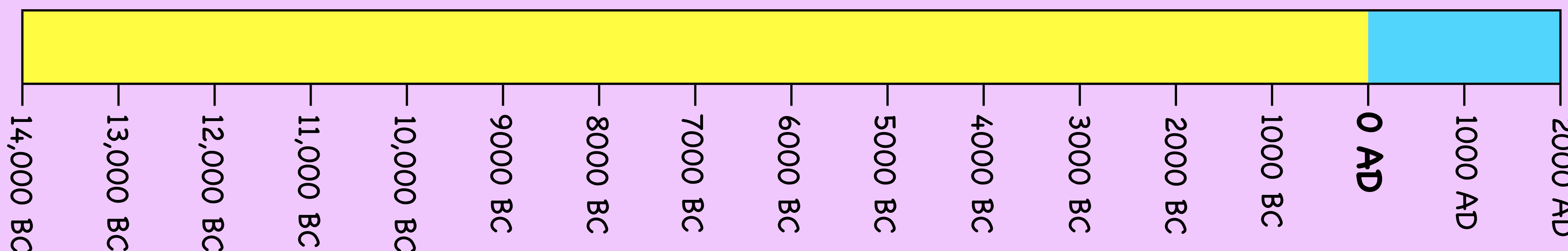
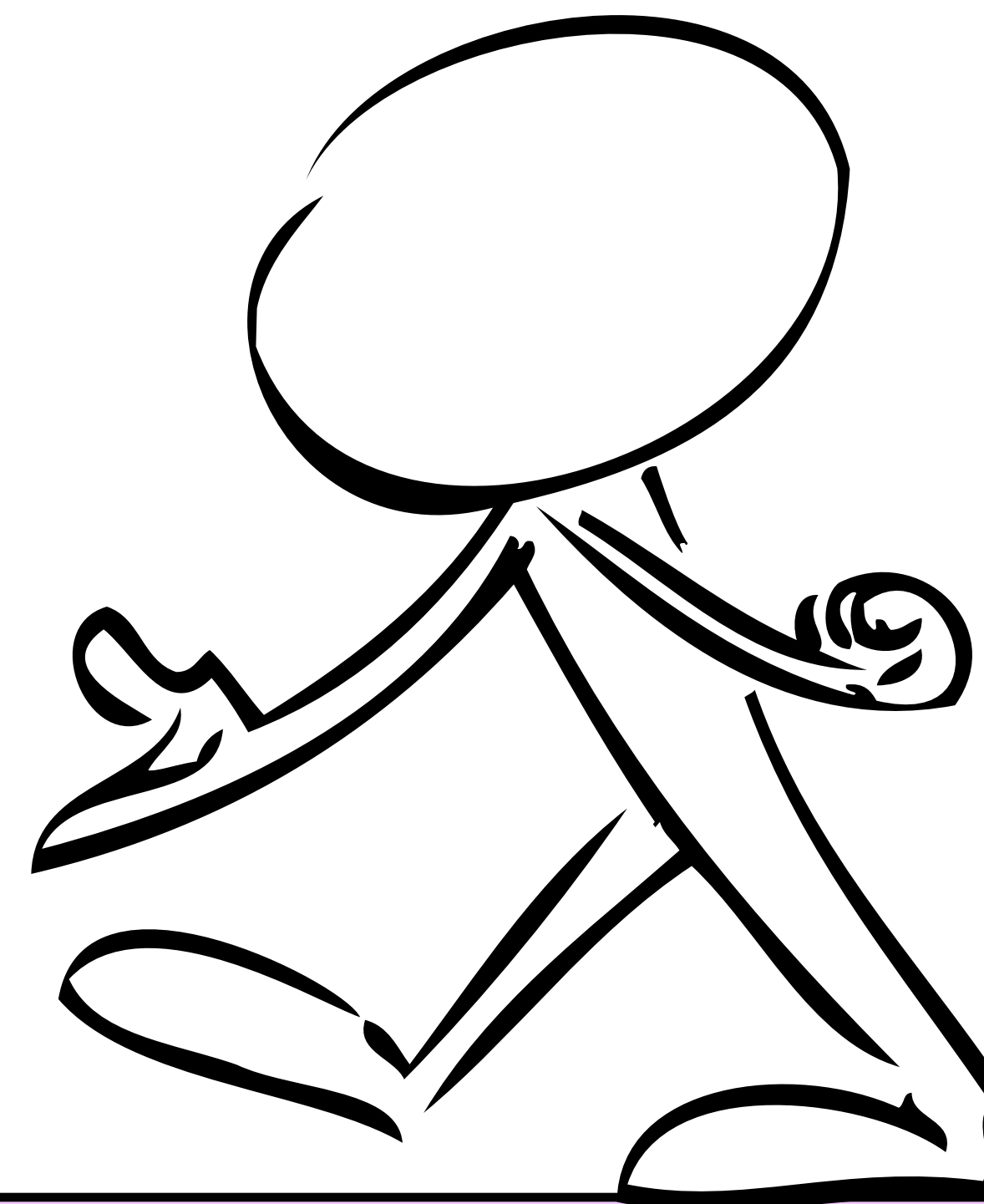


Everything in history is marked from when Jesus Christ was born. Anything before Jesus (BC) counts backwards. For example, 2000 BC is 2000 years before Jesus was born. Anything after Jesus (AD) counts upwards. For example, 1000 AD is 1000 years after Jesus was born.

BACK

NEXT

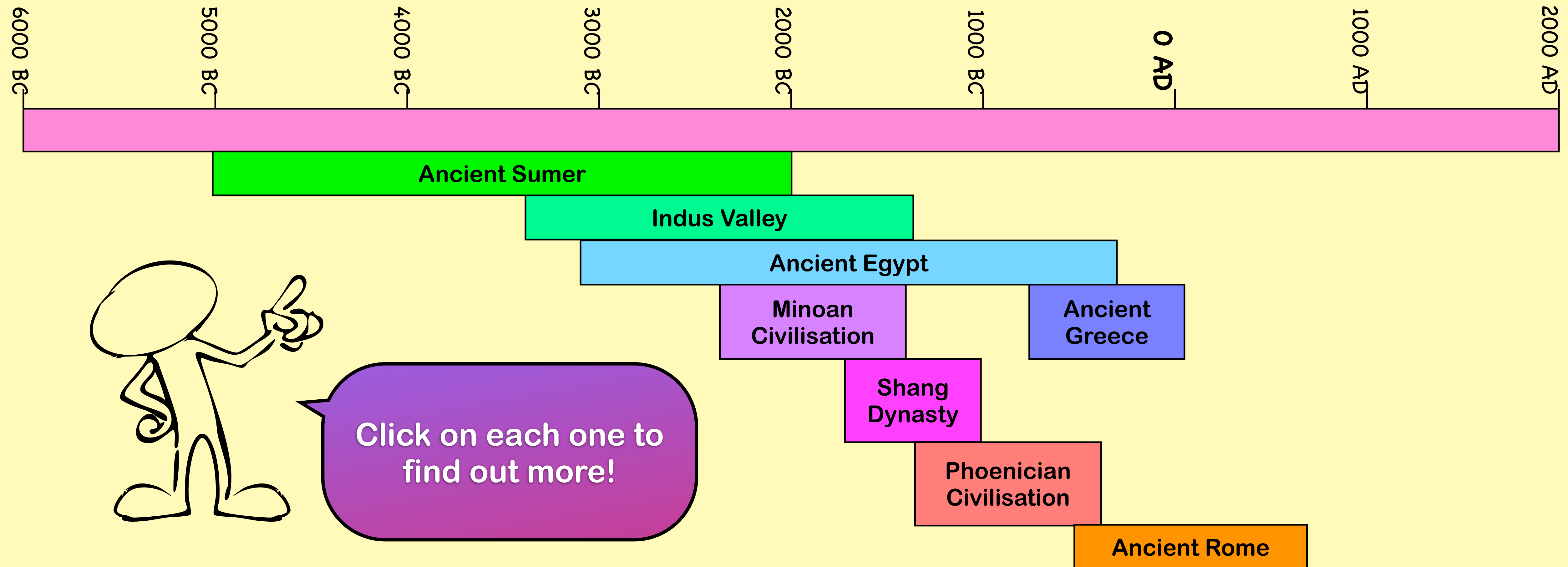
When do you think the first civilisations began?



BACK

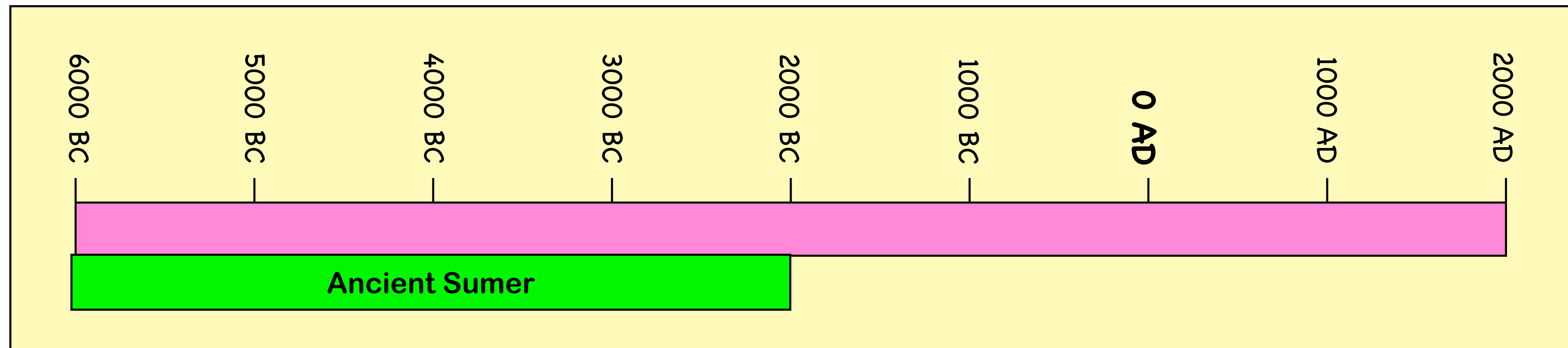
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This timeline shows some of the world's earliest and greatest ancient civilisations.

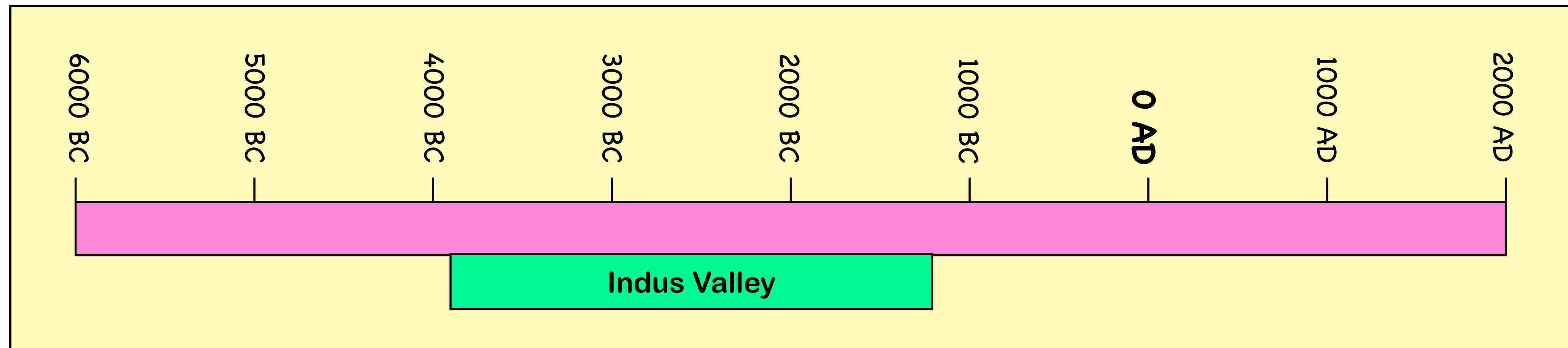


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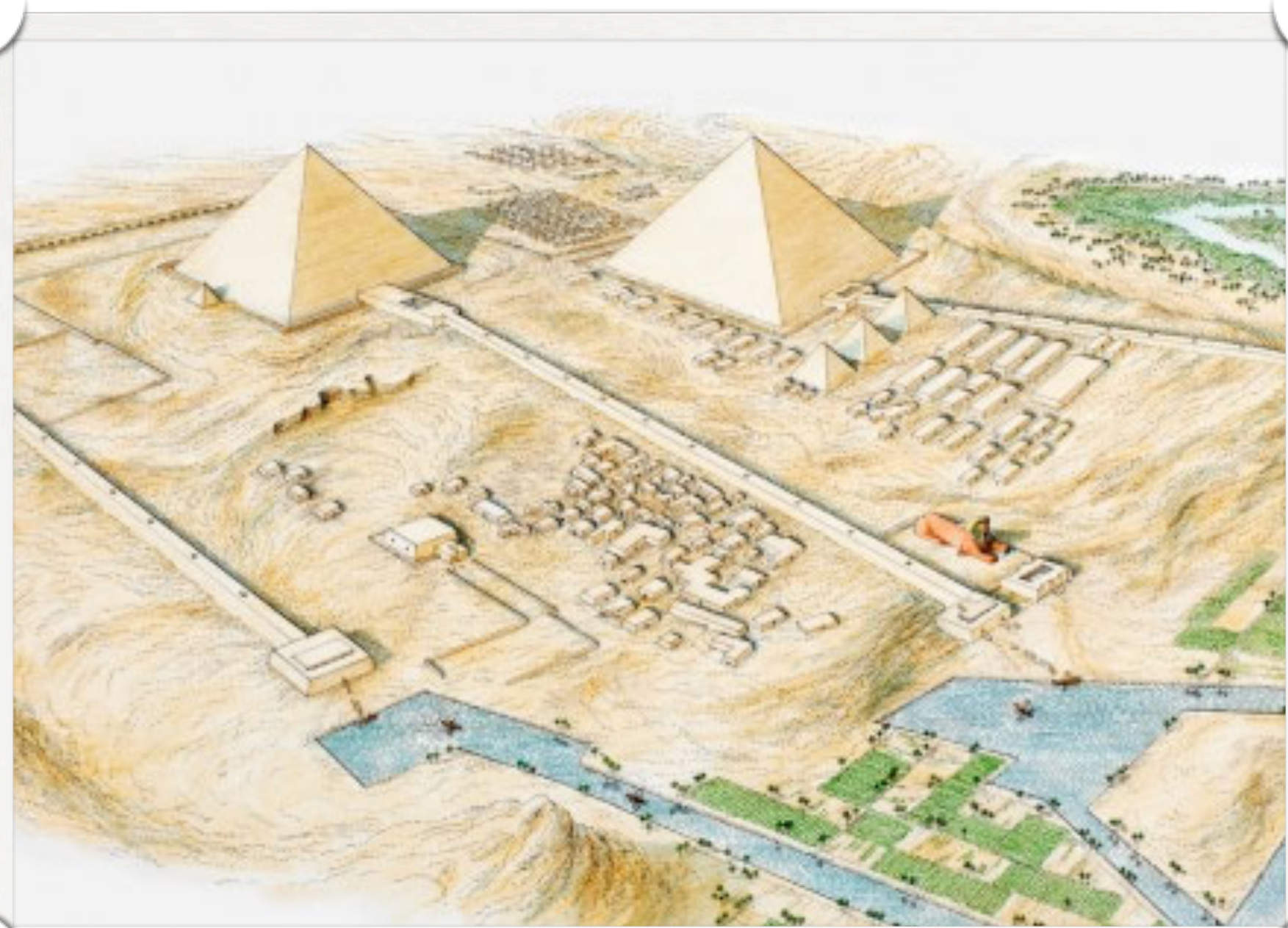
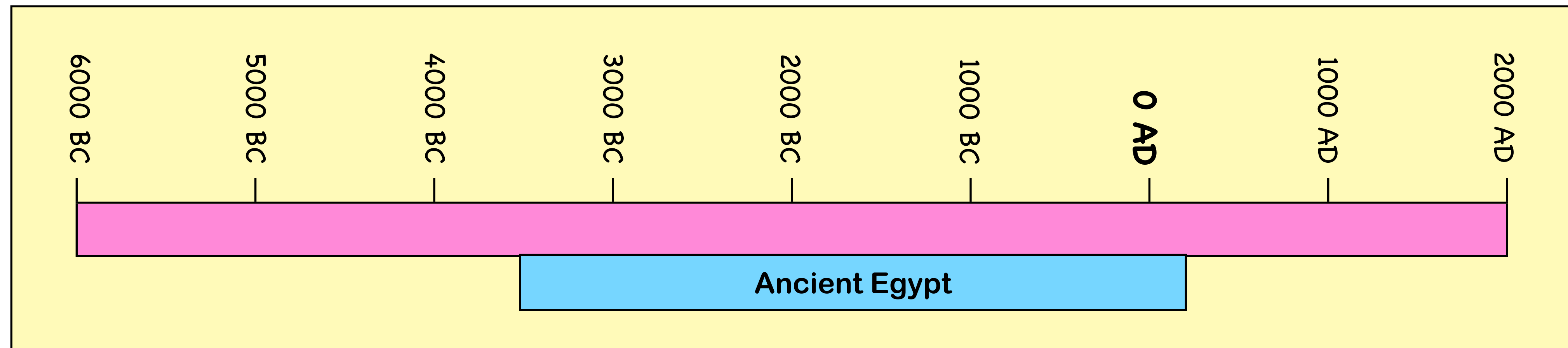
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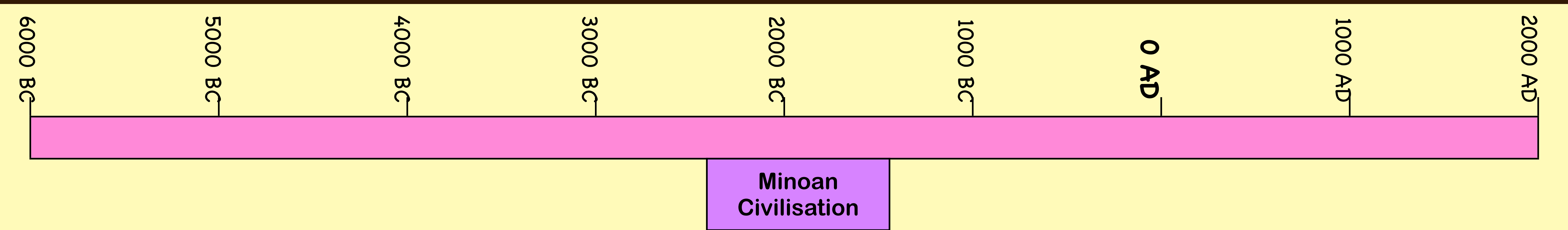
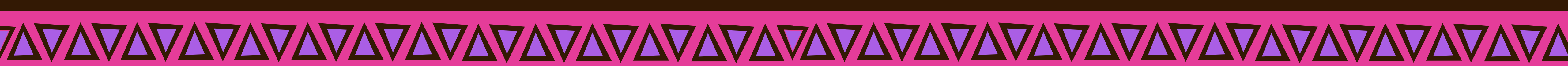
Ancient Sumer was the first great civilisation in the world. They lived in Sumer, an area that is now southern Iraq. Sumer was bordered by the River Euphrates and the River Tigris. Ancient Sumerians were very clever and inventive.



The Indus Valley civilisation grew up around the Indus River in what is now Pakistan and northern India. There were over 1400 towns and cities in the Indus Valley civilisation. The biggest cities were Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa.

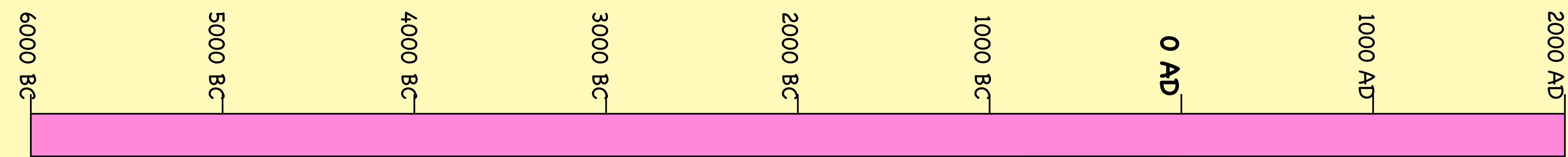
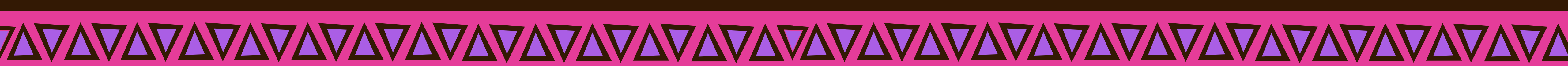


Ancient Egypt was a civilisation that developed along the banks of the River Nile in Egypt. The ancient Egyptians had a very distinctive culture that included building pyramids and mummifying their dead.



The Minoan civilisation was the first civilisation in Europe. It was established on the island of Crete and was named after King Minos. They built large cities, each with a grand palace.





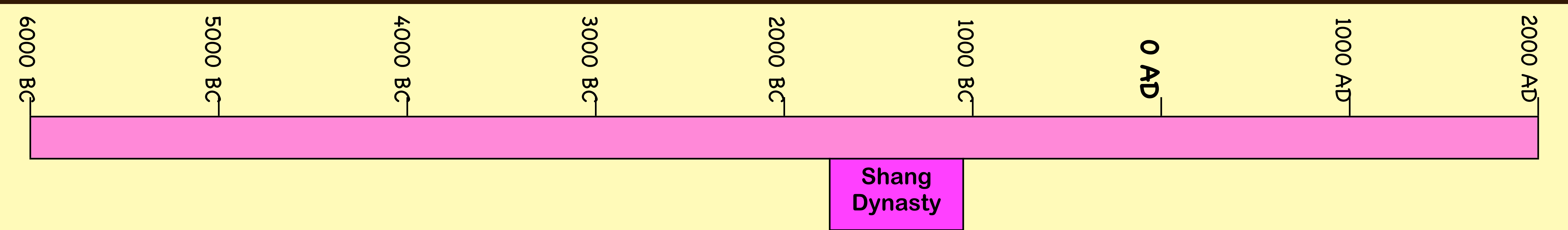
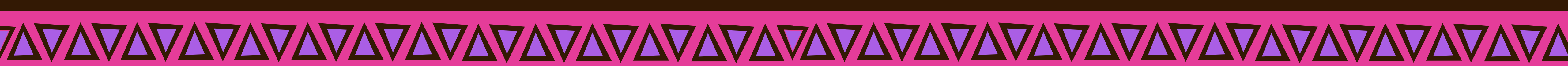
Ancient
Greece



The ancient Greeks were not one of the earliest civilisations but they made so many advances and inventions that it became known as ‘the birthplace of Western civilisation’. We still use a lot of their ideas today.

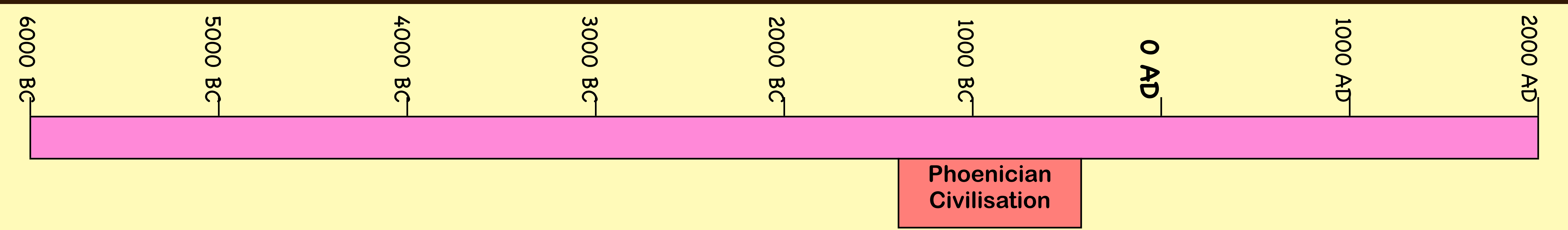
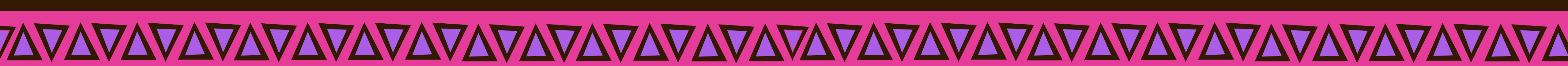
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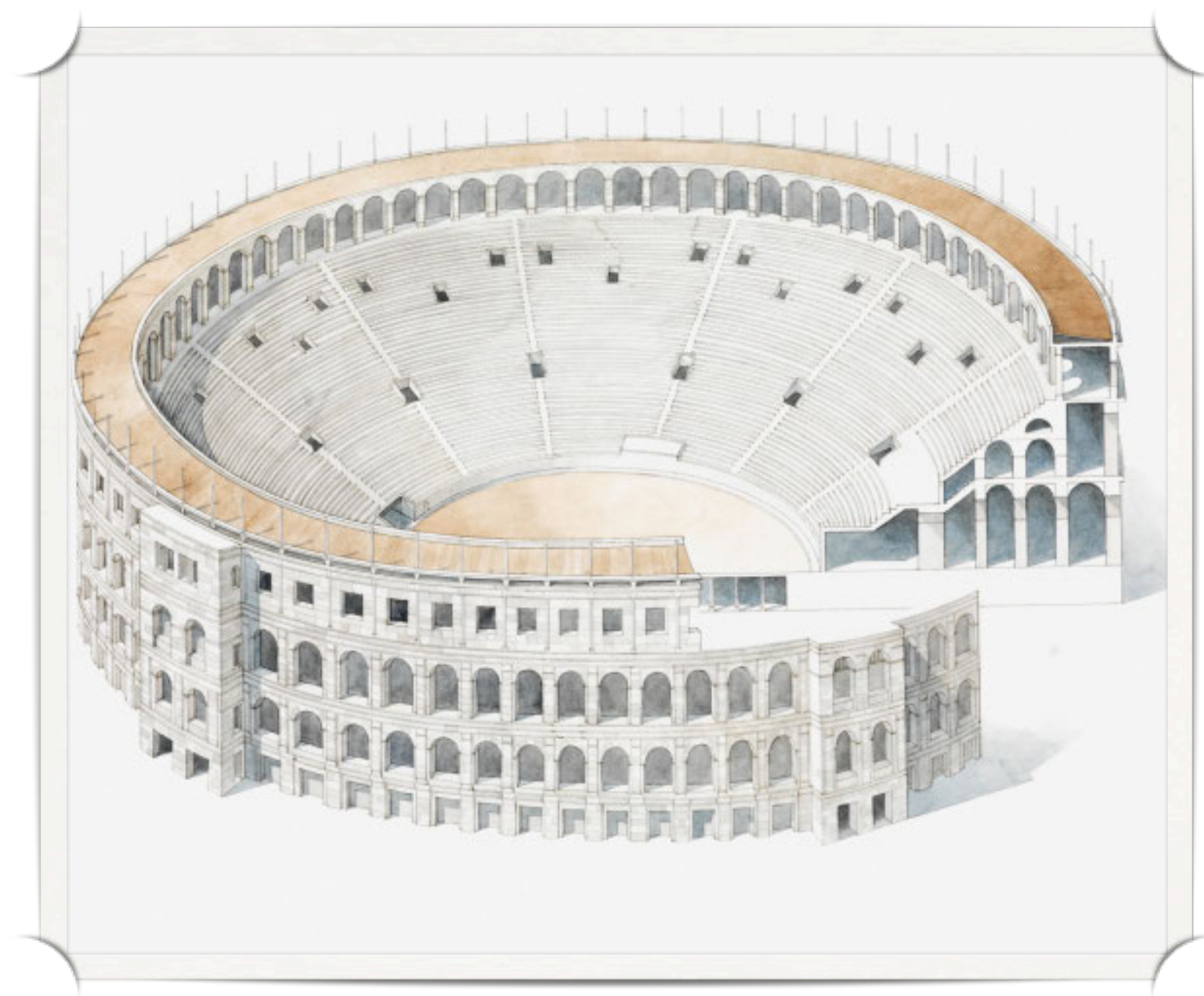
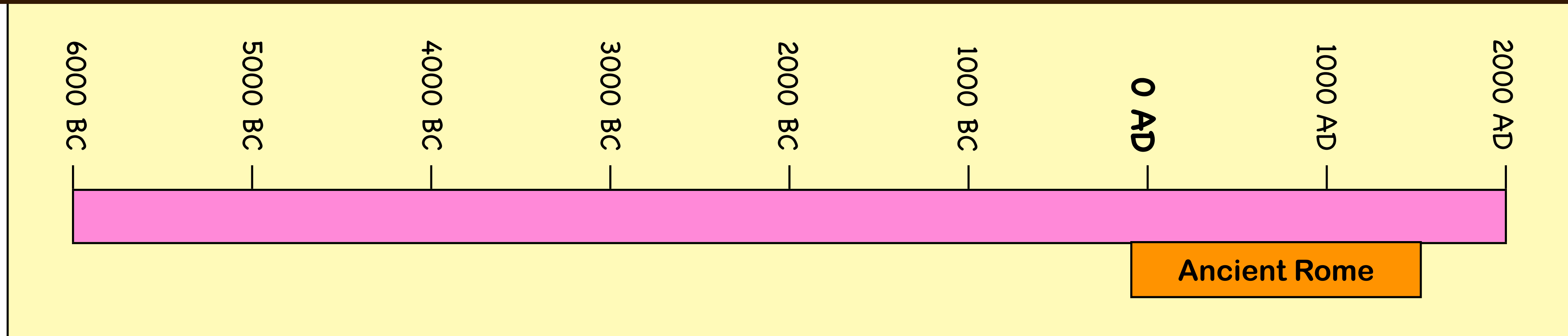
The Shang Dynasty was one of China's first civilisations. The Shang lived in the Yellow River Valley. They were the first civilisation in China to leave written records behind.



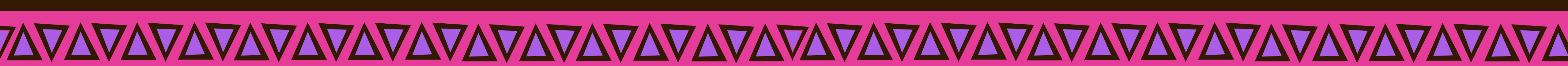


The Phoenicians were a people that lived along the coast of the Mediterranean in what is now northern Israel, Lebanon and Syria. They were known for their ships and for trading with other places.





The ancient Romans were a very advanced civilisation. They took many ideas from the ancient Greeks but also developed their own technologies and ideas. The ancient Romans developed a huge empire across Europe, Africa and the Middle East, including Britain.



These are just a few of the early civilisations that developed around the world after 5000 BC. There were many more that all had their own technologies, cultures, beliefs and traditions.

We have just read through a lot of information! What can you remember?

