

Cradles of Civilisation

Autumn 2

Key vocabulary

tablets	flat pieces of clay or stone which people used to write on before paper was invented
Mesopotamia	land between two rivers (Tigris and Euphrates) and the site of several ancient civilisations
ziggurat	huge temples with wide bases that narrow to a flat top
irrigation	water spread around areas of land, usually to make crops grow
Epic of Gilgamesh	a long poem about monsters, heroes, gods and goddesses
Indus Valley	ancient civilisation from 2500 to 1500 BC located in Pakistan
bronze	a yellowish brown metal made from smelting copper and tin
sacrifice	killing of an animal or person in a religious ceremony as an offering to a god
Cuneiform	characters used in languages from Mesopotamia and Persia
Sculpture	a work of art produced by carving or shaping clay, wood, stone or other materials

Example of a monster in the Epic of Gilgamesh



Cuneiform on a clay tablet used in trade



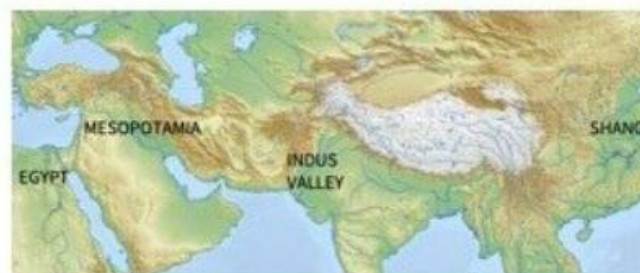
Shang decorative pottery



Ziggurat in Ur that still stands today



Examples of cradles of civilisation



Indus Valley city

