



Major Civilisations of the World

MAJOR CIVILISATIONS OF THE WORLD

MESOPOTAMIA, 4000-3500 BC

- Modern-day Iraq and parts of **Iran, Syria, Kuwait, and Turkey**, between **Tigris** and **Euphrates Rivers**
- Known as **Fertile Crescent/Cradle of civilization**
- Diverse collection of cultures bound by their script, gods, and views on women
- Highly esteemed education system** (law, medicine, and astrology, reflecting rich cultural and religious landscape)
- Both **men and women were involved in diverse occupations**
- Cities built around ziggurats**, step-pyramid temples, honoured their patron deity
- Cities, made of **sun-dried brick**, were the world's first

ANCIENT EGYPT, 3100 BC

- Set along fertile **Nile River**
- Most known for **pyramids, tombs, and mausoleums** practice of mummification to prepare corpses for afterlife
- Left legacy of monumental writing and mathematics systems
- Civilization **ended in 332 BC** with Alexander the Great's conquest

INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION, 3300 BC

- Located in modern-day **India, Afghanistan, and Pakistan**
- Relatively peaceful compared to other ancient civilizations, with little evidence of widespread warfare
- Organised city planning**, complete with **uniform baked-brick homes**, a grid structure, and drainage, sewage, and water supply systems
- Declined around 1800 BC**, actual reasons behind demise still debated (theories propose Aryan invasion or climatic & natural factors for decline)

ANCIENT CHINA, 2000 BC

- Protected by the Himalayan Mountains, Pacific Ocean, and Gobi Desert, and **situated between Yellow and Yangtze rivers**
- Flourished in isolation from invaders and other foreigners for centuries
- Generally divided into four dynasties—**Xia, Shang, Zhou, and Qin** - ancient China was ruled by a succession of emperors
- Credited with developing the **decimal system, abacus, and sundial**, as well as **the printing press**
- Mobilised populations to build massive infrastructure projects (like Egyptians)



Drishiti IAS

[Read more...](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/major-civilisations-of-the-world>

