Y4 Knowledge Organiser- Civilisations **Did the Romans or the Egyptians leave the greatest legacy?**

What do we know already?

History:

In year 3 you learned:

A **settlement** is a community in which people live and sometimes work

Prehistoric Britain began when the first Humans arrived in the British Isles.

The earliest humans were **nomadic** and cave- dwelling they survived by hunting animals. Over time they learnt to herd animals and grow crops

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic lived as hunter gatherers and had simple tools made of materials like flint

Neolithic people lived in one place and were no longer **nomadic** they grew crops and reared animals

Bronze age 2300 – 800 BC – migration in Britain – Metal workers who knew how to work with copper came to Briton to make objects from Copper, Bronze and Gold

Iron age 800bc – AD 43 People learned how to use Iron tools which made farming easier and settlements grew in size Religion involved beliefs in spirits and gods with sacrifices often made by druids. Druids were the priests who performed religious ceremonies

EQ1 – What do all of the ancient civilisations have in common?

History



Rivers: Civilisations emerged by rivers in warmer parts of the world for fishing, water and fertile land for farming. **Ancient Egypt:** River Nile. **Ancient Sumer**: Tigris and Euphrates **Indus Valley:** Indus River **Shang Dynasty**: Yellow River



Cities**:** People stopped a **nomadic** lifestyle to build large, permanent settlements and temples.
Religion**:** Each developed a belief in the afterlife as well as **innovations** which have had a long-lasting legacy



Writing: Societies invented unique communication systems.
Jobs & Power: Societies had rulers (like **pharaohs** or kings) and people with different jobs like farming, trading, and crafting.

EQ2 – How did agricultural advances support the Egyptian civilisation?

History



Basin Irrigation: The River Nile flooded each June-November and left silt behind (a nutrient rich mud) which acted as a natural fertiliser for crops**.**
The ancient Egyptians built a crisscross grid of low **earthen walls** and banks across their fields to trap and hold the annual Nile floodwater.



The seasonal calendar:
Egyptians split their year around the Nile into three phases: flooding, planting, and harvesting.
The Shaduf: A hand-operated pole and bucket tool lifted water into elevated canals during dry months.

EQ3 What was the legacy of Ancient Egypt?

History



Architecture and engineering
They built giant stone Pyramids and temples, which Inspired later Greek, Roman, and modern architecture.

They developed early **surveying** and **geometry** to map land after Nile floods.



Science and daily innovations
Invented **papyrus** as an early form of paper from river reeds.
Created a 365-day **solar calendar** to track time and agriculture.
Formulated early types of medicine, and basic dental hygiene



Writing and Scribes
The Egyptians created hieroglyphic writing.
Only 1% of the population were **scribes** and could write. **Hieroglyphics** was their way of writing.
Scribes would keep records of state wealth, grain stores, and labour forces and assess record, and collect taxes.
Scribes enjoyed high social respect and **exemption** from manual labour.

EQ4 – How did the Romans invade and take control of Britain?
EQ5 – What was the legacy of the Romans in Britain?

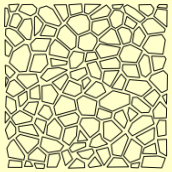
History



Julius Caesar's Early attempts
First try (55 BC): Julius Caesar sailed with 10,000 soldiers to Kent, but fierce fighting and bad weather forced him back.
Second try (54 BC): He returned with a larger force of 30,000 troops and defeated some tribes but did not conquer the island. Britain only agreed to pay tribute (taxes/money) to Rome



The successful invasion of Emperor Claudius
The Army: Emperor Claudius sent about 40,000 to 50,000 men.
The Landing: The army landed on the coast of Kent and fought their way across southern Britain using superior training and discipline
Taking Control: The Romans used a multi-pronged attack to push northwest into Wales and north toward York. They built strong **forts** and new towns like *Londinium*.



The Romans built over 10,000 miles of straight, **paved roads** to help soldiers and traders move quickly.
Many modern UK cities, such as London (Londinium) and places ending in "-chester" or "-cester" started as Roman settlements.

They built public amenities like Baths.
They brought new systems of reading, counting, and the **Latin** language.

EQ6- Why did the Anglo Saxons come to Britain?

History



The Anglo-Saxons came to Britain in AD410

Main reasons for coming to Britain:
An Invitation to Fight:
Native British leaders asked Germanic **tribes** to help protect them from northern attackers like the Picts and Scots



Good Land to Farm**:**
Their home areas in modern-day Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands often flooded, making food hard to grow. Britain had rich, empty farmland

Power and New Lives:
Whole families crossed the North Sea in ships to take over local power, build new villages, and settle permanently



Kingdoms:
The Anglo-Saxons established powerful kingdoms such as Wessex, Mercia, and Northumbria, which laid the foundations of the English state.
Transformation:
Their Germanic dialects evolved into Old English, permanently shaping the language and culture of the island.
The **Norman conquest** of 1066 marked the end of Anglo-Saxon rule.

nomadic	moving from place to place instead of staying in one permanent home
innovations	coming up with a new idea, a better way of doing something, or improving an old item to make life easier
pharaohs	The king or supreme ruler of ancient Egypt.
Earthen walls	Walls made out of dirt, clay, sand, and straw packed tightly together instead of using modern concrete or manufactured bricks
surveying	the special job of measuring distances, angles, and shapes on the Earth to make accurate maps and figure out where things should be built
geometry	The part of math that studies shapes, sizes, and the space around us
papyrus	A tall water plant that grows near the Nile River in Egypt, and it is also the name of the early kind of paper made from that plant
Solar calendar	A way of tracking time based on the Earth's trip all the way around the sun
Scribes	A person who writes things down by hand
Hieroglyphics	A very old system of writing from Ancient Egypt that uses pictures instead of normal letters
Exemption	you have special permission not to do or pay something that other people have to do or pay
Forts	A strong, safe building or area made to protect soldiers during a battle
Paved roads	Paved roads in Roman times were super-strong highways built in flat layers of stone, gravel, and cement so Roman soldiers and traders could travel quickly in any weather
Native	Belonging naturally to a place where you were born or where something first started.