St Francis CEP School History		
Unit: The Ancient Civilisations – an overview	Year group: Year 4	

What should I already know?

- Vocabulary related to chronology.
- Civilisations Stone Age

Historical skills and enquiry

- Find out when various civilisations existed in relation to one another how did they overlap, which lasted the longest?
- What were their achievements and how has that shaped the modern day world?



What will I find out by the end of the unit?		
The Ancient Civilisations:		
Ancient Sumer 5000BC to 2000BC modern		
day Iraq.		
Indus Valley 3200BC to 1500BC modern		
day Pakistan and India.		
Ancient Egypt 3100BC to 200BC modern		
day Egypt.		
Shang Dynasty 1600BC to 1032BC modern		
day China.		
Ancient Greece 800BC to 30BC.		
Ancient Rome 500BC to 200AD modern day		
Italy.		
Achievements		
Ancient Egypt – irrigation, writing, pyramids,		
mummification.		
Ancient Sumer – irrigation, writing,		
ziggurats, the wheel.		
The Indus Valley – grid pattern of streets in		
cities, drains, sewerage.		
The Shang Dynasty – silk and jade trade,		
writing and warfare.		

Vocabulary	
ancient civilisation	the first settled and stable communities that became the basis for later states, nations, and empires.
citizens	people who belong to a place
civilisation	society, culture and way of life in a particular area. Refers to a society that has reached a high level of social development.
ancient	belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.
mummification	preserving a body after death.
hieroglyphics	a system of writing that uses pictures instead of words, especially as used in ancient Egypt.
irrigation	the supply of water to land or crops.
shaduf	a device used for raising water for irrigation.
The Silk Road	a network of trade routes connecting the civilisations and empires of the East and West.





