

History Home Learning Pack:

Ancient Civilisations



FACT FILE

Stone Age hunter

Stone Age hunters like this one lived towards the end of the Stone Age. They used animal skins to keep warm and to build shelters. They were skilled at making stone tools, rope and, fire. They were strong and capable, and true adventurers!

» **Species:** *Homo Sapiens*

» **Time period:** Late Stone Age

» **Where did they live:** Every continent apart from Antarctica



Animal-skin shelter

When following herds of animals, people needed shelters that were quick and light to put up, like this one made from deer skin.

Stone Age human wears a tunic made from animal skin for protection from the cold.



Cordage

Cordage was rope made from plant or animal fibres. It was used for everything, including carrying firewood, making baskets, and building shelters.



Fire-making kit

Making fire was an essential skill. One way was to use a bow and a stick (drill) to create fire by friction. This was called the bow-drill method.



Stone tools

Stone tools helped people to cut down branches, hunt, and prepare food. Making stone tools was one of the first skills humans mastered, and was essential for their survival.



Bull roarer

This was a piece of wood or bone attached to rope that made a loud noise when spun around. It was a way of checking to see if other people were nearby.



Today's human wears a waterproof jacket for protection from wind and rain

Tent

Nylon tents used by campers today are lighter than Stone Age shelters. Instead of branches for the frame, they have thin aluminium poles that can be reused.



Rope

Campers use lightweight but strong nylon rope. It is similar to cordage, but even stronger.



Matches

Modern-day adventurers use matches, lighters, and fire starters to make fire out in the wilderness.



Knife

A multi-tool or Swiss Army knife can do many of the same things a stone tool can do, like cut, shave, pierce, or saw materials.



Mobile phone

Where would we be without our mobile phones? Today, people use their phones to communicate instantly with each other from afar.



FACT FILE

Modern day adventurer

Modern humans do not need to hunt animals for food and skins to survive. They can go to a shop to buy the food and equipment they need. The tools they use have been designed and made by specialists. Are they real adventurers?

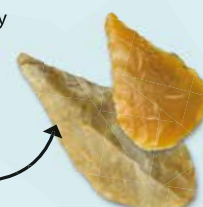
» **Species:** *Homo Sapiens*

» **Time period:** Present day

» **Where do they live:** Every continent including Antarctica

Otzi the Iceman

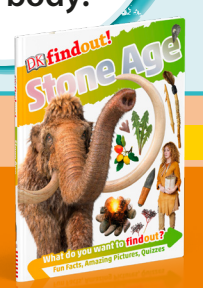
The fully dressed body of Stone Age adventurer Otzi the Iceman was found in a glacier in the Austrian Alps. He was wearing a bearskin hat and had a waterproof cloak made of grass. Studies on his body showed that Otzi had been murdered by being struck with an arrow and then being hit on the head.



Stone Age arrowheads

! WOW!

Tattooing goes back to the Stone Age! Otzi had over 60 tattoos on his body!



Meet a Stone Age human

Stone Age people had the same basic needs that people do today. We all need food, clothing, shelter, and companionship. But Stone Age people had to go out and hunt for their own food. They made their own clothes and shelters. In some ways, they were more skilful than we are today! Let's compare a Stone Age hunter with a modern adventurer ...



Using the information on this page, write about how a caveman's camping trip would be different to yours!

Suitable for 7-9 years

Content from: *DKfindout! Stone Age*
Available now Discover more at: www.dkfindout.com/uk

The Ancient Egyptians

The Ancient Egyptians were people who lived in the lands around the River Nile thousands of years ago, in what is now modern-day Egypt. They loved their country, which they thought was the most advanced place in the world!

FACT FILE

The main part of Ancient Egyptian history is divided into time spans called periods and kingdoms. During most of these spans, there were dynasties – family groups of kings who ruled the country.

» **Prehistoric Period:** 7000–5500BCE

» **Predynastic Period:** 5500–3100BCE

» **Early Dynastic Period:** 3100–2650BCE

» **Old Kingdom:** 2650–2175BCE

» **First Intermediate Period:** 2175–1975BCE

» **Middle Kingdom:** 1975–1755BCE

» **Second Intermediate Period:** 1755–1540BCE

» **New Kingdom:** 1540–1075BCE

» **Third Intermediate Period:** 1075–715BCE

» **Late Period:** 715–332BCE

» **Greco-Roman Period:** 332BCE–395CE

Why was the Nile so important?

The Nile's waters made life in the desert possible, creating a strip of green land where crops could grow along its banks. It also gave the Egyptians an easy way to travel the length of their country!

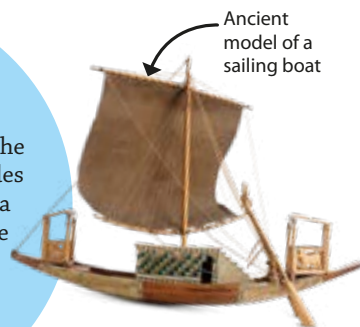


Who was in charge?

In peaceful times, one Egyptian king or queen, called a pharaoh, ruled all of Egypt. However, there were unsettled times, and often the ruling pharaoh was from a foreign land that had conquered Egypt, especially towards the end of Ancient Egyptian history.

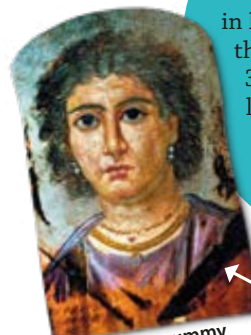
Where did they live?

The Egyptians lived where the land was sheltered on all sides – by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, deserts to the east and west, and rocky sections of the Nile, called cataracts, to the south.



How long were they around?

The first traces of people living in Egypt are from 7000BCE, but the first pharaohs ruled from 3100BCE. Their civilization lasted for 3,000 years until Egypt became part of the Roman Empire.



Under Roman rule, paintings of mummified people were done in a Roman style.

What did the Egyptians call Egypt?

The Ancient Egyptians called their country Kemet, meaning "Black land", after the black mud from the Nile that turned the desert into farmland. They called the surrounding desert Deshret, meaning "Red land".



The god Osiris was a symbol of the life-giving black mud of the Nile.



How big was the Egyptian Empire?

When it was at its biggest, the Egyptian Empire stretched from ancient Syria in the north down to Nubia in the south. This was under King Thutmosis III in the New Kingdom.

A soldier's sword with an iron blade



Answer this question: Who was a pharaoh in Ancient Egypt and what was his role in society?

Suitable for 7–9 years

Content from: *DKfindout! Ancient Egypt*
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Coin showing Julius Caesar (45–44 BCE), ruler of Rome before the emperors

Empire and conquests

The Romans conquered most of western Europe and large parts of western Asia and North Africa. They introduced their own culture, such as coins and style of clothing, to most of these places.

Ancient Rome

By the 1st century BCE, the Romans had built one of the world's largest empires. Their talent for organization and the power of their army kept the empire together. The Roman Empire was ruled by an emperor from 27 BCE onwards.

This group are using the *testudo* (Latin for "tortoise") formation, to move forwards safely in a "shell" during battle.



This flag shows the name of the legion (army group) these troops belonged to.

Shields overlap to protect men from enemies' weapons.



Statue of Augustus (27 BCE–14 CE), the first Roman emperor

Emperors

Roman emperors used their power in different ways. Trajan conquered new lands while Hadrian, who came after him, spent more time defending the empire's borders.

Army

The Roman army was huge, well organized, and well trained. The men were generously paid. They fought battles, but also guarded the empire's borders and worked on big projects, such as building roads.

Gladiators

The emperors kept people entertained with shows featuring fights between gladiators. Gladiators were usually slaves or criminals who were trained to fight to the death. They were sometimes freed if they survived.



Gladiators fought in large arenas, such as the Colosseum in Rome.



Did you know?

Some free men who liked to fight chose to become gladiators.

A round shield protects the gladiator's upper body.

Padding covers the gladiator's legs.

Master builders

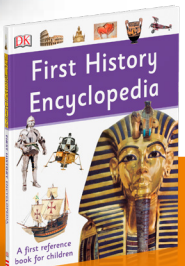
The Romans built temples, aqueducts (bridges or tunnels that carry water), and other structures all over their empire. These buildings were strong and well made.



Using the information on the page, draw an Ancient Roman Gladiator in action!

Suitable for 7–9 years

Content from: *First History Encyclopedia*
Available now



Facts and figures

There is so much to learn about the Maya, Incas, and Aztecs. We've gathered together as many fascinating facts as we could fit onto these pages.



The Maya didn't have sugar. They ate honey as a sweet treat.

The Maya pyramid the **Temple of the Jaguar**, at Tikal, rises **47 m (212 ft) high**.

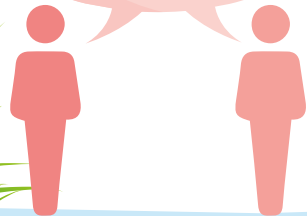
This is equivalent to around **10 giraffes** stacked on top of each other.

Aztec children

may have been pricked with **maguery cactus spines** as a punishment.



8 MILLION PEOPLE SPEAK A VERSION OF THE INCA LANGUAGE, **QUECHUA**, TODAY.



The word **jerky** comes from the Inca word **ch'arki**, for dried llama meat.



THE MAYA KEPT A LOOK OUT FOR **VENUS** AND MAY EVEN HAVE STARTED WARS WHEN THEY SAW IT IN THE MORNING SKY.



24,000

The Incas built roads stretching around 24,000 km (15,000 miles) across their vast empire.



6 MILLION

There are around 6 million Maya people alive today.

Maya children



90%

Up to 90 per cent of the Aztecs and the Maya died when the Spanish came, mostly from European diseases.



700

It is said that 700 sheets of gold were used for the walls of the Inca Golden Temple in Cusco, Peru.



650

In 2017, archaeologists digging beneath Mexico City found 650 skulls of human sacrifice victims.



Answer these questions: 1) How many Mayan people are alive today?
2) The Incas built 24,000km of what? 3) How were Aztec children punished?

Suitable for 7-9 years

Content from: *DKfindout! Maya, Incas, and Aztecs*
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Answers: 1) 6 million 2) Roads 3) Pricked with maguery cactus spines.

