



MAJOR ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS



No.	Civilization	Approx. Beginning	How Long Ago? (From 2026)	Location Today	Key Features (In Brief)
1.	 Mesopotamian Civilization	c. 3500 BCE	5,500 years ago	 Mainly Iraq; parts of Syria & Turkey	Cities like Ur, Uruk; Writing (Cuneiform); Farming; Laws
2.	 Ancient Egyptian Civilization	c. 3100 BCE	5,100 years ago	 Egypt, along the Nile River	Pyramids; Pharaohs; Hieroglyphic writing; Irrigation; Religion
3.	 Indus Valley / Harappan Civilization	c. 2600 BCE	4,600 years ago	 India & Pakistan 	Planned cities (Harappa, Mohenjo-daro); Drainage system; Seals; Trade
4.	 Minoan Civilization	c. 3000 BCE	5,000 years ago	 Crete, Greece	Palaces; Trade by sea; Beautiful art; Writing (Linear A)
5.	 Chinese Civilization	c. 2000 BCE	4,000 years ago	 China, especially Yellow River region	Early kingdoms; Writing; Bronze work; Farming
6.	 Maya Civilization	c. 2000 BCE	4,000 years ago	 Mexico, Guatemala, Belize & parts of Central America	Pyramid temples; Calendar; Writing; Astronomy
7.	 Olmec Civilization	c. 1500 BCE	3,500 years ago	 Southern Mexico	Colossal stone heads; Early farming; Trade
8.	 Ancient Greek Civilization	c. 800 BCE	2,800 years ago	 Greece and Aegean region	Democracy (in Athens); Philosophy; Olympics; Art & Architecture
9.	 Roman Civilization	c. 753 BCE	2,780 years ago	 Italy; later much of Europe & Mediterranean	Republic; Law; Roads; Engineering; Coliseum
10.	 Persian Civilization	c. 550 BCE	2,575 years ago	 Iran and surrounding regions	Great Empire; Royal Road; Tolerant rule; Art
11.	 Aztec Civilization	c. 1300 CE	725 years ago	 Central Mexico	Tenochtitlan city; Farming; Calendar; Warriors
12.	 Inca Civilization	c. 1438 CE	590 years ago	 Peru and parts of the Andes	Roads; Terraces; Strong Administration

WHERE DID THESE CIVILIZATIONS FLOURISH?



Note:

The dates are approximate because civilizations developed gradually over a long period of time.

- Asia
- Africa
- Europe
- Central & South America