

# The Ancient World



By Ella Rose Cleary



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# Contents

The Daintree

Ancient Egypt

The First writing

The Jewish People

Hammurabi's Code

The First Cities of India

The Yellow River of China

Ancient China

The Zhou Dynasty

Ancient Africa

Ancient Greece

The Roman Empire

Who was Julia Caesar

Queen Cleopatra

Buddha

Ancient America

# Forward

by Leah Jade (Mum)

What drew our daughter (and us along with her) in like a moth to a flame ~ to indigenous ancient studies was the roots it has in nature.

The oldest people lived in harmony with the Earth and treated it with respect as part of creation and spirituality. They saw the spirit in all things.

As lovers of nature and earth (because of the sense that it makes ~ to be part of something so harmonious and healthy)... the attraction to exploring “the first people” was born.

It was in discovering that bush medicine, and all natural medicine ~ has been used since the beginning of time, that made us see the great wisdom that the ancient world offers us.

And so, while native Australians have left hardly a trace, in their nomadic tribal ways, we began our indigenous ancient Australian exploration in the first school years.



*First day of Homeschool (2020) spent at our local Wetlands*

We set off on one of our roadschooling journeys and sought out a Native Dreamtime Walk through a world heritage site with an indigenous elder at Mossman Gorge of the Daintree rainforest.

We learned about the sarsaparilla plant and its medicinal uses, the giant jungle stinging nettle and how to identify that and some of the other native poisonous plants and their dangers.

We discovered the ancient ways of our native peoples, and how they found their way on their hunting travels and dreamtime walks back to their tribes.

We learnt about their medicine and resourcefulness... and as lovers of nature, were very much inspired by it.

From there, we sought our next outdoor adventure with a four hour guided educational, hiking tour of the Daintree. It was mind blowing.

We were told about all the wonders of the most ancient rainforest of the world, and it's sacred sites. It was really something! The wisdom of the ancients blew our minds!



*Our eldest was in awe while on the hiking tour.*

From the python feasts at birth times to the custodians and their management of the land and animals, such as the reptile population and the balance of the food chain... we learnt so much.

It was here we learnt more about the forced removal of indigenous peoples in January 1890, from their home and land, and how devastating it was for not just them, but the sacred world heritage land itself, now overrun by the introduced and feral species of the wild boar.

We learned of its devastating destruction of our Daintree, the most ancient rainforest in our world! Much of what we learnt, only propelled us to seek further knowledge about the wisdom of the ancients.

So while our native Australians had no writing, they make up for it in the example of harmonious living with the land and each other.

While they never built permanent homes or buildings, they never employed slavery, unlike all great, ancient architecture only made possible with great suffering and slavery... our indigenous had the greatest respect for creation ~ and that included people and each other!

Our daughter's (and now family's) interest and love of ancient wisdom has only deepened with this exploration.

We have immersed ourselves in a homeschooling journey of digging for more ~ reading all about other ancient civilisations that left written records from the Sumerians and Egyptians to the Chinese and Indians.

While our ancient Australians only left story records through art, dance and song... It was by no means void of rich culture!

We endeavour now to dive deeper and find out more through their elders and the traces left behind by our world's most ancient peoples – Indigenous Australians!

More than that, our journey has just begun as we are of Celtic descent, and that itself is an area of ancient study, all on its own, that we've begun to explore.

It started with our family ancestry and has taken on a life of its own now.

Only yesterday, while visiting my Nana, we were given a book about my grandfather who was a great inspiration to me, growing up through the great depression in an orphanage! We are as excited as archaeologists to keep digging!

Stay tuned as we dive deep, and I am sure we'll share what treasures we find!

# Introduction

This book is called The Ancient World. It's about ancient history. It's a collection of stories about the most ancient civilisations in the world.

This book is about how the ancient people lived. From ancient Egypt and the first writing to the Jewish people and the first laws, this book is about the beginning of our time!

It is about where we come from, and how our story began. From ancient cities, in far away places to the earliest farmers, through archaeology we learn how different our world is today.

With my Mother's help, I learned how to spell many new words through writing this book. We followed the curriculum of the Story of the World book series, and kept a journal of each chapter we read.

A lot of the writing came from the recording of my narration of what we just read about. Some of it was written after my review of each chapter from my summary with the help of my mother interviewing me.

We learned a lot while studying the Ancient World, reading many books from the Library as we went. We also read a lot of the books recommended in the Story of the World series.

My favourite bit of the ancient world was about Ancient Egypt and the fertile crescent of the Nile River. The Nile River is the biggest river in the world! I hope you like the book!

## **Australia's Daintree Rainforest**

Below is a Scrapbook Journal entry from last year. We thought it would be great to include at the beginning of this book because we are Australian.

Afterall, we (Australia) have the most Ancient rainforest and people in the world. So even though it was not written as part of this book, we felt it just belonged here.

**26/10/2022**

On holiday, we saw five wild cassowaries in the Daintree rainforest. We drove 4000 km just to see them when we learned about them, when watching a documentary.

We had just got in the big spider web gates of the Insect (Etymological) museum!

The cassowary was crossing the road it was foraging for purple plums. The Daintree plums are toxic to all other animals, just as the Eucalyptus leaf is to all other animals but Koalas!

Without the cassowaries the Daintree rainforest wouldn't exist.

The Daintree is the most ancient (very old) rainforest in the world. It is a world heritage site! That means very special and protected.



Our first of 5 Cassowary sightings

# Ancient Egypt

In Ancient Egypt, wealthy people had servants to carry their shopping. The servants had to empty the “waste box”. A waste box was a box with a hole in it where you could go to the toilet.

In the book we just read from the Library, wealthy ancient Egyptians kept tigers and monkeys as pets. Egypt is a desert country in Africa. It has the biggest river in the world called the Nile River.

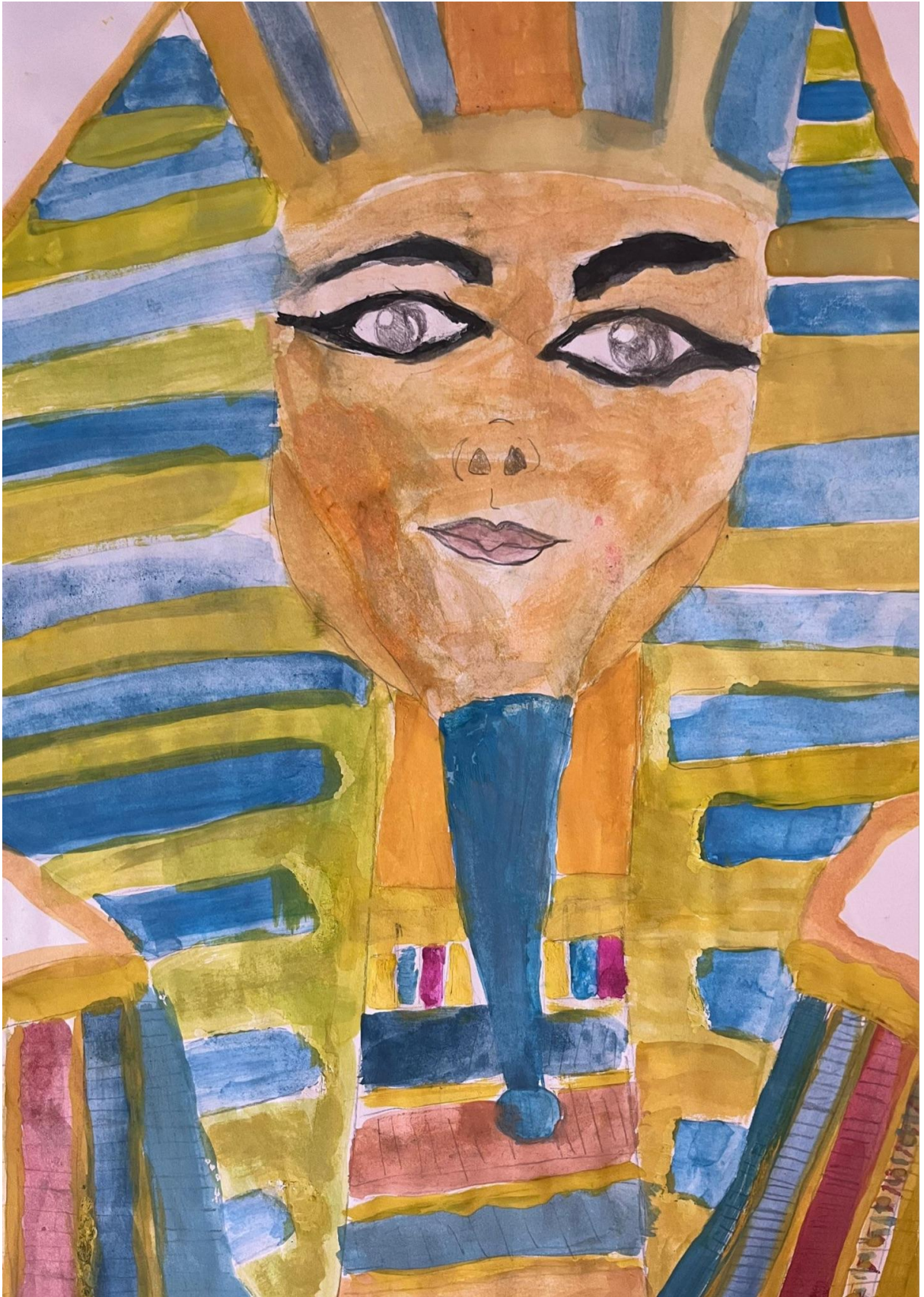
The Egyptians couldn't live without the Nile River, with no other water. Every year it flooded over and the soil turned black. When the river overflowed it meant it was good for the crops.

The Ancient Egyptians had many gods. The Gods were believed to protect the people. There were also Kings and 2 Queens called Pharaohs.

The Pharaohs were people that ruled and were made into mummies when they passed away. They were then put in a chamber inside a pyramid. A mummy is a person that has been preserved and wrapped in bandages.

They also buried treasure with their mummies for their afterlife. The Egyptians believed the afterlife was heaven.

They also believed that the Pharaoh needed jewels, games and tools in their tomb for their afterlife. The pyramids were eventually built underground to protect the Pharaohs from tomb raiders. Tomb raiders are people that rob all the jewels from the mummies.



Art: Tutankhamun

If ancient Egyptians couldn't afford school they would teach their children to be what they were. They were Hunters, Jewellers, Farmers, Carpenters and other things like that.

The ancient Egyptians also kept cats as pets, played games and did things like acrobatics and juggling. They also wore special jewels called amulets to protect them from crocodiles, hippopotamus, lions, snakes and disease.



PYRAMIDS AT GIZA



Mediterranean Sea & Map of Egypt

## THE FIRST WRITING



The Ancient Egyptians used to use hieroglyphics as words.

Hieroglyphics is the alphabet, but in a different pattern with pictures and shapes. They first wrote on stone and papyrus. Papyrus is made from reeds out of the Nile river banks. They were mushed into the paper called papyrus.

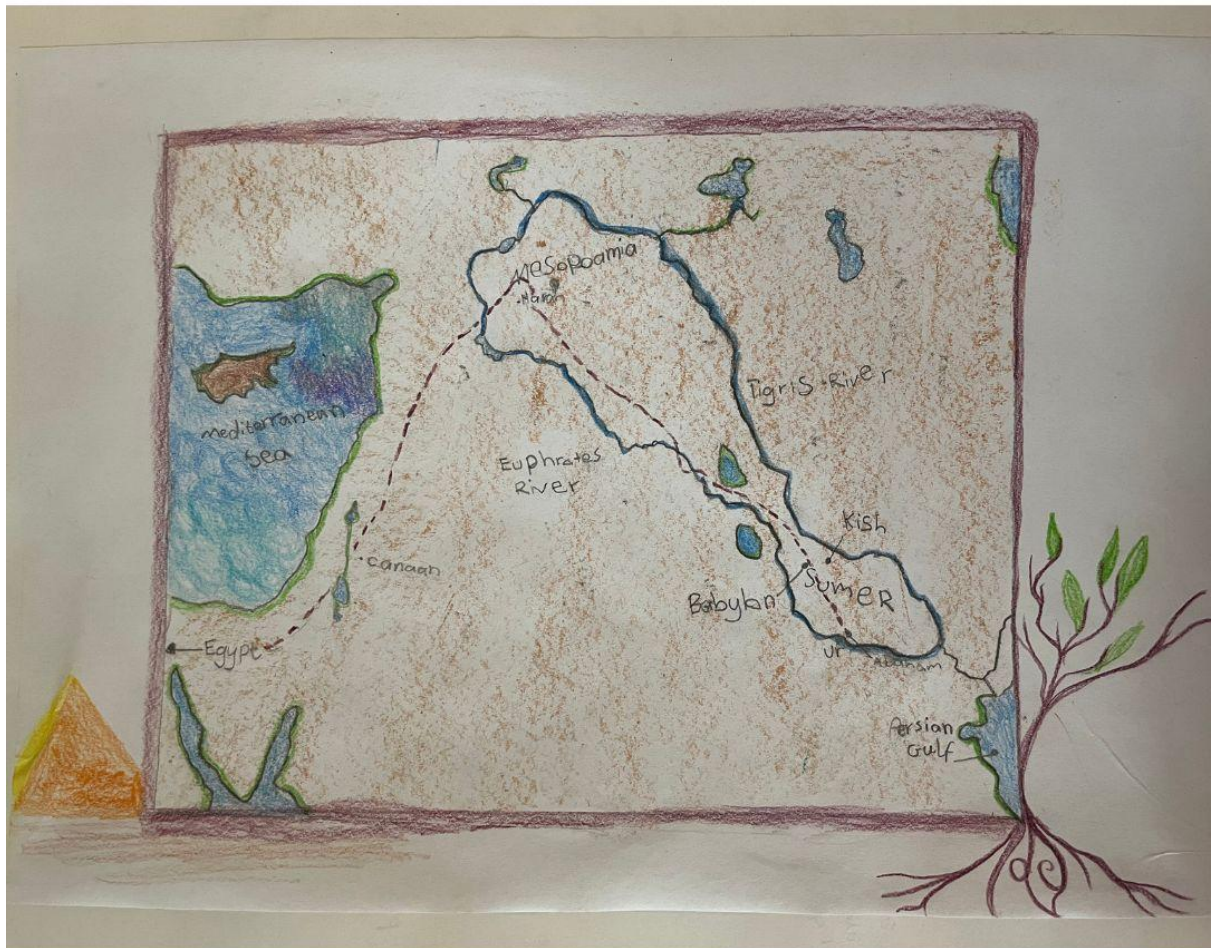
The other first type of writing was cuneiform. Cuneiform is an alphabet that is made of shapes drawn with triangles and lines. Cuneiform writing is from a place called Sumer. Sumer is a place in Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia means “between (meso) + rivers (potamus).

Mesopotamia is between two rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers and is next to Egypt. Cuneiform was written on clay tablets. The Sumerian got their clay from the rivers they lived between.

The longest lasting type of writing was written on stone. Hieroglyphics have been found in Egyptians pyramids, tombs and temples. Their writing told us about who they were, where they lived, what they did and how important they were thousands of years ago.



# The Jewish People



Art: The Journey of the Jews

Abraham is a man from the Bible. He travelled with his father Terah and wife Sarah from Ur, a city in Mesopotamia, to Haran.

Abraham was a Shepherd for his father. They moved from Ur because of the threat of war, when king Sargon died. After Abraham's father died, God spoke to him.

God told Abraham to go to Canaan. He also told Abraham that he would be the father of the nation. Abraham and Sarah laughed when God said this because they were very old.

When they had a son, they named him Isaac, because Isaac means laughter. Isaac had a son named Jacob who had 12 sons.

One of their names was Joseph. Joseph's father made him a special coat because Joseph was very very special to him. The brothers were very jealous of Joseph, so they sold him as a slave to Egyptian Traders.

They told their father, a wild beast had killed him.

Joseph then worked for the pharaohs' guards. Joseph knew the meaning of dreams. Because of this the pharaoh made Joseph second in command, after he told the Pharaoh, what his dream meant

The dream meant that there will be seven good years of food, and seven bad years of famine from the Nile river .

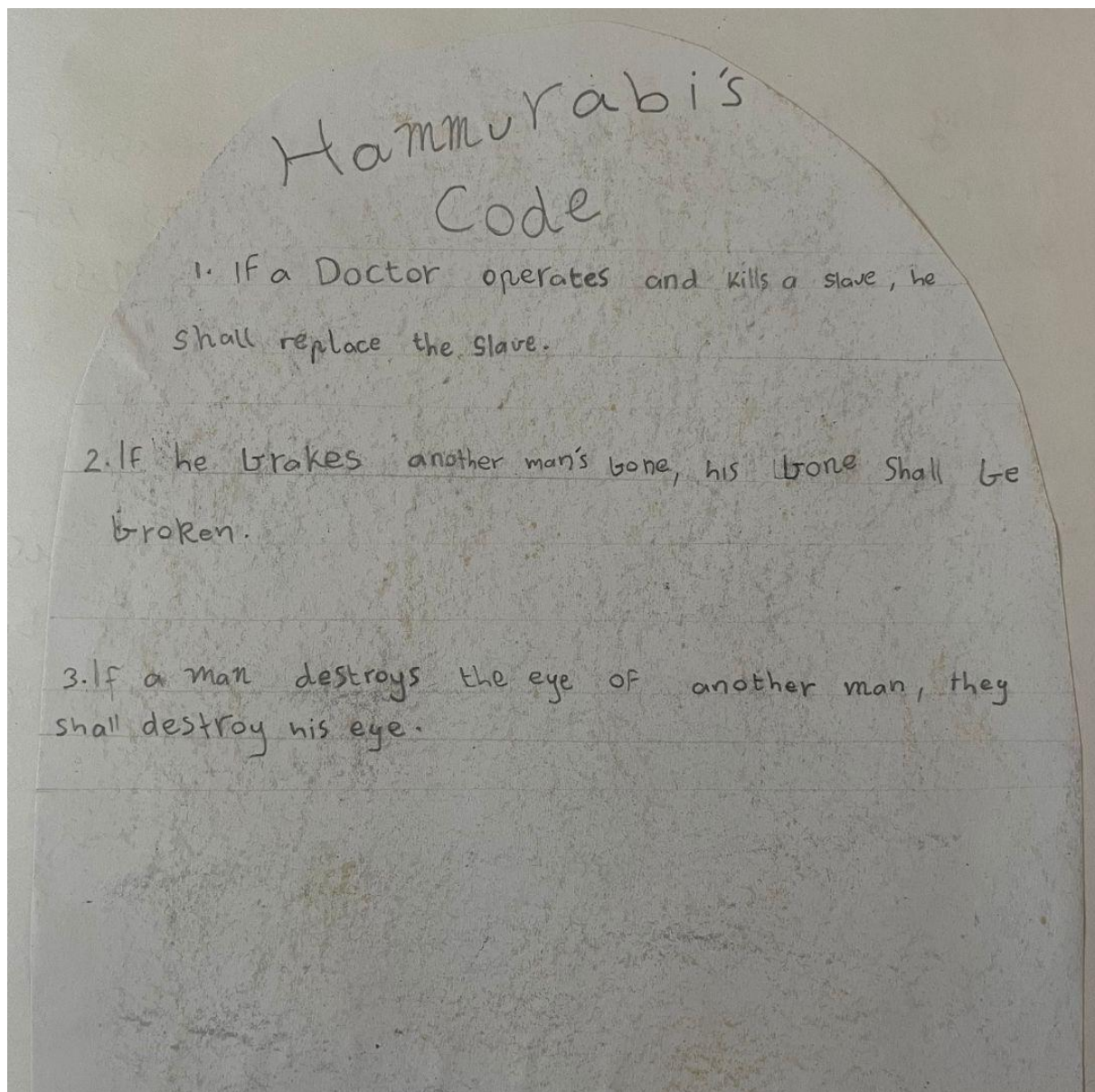
Joseph was then in charge of collecting grain and food for Egypt in the seven good years. As Egypt had food, people came there in the feminine .

That's when Joseph told his brothers who he was. After that, all of Joseph's family came to live in Egypt .

# Hammurabi's Code

Hammurabi wanted to be king, so people would be treated fairly. He ruled Babylon. He also wrote laws down on a stone monument. He called it The Code of Hammurabi.

In Babylonia, everyone had to obey these laws. One of these laws was: If a doctor does surgery on someone and they die: His hand will be chopped off.



# Code of

ella

No yelling 😡!

No Ignoring people !!!

No COMING IN BETWEEN HUGS!

Pack UP after yourself !!! 😡

Chores before play !!!

Make bed first!

Don't wake others up!!! 😡

Floss after brushing !!

Don't play with socks !!! 😡

Don't complain!!! 😡

Art: Code of Ella and Hammurabi's code

# The first cities of India

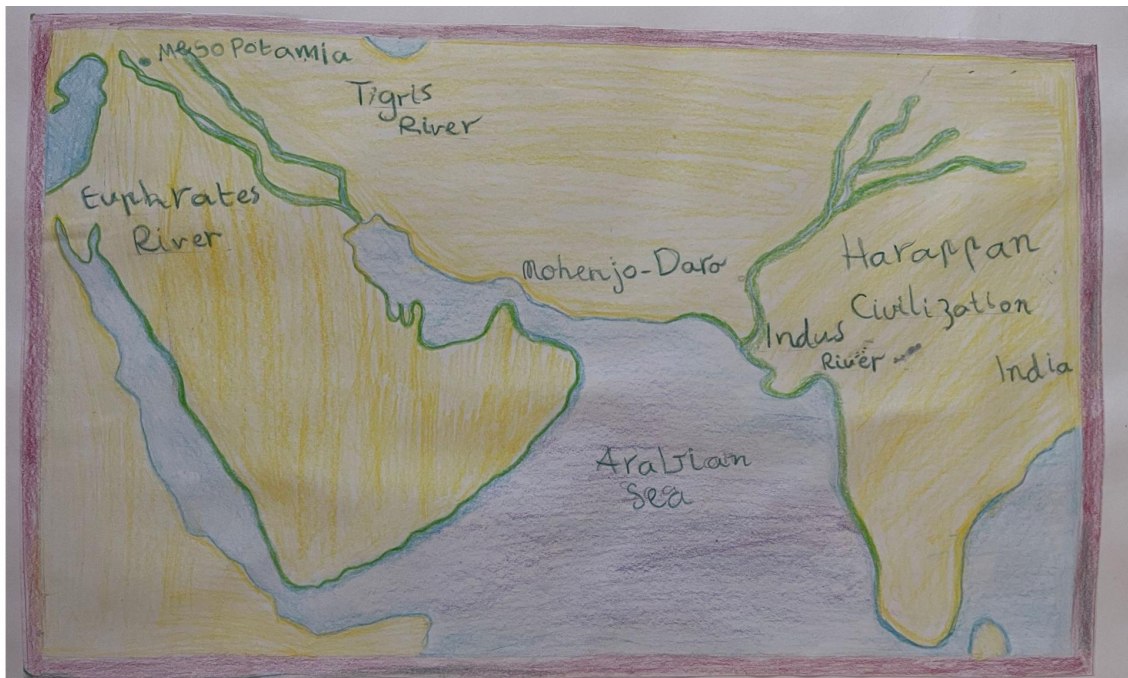
Ancient people used the river as a road, because the other ways were all covered in sand. It was hard to walk on the sand carrying heavy things.

People in ancient Mesopotamia and India, built cities near rivers, because it was easier to get to other places than driving cows and camels threw sand.

Sailing the rivers was much easier than going over the mountains for trading between India and Mesopotamia.

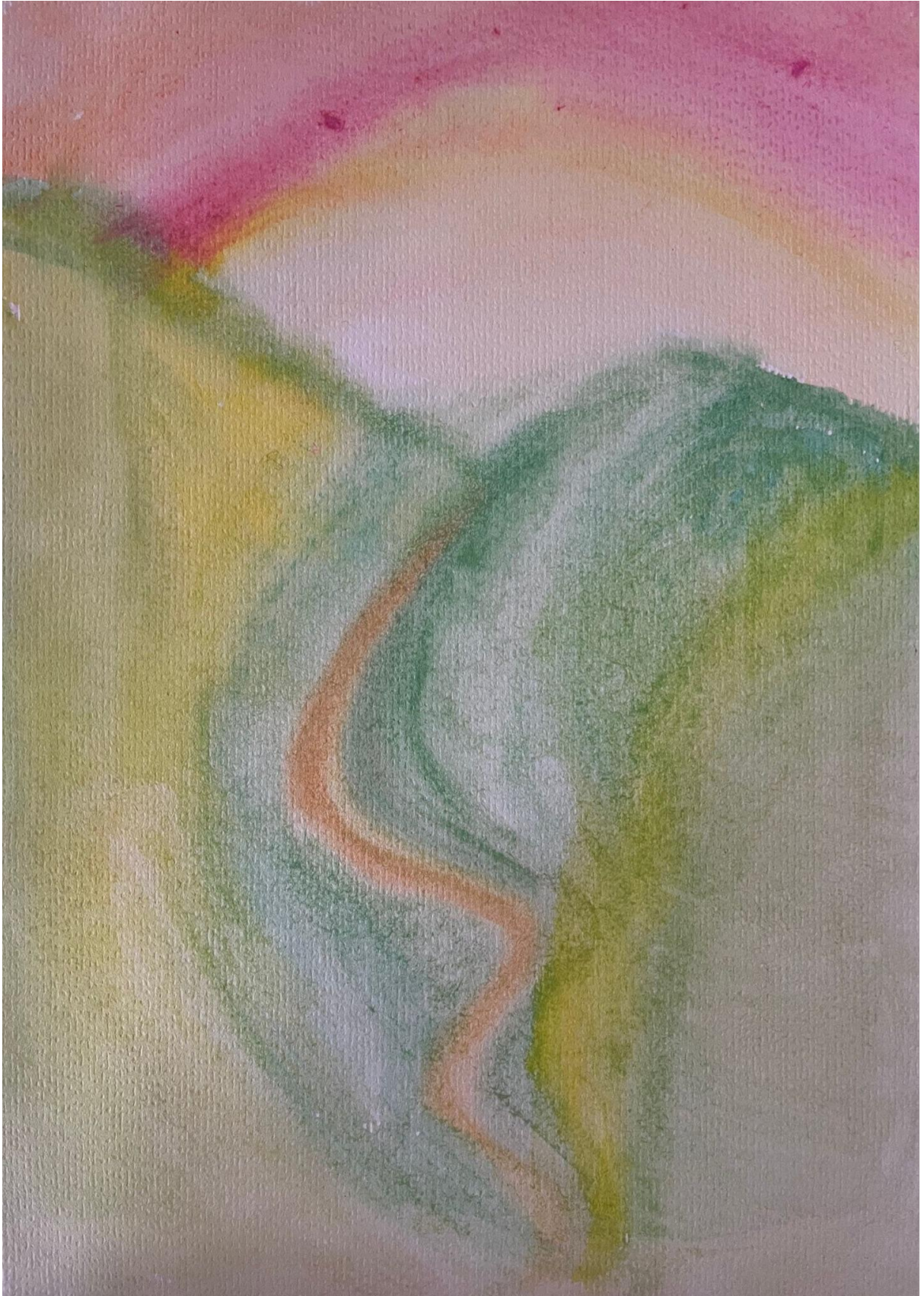
Mohenjo-Daro was one of India's first cities. It was built along the Indus River from 2000 to 1750 BC. It appears by archaeologists that the city was deserted.

No one knows why. Only a few skeletons were found in the streets, not even buried.



Art: Map of Mohenjo-Daro

# The Yellow River of China



One of the most ancient civilisations in the world was from the Yellow River Valley in China. The yellow river valley lies between the Yangtze and the Yellow rivers.

The yellow river is one of the longest in the world. It is known as the mother of Chinese civilization.

Half of all the wheat grown in China comes from the yellow river!

Ancient Chinese people lived there because of the fertile soil that made farming, food and grain like rice and wheat possible.



Art: Map of Asia with the Great Wall of China



# Ancient China

The first dynasty in ancient China was the Shang dynasty, The Shang dynasty ruled for 600 years. They ruled from 1750 to 1043.

The people of the Shang era, farmed a lot of wheat for noodles and dumplings and soy. They were the first people to grow soybeans and make soy sauce.

They designed their citizen's homes to face the south direction. Around their towns and cities, they built great big walls for protection from the uncivilised "barbarians" outside.

Their porcelain bowls and cups were made from earth clay with charcoal ashes. The Shang people also made a special metal called bronze. They used clay models to shape their bronze objects.

They also drew decorations on the clay before pouring the melted bronze metal in the clay moulds (of goblets, cauldrons, spearheads, weapons, and armour).

The Shang emperors were buried like Egyptian pharaohs. They were buried in giant tombs with treasures of bronze, Jade and silk.

# The Zhou (Joe) dynasty

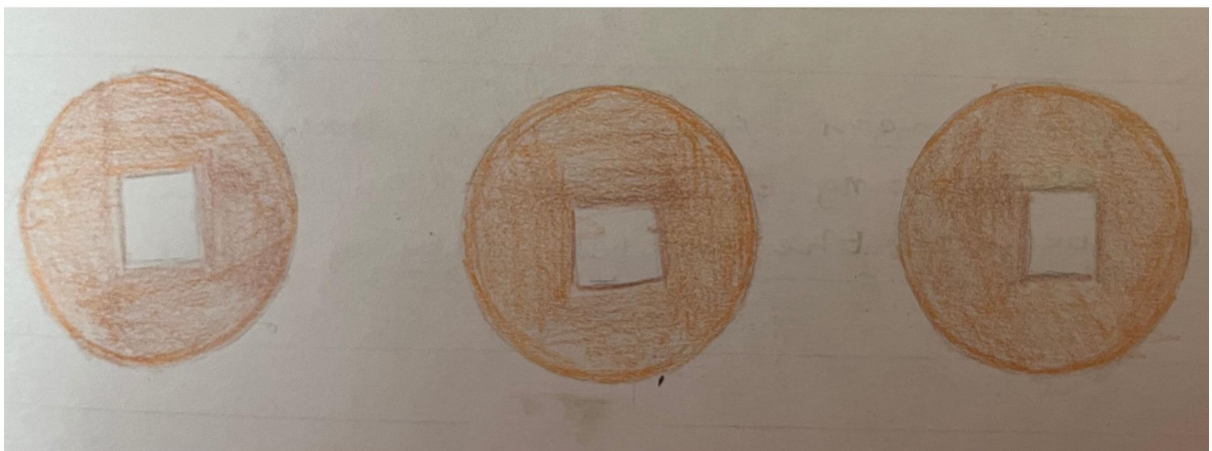
The ancient Chinese from the Zhou dynasty, 1064 to 256 BC wrote the first books that were made from bamboo and strung together.

Chinese wrote, and still write from right to left down the page. The Zhou dynasty was one of the first, along with Egyptians, to make things with the metal iron. Many of the building materials we still use today are made with steel that comes from iron!

The ancient Chinese classical books tell us that songs, poetry, fortune-telling, ancestors, and government, were some of the most important things in their culture.

They invented the compass, and the method of fortune-telling called divination.

Confucius is a famous master from the time of the Zhou dynasty. He was a government advisor. Many schools now teach his philosophies. He was born in 551 BC.





# Ancient Africa



The Nile river is in the continent of Africa. A continent is a large piece of land with many countries on it. Aside from Australia, also known as Oceania, which includes its surrounding islands.

Australia is both a continent and a country, which makes it unique. Unique is another word for different.

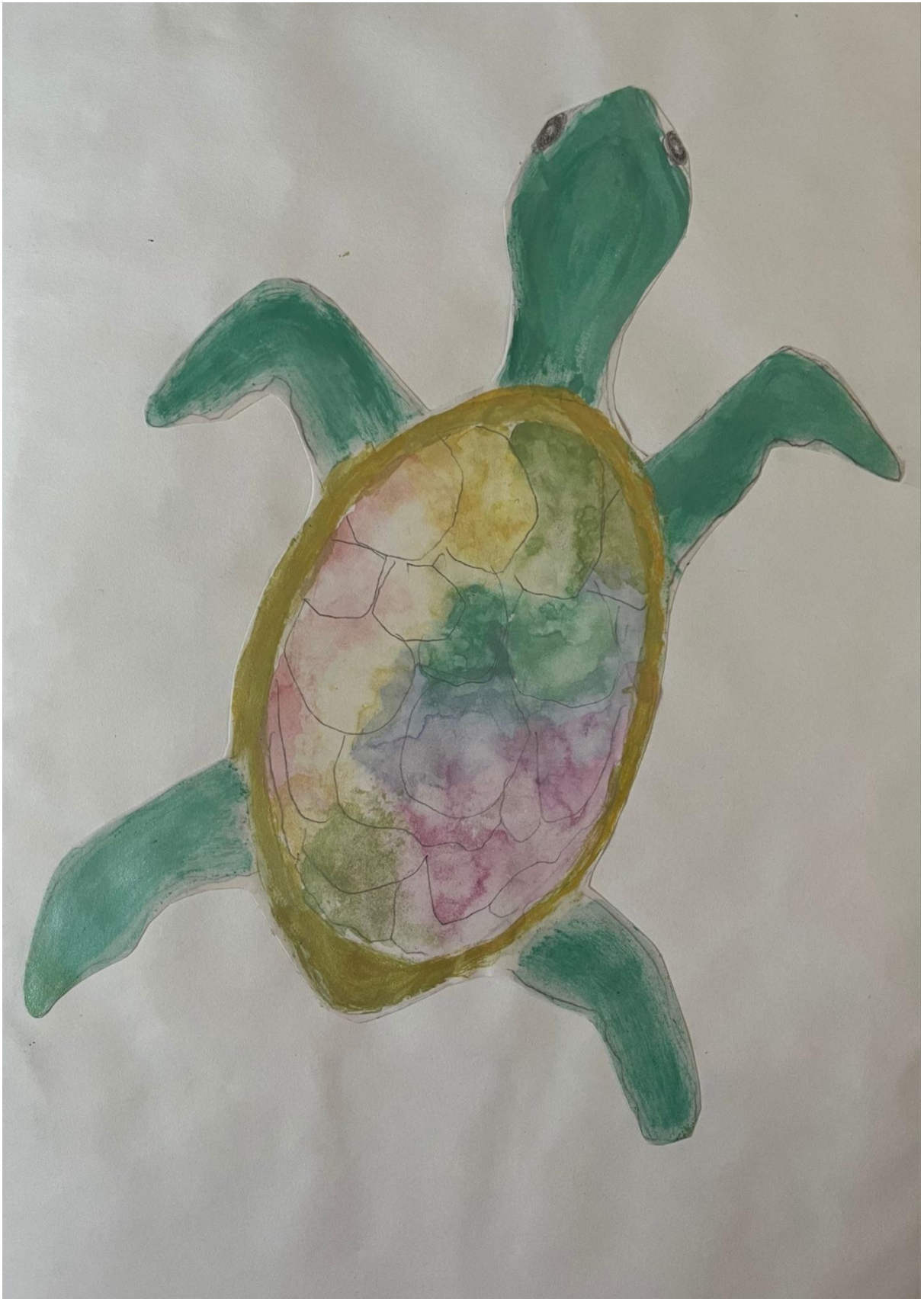
By digging up seeds, foods and flowers, as well as bones, archaeologists found that the Sahara desert of West Africa was not always a hot sandy desert.

The things that archaeologists found there in West Africa showed that it once had grass, trees, water, animals and people.



Art: Map of continents

# African fable



Anansi, the spider, wanted food, so he cooked some yams, but his turtle friend came and asked for him to share some of his food and Anansi said yes in a grumpy voice, I would be happy to have you over for dinner.

But when the turtle was just about to grab hold of some of the yams and Nancy said "no turtle you don't want to eat with those dirty flippers of yours go wash in the river it's half a mile away."

So that's what the turtle did, but when he came back nearly half the yams were gone then Anansi said "I had to start eating you took so long!"

So then, when the turtle got out his hand and tried to eat just before, Anansi said "No go and wash your hands. Why did you not listen?" Turtle had just gotten dirty on the way back from the river half a mile away.

When the turtle got back, all the yams were gone. Afterwards, the turtle said, "When you visit me, I'll share my food."

When Anansi visited, the turtle said " the feast is down in the river" as he dived down. Anansi tried following but floated back up. Then he put rocks in his pockets... turtle then said " it's rude to wear a coat at the table!"

So Anansi took off his coat then he floated back up while he was up there. He could see Turtle eating all the yummy food, polishing off the last crumbs of the delicious platter.

# Ancient Greece

The English alphabet got its name from the Greek letters, alpha and beta. Some of our other letters come from the Greek alphabet, the letters that we use in English from Greek A, B, E, K, R and T.

This alphabet was adapted from definitions whose simple alphabet is where some of our other letters come from. They are H K L M N and Q.

Before this, between the years 1100 and 700 BC in Greece, called the dark ages, as so little is known about them, instead of being buried when they died, they were burnt and they lived simply.

The Greeks were the first people to make coin money of a standard weight and quality of metal, which helped their Traders grow prosperous.

The Persian king, Darius the first, invaded Greece, but was defeated at Marathon. The news was carried over 40 km to Athens by a runner. Our Olympic “marathon” race is named after this. The Olympics were first held at Mount Olympus in Olympia, Greece.

The Athenians discovered a rich “vein” of silver in their mines. This helped them then fund their battles with the Persians, attempting to invade and conquer them. Athens became the greatest city of Greece.



# The Roman Empire

West of Greece is a little boot shaped country called Italy that juts out into the Mediterranean Sea. That is where the Roman Empire began.

The Roman Empire was even bigger than the Empire of Alexander the Great at its height, lasting over hundreds and hundreds of years.

The people overthrew the 7th King of Rome, becoming a republic. The Roman people traded with the Greek people. They learnt about politics and religion from them. Roman architecture is known as some of the biggest and best in all of history.

Romans were the first people to make and use concrete, build an archway, make paved roads, build apartments and public bathhouses.

Rome had many slaves from the cities and empires they conquered. They also had a sport where strongmen fought each other in the Colosseum.

The first Roman emperor was Caesar, Augustus, before that, Rome was a republic, where rich men could vote. Caesar Augustus was the nephew and adopted son of Julius Caesar.

The months July and August are named after these two powerful Roman politicians!

Rome was named after King Romulus. He was the first of seven Kings before the revolution around 500 BC, when Rome became a republic.



Art: The Colosseum

# Who was Julius Caesar?

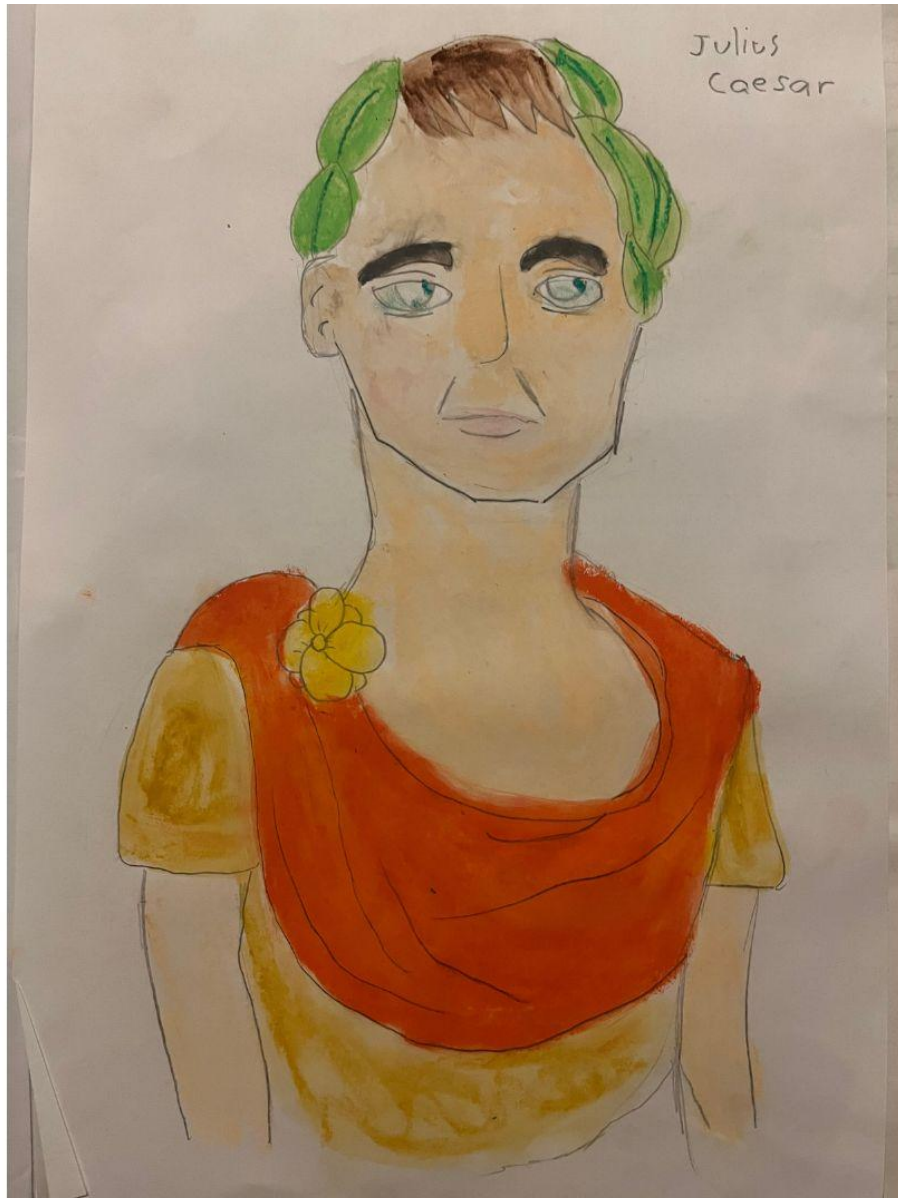
This morning, I finished reading “Who was Julius Caesar?”

Julius Caesar was born on July 13 in 100 BC.

July is named after Julius and August was named after his nephew and adopted son Caesar Augustus Caesar. Augustus was the first Roman emperor, after Julius Caesar ending the Republic of Rome.

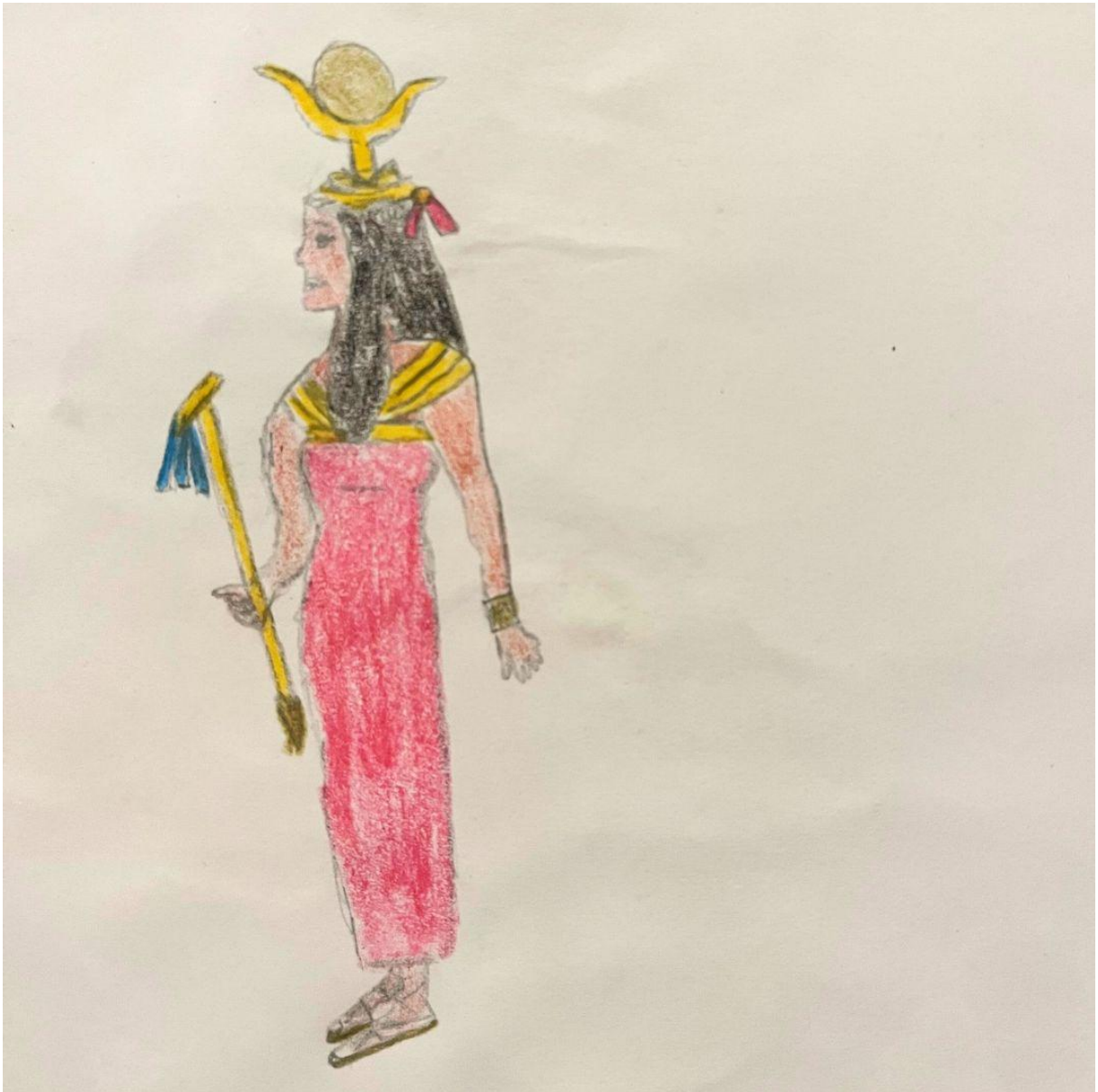
A republic, when people are free to vote for Alida and on laws, says I had a son named Caesarean meaning Little Caesar.

He was born by Caesarean, and that is where the surgery got its name from a Caesarean is when a doctor cuts the stomach muscles to get the baby out of the mothers womb.



Art: Julius Caesar

# Queen Cleopatra



The Queen of Ancient Egypt

# Cleopatra

Queen Cleopatra was born in 70 BC in Alexandria, Egypt. BC means before Christ was born. Cleopatra was a descendent of Alexandra the Great. Alexandra was a great warrior from Macedonia.

Cleopatra was the last Pharaoh that ever ruled Egypt.

Cleopatra knew nine different languages! That is a lot of languages! Her sister also took over the throne when their Dad went to Rome for help, and when he came back to Egypt, he killed Cleopatra Sister, and got the throne back!

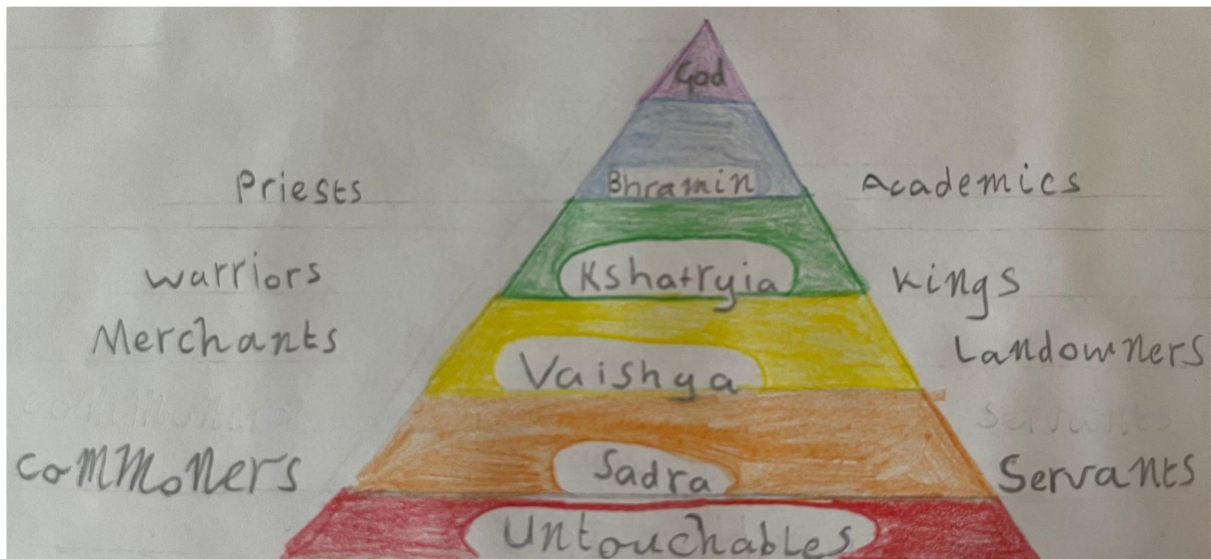
Cleopatra had a son named Caesar. People called him Caesarean.  
Caesarean means Little Caesar.

Cleopatra was the first person to have a Caesarean. Caesarean is a type of surgery when the stomach muscles are cut to get a baby out.

# Buddha, 560 BC to 480 BC

The Aryan (Indo-European) India invasion was between 1750, and 1500 BC. Ancient Indians spoke a language called Sanskrit and were of the Hindu or Vedic religion. They had a class system of different colours, which is what they called “varnas”.

Art: Class systems of India



Buddha was a prince named Gautama Siddhartha. He thought of a kinder religion, called Buddhism. Buddhism spread through Buddha's teachings and a famous book called Mahayana Tripitaka.

After King Ashoka came to power between 272 and 231 BC, he made Buddhism the state religion. Buddhism is a religion of nonviolence.

Buddhists believe the world is full of pain, but that we can avoid suffering by becoming detached, meditating, and being grateful.



# Ancient America

Ancient American civilisations, like indigenous Australians, were isolated until the Spanish conquest in 1492.

Hunters first migrated there to Alaska from Asia in the ice age, 40,000 years ago.

They were the first people to use “raised garden bed”, agriculture with crops planted on mounted earth. They had no pack animals, wheels or plough.

Their main food crops were corn, sweet potato, black beans, chilli, sunflower, and Cocoa (cacao).

Wheat and rice never existed in the Americas before the Spanish conquest.

Before the conquest of Columbia, outside of America, there was no tomato tobacco, quinine, or cocoa until the 16th century!

The Olmec people were the first Americans, the Olmecs thrived in Central America for a millennia (a million years) between the 12th to the second century, BC.

In 1952, a tomb was discovered in a pyramid. Nobody had been in there for 13 centuries! Inside was a sarcophagus (coffin) with a Mayan priest King wearing a beautiful jade mosaic mask.

Jade was more precious than Gold to the ancient Americans!



Art: Map of Americas

The native North Americans lived in what has become the United States of America USA for short.

How North Americans came to America:

The native North Americans lived in Asia before they came to America. They crossed our land bridge in the middle of America and Asia. Soon after that, the land bridge disappeared.

Why did they come to America?

They might have gone looking for food, or they could've been following herds of animals.



Art: Mounded earth art by the earliest Americans

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