

Reading

1 Read the text. When did larger civilisations start to develop?

The UAE has a rich and fascinating cultural heritage. There is evidence of civilisations dating back over 6000 years. Thanks to its **location** between Asia, Europe and Africa, there is a history of travel and commerce across the region. There is archaeological evidence of **nomadic** cultures which depended on hunting and fishing for their food. Archaeologists have found stone tools from this period, as well as shells, which help us to learn a little about the ways of life in the past.

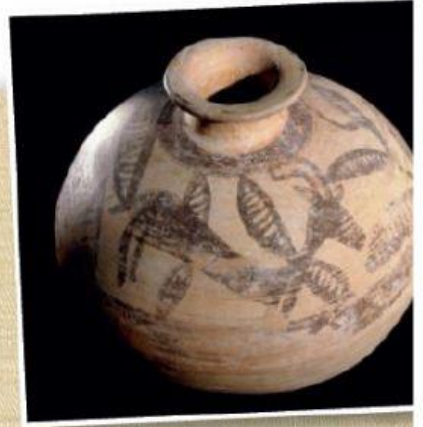
In the Bronze Age (3200–1300 BCE), larger civilisations of fishermen, **herders** and farmers developed close to the coast, and around oases. There is evidence of more advanced stone **tools** and weapons being in use at this time.

In the late 1950s, a team of Danish archaeologists discovered a large number of stone-built **tombs** and signs of an ancient civilisation on the island of Umm Al Nar, close to Abu Dhabi Island. Further investigation established that they had found traces of a society which had been there from 2700 BCE to 2000 BCE. This is now known as the Umm Al Nar civilisation. Traces of this civilisation have now been found throughout the UAE and northern Oman. There are signs that in the early days this culture produced pottery. Over time, it developed into using and exporting **copper**. There was also a lot of trade by land and sea with nearby civilisations.

Work has been done to restore some of the tombs found on the island, as shown in the adjacent photo. The photo shows an example of **pottery** found at the **site**.

From the importance of these tombs, it is clear that this was a powerful and well-established society. These are great monuments with intricate geometric designs.

There are also buildings and houses on the island dating back to the third millennium BCE. It is thought that the slightly damper environment and the existence of copper allowed the culture to grow in importance here. The site is now protected by UNESCO as having outstanding universal value.



2 Read the text again. Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 The location of the UAE means that there was a lot of travel and commerce.
- 2 The nomadic people were fishermen.
- 3 There are more advanced tools from the Bronze Age.
- 4 People always knew about the Umm Al Nar civilisation.
- 5 People in Umm Al Nar only produced pottery.
- 6 The site on Umm Al Nar is protected.

3 Read the text again. Match the words to the meanings.

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| 1 tomb | a clay which is baked to make it hard to be used for dishes, cups and jugs |
| 2 nomadic | b describing people who move around with their belongings and animals from place to place |
| 3 site | c an instrument used for making things |
| 4 location | d a place where a building or town was situated |
| 5 herder | e a person who looks after animals and moves them to where they can find food |
| 6 tool | f a large grave, often built of stone, above the ground |
| 7 copper | g the geographical position of a place |
| 8 pottery | h a soft reddish-brown metal |