

an·cient¹ W2

/ˈeɪnʃ nt/

adjective

1 OLD/NOT NEW belonging to a time long ago in history, especially thousands of years ago

OPP

the ancient civilizations of Asia

ancient Greece/Egypt/Rome

the religion of ancient Egypt

2 LONG TIME having existed for a very long time

OPP

an ancient walled city

an ancient forest

the ancient art of calligraphy

3 OLD/NOT YOUNG very old – used humorously:

That photo makes me look ancient!

4 ancient history

a)

the history of ancient societies, such as Greece or Rome:

a professor of ancient history

b) (informal)

if you say that something is ancient history, you mean that it happened a long time ago and is not important now:

It's all ancient history and I'm not upset any more.

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Old French

ancient²

noun

the ancients [plural] OLD/NOT NEW

people who lived long ago, especially the Greeks and Romans:

The ancients believed that the Sun and Moon were planets.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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