



Ancient Egypt Knowledge Organiser

What did the Ancient Egyptians achieve?

Key Vocabulary

Pharaoh: the supreme leaders of the land like kings or emperors.

Papyrus: a kind of paper from the stalks of a reed called papyrus, or paper plant.

Scribe: people in ancient Egypt (usually men) who learned to read and write.

Canopic jar: Jars used by ancient Egyptians to hold mummified remains.

Sarcophagus: a coffin/container to hold a coffin.

Tomb: a place where people would be buried when they died.

Afterlife: Egyptians believed that they would go to an underworld beneath the Earth.

Hieroglyphics: a writing system that uses pictures and symbols.

Mummification: The methods of embalming, or treating the dead body.

Pyramid: a structure with four triangular sides.

Rosetta Stone: an ancient Egyptian stone bearing inscriptions in several languages and scripts.

Tutankhamun: pharaoh in 1336 BCE, at just nine years of age. He ruled until he was 18, in 1327 BCE, when he died suddenly.

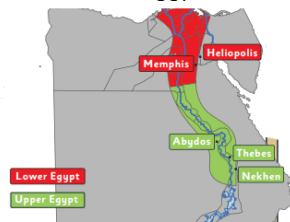
Howard Carter: a British archaeologist and Egyptologist who discovered the intact tomb of Tutankhamun.

Embalming: to try and preserve the body as long as possible. The Egyptians removed all moisture from the body, leaving only a dried form that would not easily decay.

Civilisation: a group of people with their own languages and way of life.

What is the Ancient Egyptian civilisation?

People have lived in Egypt since the beginning of the Stone Age in Britain. By 5000 BCE, they migrated near the River Nile, where they began living in large villages. These settlements grew to create an ancient civilisation which would last thousands of years! Ancient Egypt used to be split into two parts – Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt.



What are the Ancient Egyptians remembered for?

Many people associate the pyramids with the Ancient Egyptians. These still stand today! Pharaohs wanted their journey to the afterlife to be a special event, so they ordered giant pyramid structures to be built. Their bodies were placed inside these when they died. The largest pyramid ever built was the Great Pyramid of Giza.



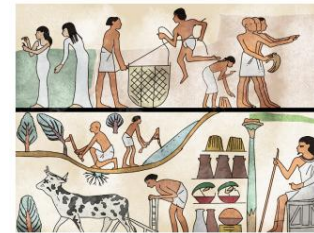
The Ancient Egyptians didn't use the same alphabet that we are used to. They had their own called 'hieroglyphics' (plural) or 'hieroglyphs' (singular).



Key Questions and Facts

How do we know about the Ancient Egyptians?

We know about the Ancient Egyptians because of evidence left behind from that era, such as wall art, ancient Egyptian writing and artefacts. These have been discovered by archaeologists and studied by experts. The Ancient Egyptians used hieroglyphics to write things down. These are symbols that represent sounds or words.



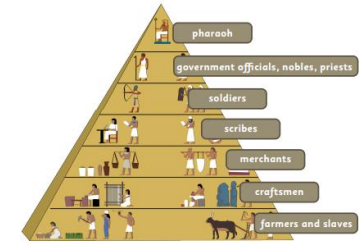
Who did the Ancient Egyptians worship?

Ancient Egyptians were polytheistic, which means they worshipped more than one God. Each god ruled an aspect of life. In the Old Kingdom, Ra (the Sun God) was the most important. Ancient Egyptians worshipped their gods in special buildings called sun temples. These were built as holy places to worship and to offer their prayers.



What was life like for the Ancient Egyptians?

There was a hierarchy in Ancient Egypt. People with certain jobs were more important than others. The pharaoh was the most important person in society. Farmers and enslaved people were considered the least important in society. Ramses II was one of the most powerful pharaohs who ruled for 66 years.



What did the Ancient Egyptians believe about the afterlife?

Many people in Ancient Egypt chose to be mummified when they died as they believed they had to preserve their bodies to use in the afterlife. It took about 70 days to complete the mummification process.

1. The body was washed and purified.
2. Organs were removed. Only the heart remained.
3. The body was filled with stuffing.
4. The body was dried out by covering it with a salt substance called natron.
5. After 40 - 50 days the stuffing was removed and replaced with linen or sawdust.
6. The body was wrapped up in strands of linen and covered in a sheet called a shroud.
7. The body was placed in a stone coffin called a sarcophagus.

Useful Websites

Britannica Kids – Ancient Egypt information and additional links to other key information.

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/ancient-Egypt/353087>

BBC Bitesize – Ancient Egypt.

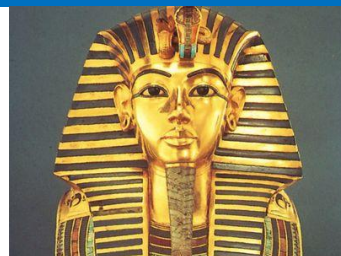
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg87xnb>

Twinkl History Homework Help – An introduction to Ancient Egypt:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/twinkl-homework-help-an-introduction-to-the-ancient-egyptians>



Significant Individuals and Places



Tutankhamun

King Tutankhamun ruled Ancient Egypt from 1332 B.C. to 1323 B.C. He is most famous as the Pharaoh whose tomb was discovered by Howard Carter in 1922. It was the most well-preserved tomb ever found and led to a whole new understanding of Ancient Egypt.



Valley of the Kings

The Valley of the Kings contains the tombs, or graves, of dozens of the royal rulers of ancient Egypt. The valley lies in the southern half of Egypt, just west of the Nile River. The tombs were built for the pharaohs (kings) who ruled from the 1500s BCE to the 1000s BCE.



Howard Carter

Howard Carter, (born May 9, 1874, Swaffham, Norfolk, England—died March 2, 1939, London), British archaeologist, who made one of the richest and most-celebrated contributions to Egyptology: the discovery (1922) of the largely intact tomb of King Tutankhamun.

