

Oughterside Foundation School - History

Topic: Ancient Egyptians

Year: 4

Strand: Civilisation

What should I already know?

- Egypt is a country in the **continent** of Africa.
- The **climate** of Egypt is different to that of the UK.
- Human and physical geographical features of Egypt.
- What life was like in Stone Age Britain.

Diagrams



Important Facts

- The Nile was important because it provided water for crops but also **fertile** soil - this means that people **settled** near the banks of the Nile as it was considered a prime location. They were among the first **civilisations** to use **irrigation** systems.
- The Nile also provided mud for bricks and pots, opportunities for fishing, papyrus reeds and a key means of transport.
- We know about **ancient** Egyptian life because of evidence such as the pyramids, the **artefacts** that were found there and methods of communications such as the use of **hieroglyphics** and **papyrus** rolls.
- Egyptian **society** was very **hierarchical** - this means that some groups of people were deemed more important than others. Each group had a different role to play in Egyptian **society**.
- **Mummification** was the process of **preserving** a body - this process was very important to the Egyptians as they believed this would prepare the body for their journey into the **afterlife**.
- The bodies of important people, such as **pharaohs**, were placed in these **pyramids**, which were built as **tombs**.
- Religion was very important in Ancient Egypt. They were **polytheists** - they believed in different gods and goddesses that were in charge of different parts of their lives. These were called **deities**.

Vocabulary

afterlife	a life that some people believe begins when you die, for example a life in heaven or as another person or animal
ancient	belonging to the distant past, especially to the period in history before the end of the Roman Empire (AD 410)
archaeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
architecture	the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings
artefacts	an object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like
chronology	the order of events in time
circa	Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.
civilisation	a human society with its own social organisation and culture .
climate	the general weather conditions that are typical of a place
continent	a very large area of land that consists of many countries . Europe is a continent .
culture	activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation
deities	a god or goddess
fertile	rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants
hierarchy	a system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance, for example in society
hieroglyphics	symbols in the form of pictures which are used in some writing systems, for example those of ancient Egypt.
irrigation	supply land with water in order to help crops grow
mummification	If a dead body is mummified , it is preserved , for example by rubbing it with special oils and wrapping it in cloth
papyrus	a tall water plant that grows in Africa
pharaoh	a king of ancient Egypt
polytheists	the worship of or belief in more than one god
preserve	making sure that something remains as it is, and does not change or end
pyramids	ancient stone buildings with four triangular sloping sides. The most famous pyramids are those built in ancient Egypt to contain the bodies of their kings and queens.
sarcophagus	a large decorative container in which a dead body was placed in ancient times
settler/ settlement	people who migrate to a new place. When people start a community, this is a settlement
society	people in general, thought of as a large organized group
tomb	a large grave that is above ground
trade	the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services

Timeline

c. 3500 BC: Early settlers settle in the Nile valley.

c. 2700 BC: First stone pyramid built.

c. AD 300: Last use of hieroglyphic writing.

c. 3100 BC: Development of hieroglyphics

c. 2600 BC: Pyramid of Giza built.

1922: Howard Carter discovers the tomb of Tutankhamun.

Historical Skills and Enquiry

- Describe how Egyptian **artefacts** and ruins tell us about their **culture**, and **religious beliefs**.
- Describe what Egyptian life was like for different groups of people.
- Describe how the Egyptian **society** has had an impact on modern society.
- Describe why people chose to **settle** in certain areas in ancient Egypt.
- Compare what was happening in the Egyptian **civilisation** with what was happening in Britain at the same time. Compare aspects of life such as achievements, society, beliefs, and architecture.
- Present what you know about the Egyptians using a variety of skills (e.g. Geography, English, Maths, Computing, etc)
- Use appropriate vocabulary to communicate about the Egyptians.

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Question 1: Name an ancient Egyptian achievement.	Start of unit:	End of unit:

Question 2: The Egyptians were considered influential to modern society. They contributed ideas about....(tick all that are true)	Start of unit:	End of unit:
written language		
measurements		
time and the calendar		

Question 3: The Ancient Egyptians were among the first civilisations to use an irrigation system. Irrigation means:	Start of unit:	End of unit:

Question 4: Circa means...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
pyramid		
century		
around		
circle		

Question 5: The discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb was important because...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
the artefacts he was buried with told us a lot about life in ancient Egypt		
Howard Carter found him		
we know who killed him		

Question 6: The Egyptians built the pyramids around the same time as:	Start of unit:	End of unit:
the Stone Age in Britain		
the Romans came to Britain		
the Vikings came to Britain		
William the Conqueror wins the Battle of Hastings		

Question 7: We know how the Ancient Egyptians lived because of....(tick all that apply)	Start of unit:	End of unit:
pyramids		
written language		
artefacts		

Question 8: The Nile was important because...(tick all that are true).	Start of unit:	End of unit:
it provided settlers with fertile land to grow crops		
it was a river		
the banks grew papyrus reeds which they used to write on		
it provided opportunities for fishing		

Question 9: The process of mummification was used so help preserve the bodies of pharaohs. This was so that they could make the journey to...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Egypt		
the Nile		
the afterlife		
pyramids		

Question 10: Pyramids were used as tombs. A synonym for the word tomb is....	Start of unit:	End of unit: