

History: The Ancient Egyptians

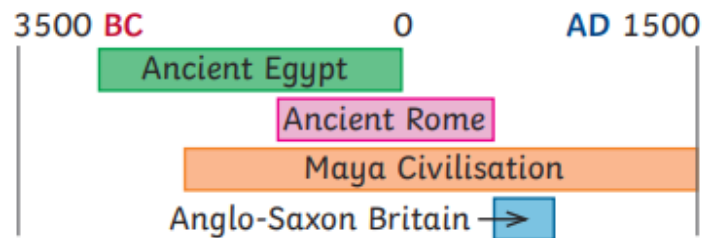
Year 4

Key Vocabulary

civilisation	When a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social and cultural development and organisation
BC	Used to show that a date is before the year 0. This is counted backwards, so 200 BC is before 100 BC
AD	Used to show that a date is after the year 0. This is counted forwards, so AD 100 is before AD 200
irrigation	A system of canals or channels Egyptians dug to supply water to grow crops over a larger area than the water would reach naturally
silt	Fine particles of soil, clay or sand carried and left by water.
nilometer	An invention used to measure the River Nile's clarity and water level
shaduf	A hand-operated invention used to transport water from a lower level to a higher one.
Pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt.
Mummification	The process of preserving a body after death by deliberately drying or embalming flesh.
Canopic Jars	Jars that were used to hold the organs that they believed would be needed in the afterlife.
Sarcophagus	A decorated coffin

When?

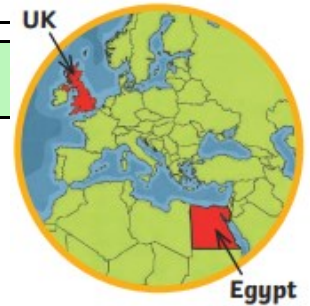
The Ancient Egyptian civilisation began **5,000** years ago around 3150BC when people started building villages next to the River Nile in **north-east Africa**. It lasted for around **3,000** years.



The River Nile

The river Nile was essential to life in ancient Egypt. Every year, it flooded, leaving behind a black silt that enriched the soil for growing crops. The river was also used to irrigate fields in other areas.

Most people lived along and around the Nile. This is still true in Egypt today. The river was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from the river was used for bricks and papyrus plants were used to make paper.



Where?

Egypt is a country on the continent of Africa. It shares a border with Libya, Sudan and Israel with coastlines on the Mediterranean Sea, and The Red Sea.

The capital city of Egypt is Cairo.

Hieroglyphics

Hieroglyphs were written by scribes, who had to go to a special school to learn how to write. Almost all scribes were men, although there is some evidence of female doctors being able to read hieroglyphs in medical texts.

Hieroglyphs were used for religious texts and inscriptions on statues and tombs. They were also used for counting crops and animals so that the right taxes could be taken.

The Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799, was written in hieroglyphs and two other languages, including ancient Greek, which linguists (language experts) could still read.

Linguists translated the hieroglyphs by comparing the languages. It took 20 years to translate all the text into modern language.



Key Vocabulary

Hieroglyph-ics	A system of writing that used pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters.'
Cartouche	An oval shape in which the names of kings and queens were often written in hieroglyphics to show that they were special.
Ra	Sun god, lord of the gods. Sailed his boat through the sky during the day and through the underworld at night.
Amun	Created all things. Usually invisible unless mixed with another god, e.g. as Amun-Ra.
Horus	God of the sky. Pharaoh were believed to be a god-like, living version of Horus
Thoth	God of wisdom. Believed to have invented hieroglyphics and to keep a record of all knowledge.
Ma'at	Goddess of truth. Pharaohs promised to follow Ma'at and be fair and honest.
Isis	Queen of the goddesses
Osiris	God of the dead.
Hathor	Goddess of love, music and dance.
Anubis	God of mummification. Weighed the hearts of the dead against Ma'at's feather. If your heart was lighter, you would live forever.

Mummification

How to mummify an Egyptian step by step:

1. Wash the body.
2. Pull out the brain through the nostrils with a hook and fill the skull with sawdust.
3. Remove all internal organs except the heart. Put them into canopic jars.
4. Cover the body in natron salt and leave it to dry for 40 days.
5. Remove the natron salt and pack the body with straw, dried grass or linen.
6. Apply makeup and fake eyes.
7. Wrap the body in linen fabric, adding amulets and a Book of the Dead.
8. Place the mummy in a sarcophagus (decorated coffin)



Tutankhamun

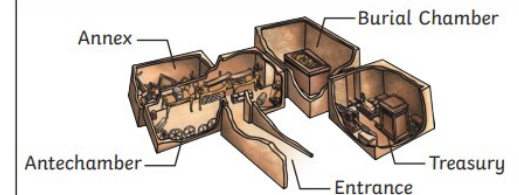
- * Born: around 1341 BC
- * Died: around 1323 BC
- * Pharaoh from approx. 1333 BC to 1323 BC
- * Known as the 'boy king' as he became pharaoh aged only 9



Tutankhamun's death mask

- * Tomb discovered by Howard Carter and his team in the Valley of the Kings in 1922
- * Tomb contained over 3000 treasures
- * Historians believe Tutankhamun died suddenly as the tomb was finished hastily.

Tutankhamun's Tomb



The Pyramids

The Ancient Egyptians built pyramids as giant burial tombs for the most important people in their society, the pharaohs.

Pyramids were built over a period of about 700 years and during that time designs were refined and improved with trial and error. The first pyramids were 'step' pyramids pioneered by the Pharaoh Djoser, who made his burial tomb taller by stacking stone layers. Around 50 years later, the Pharaoh Sneferu decided he wanted a smooth finish on the outside of his pyramid.



Quiz

In which continent is Egypt?	<hr/>
Circle the 3 countries that border Egypt:	Libya Greece Sudan Kenya Israel Turkey
Explain 2 reasons why The River Nile was useful for The Ancient Egyptians	1) 2)
Why was Tutankhamun known as The Boy King?	
Why did The Ancient Egyptians mummify bodies?	
Why did they build pyramids with secret entrances and trap doors?	
Name 2 Ancient Egyptian Gods and their role	1) 2)