

Ideas Organiser: Walk Like an Egyptian



Egyptian kingdoms to build the empire of ancient Egypt. It lasted until 30 BC when the Romans took over.

- 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 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 communication such as hieroglyphics and papyrus rolls.
- Mummification was the process of preserving a body. This was very important to the Egyptians as they believed it would prepare the body for their journey to the afterlife.
- The bodies of important people, such as Pharaohs, were placed in these pyramids, which were built as tombs.
- Egyptian society was very hierarchical – this means that some groups of people were more important than others. Each group had a different role to play in Egyptian society.
- 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.
- There were other civilisations around at the time of the Egyptians- Indus Valley, Sumer (modern day Iraq) and the Shang Dynasty China.

Top takeaways

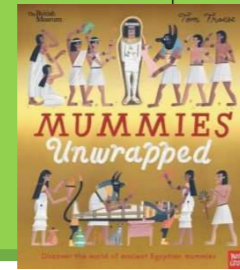
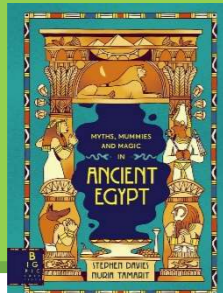
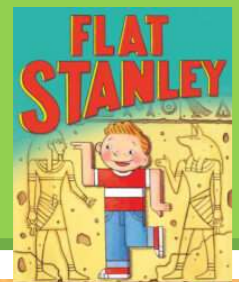
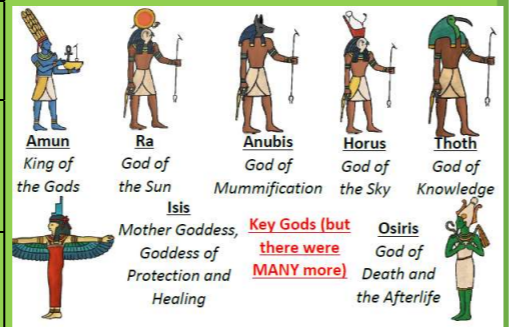
1. That Ancient Egypt is just one of 5 major ancient civilisations which emerged about 5000 years ago, each being organised with cities and having their own form of communication- e.g. hieroglyphics or cuneiform.
2. Egypt was ruled by Pharaohs who were seen more like a god than just a person. Tutankhamun is the most famous whose tomb was only discovered 100 years ago. Below the pharaoh there were other levels of society from viziers and scribes and priests down to slaves.
3. The Egyptians worshipped hundreds of gods, many represented by animals.
4. Much of daily life in Egypt was influenced by the Nile which flooded every year, essential for growing crops.
5. We know that the Egyptians thought that people who died went to a new world and we have lots of artefacts used in the mummification process.
6. Much of what we know for sure about Ancient Egypt comes from the Rosetta stone discovered only 200 years ago. There are still a lot of unanswered questions about this ancient civilization such as did slaves really build the pyramids?



Scribe	Person whose job it was to read, write and keep records
Rosetta Stone	A broken part of a bigger stone slab. It was an important clue that helped researchers read hieroglyphics
Sphinx	Sculpture with lion's body and head of the ruler built to guard the pharaoh in the afterlife
Tomb	Grave or building where body of dead person is laid
Vizier	Important men who worked for the pharaoh

Key vocabulary

Ancient	The term to describe history before 500AD
Artefact	An object made by human beings
Ankh	Symbol of life which only gods and kings carried
Civilisation	Way of life of a group of people
Embalming	Preserving the dead body using chemicals salts and oils
Excavate	To dig in the ground to discover old buildings or objects that have been buried for a long time
Flax	Plant that can be made into cloth
Hieroglyphics	Symbols used by Ancient Egyptians in their writing
Mummification	A way of preserving a body after death
Natron salt	Absorbs water used to dry the body before it was wrapped in bandages
Papyrus	Paper made from the stems of the papyrus plant
Pharaoh	A ruler of Ancient Egypt who was very wealthy who the people thought came from the sun-god Ra
Pyramid	Stone structure that has a square base and sloping triangular sides that join at the top built to house dead bodies of their kings who were like gods living on earth
Sarcophagus	Massive stone, painted outer coffin in which mummy was stored



Tutankhamun

Tutankhamun was a pharaoh known more recently as the 'boy king' because he became pharaoh when he was 9 years old.

His tomb was discovered by Howard Carter and his team in the Valley of the Kings in 1922.

The discovery helped people to understand more about the Egyptians pharaohs.

Tutankhamun's death mask

Skills: map reading and using atlases, researching-retrieval skills, following instructions, measuring/weighing.

Recommended Reads:



Making Links:

Mathematical:

Length, perimeter, area of tombs
Shape and space of pyramids
Statistics and data managing slaves
building a pyramid

ICT: links to websites

British Values

Democracy-How did the Ancient Egyptian society work with social levels?

Tolerance- Did the ancient Egyptians tolerate several religions?

Rule of law- How was the Pharaoh chosen and how did they rule?

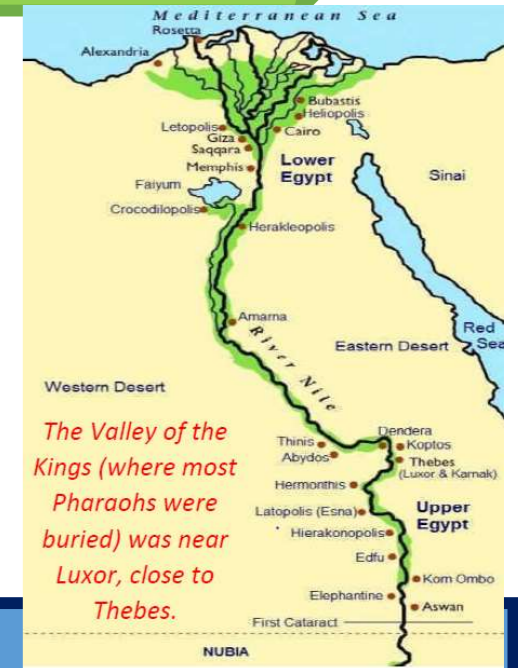
Mutual Respect- How did the Egyptians treat their slaves?



Values & attitudes we can always show in this project:



Howard Carter
Born in 1874,
London.
Egyptologist
famous for
discovering the
tomb of
Tutankhamun in
1922



The World beyond our doorstep...

Local

- Egyptian artefacts at local museums

National

- Howard Carter's life-before and after his discovery

International

- Did the Egyptians trade with other countries?
- Map skills-Egypt within the continent Africa
- other world civilisations-Indus Valley, Sumer, Shang dynasty China.

Quality Outcomes & Experiences:

- Mummification of a fruit
- Designing a death mask
- Sculpture linked to the Egyptians
- Biography of Howard Carter
- Pyramid research project
- Setting up an expedition to ancient Egypt