

Ancient Egypt

How do the achievements of the Ancient Egyptians compare to other civilisations we have studied?

Civilisations							
15000 BC - 825 BC	3100 BC - 332 BC	1100 BC - 476 AD	800 BC - 146 BC	753 BC - 146 BC	1666 AD	1837 AD - 1901 AD	1914 - 1918
Stone Age	Ancient Egypt	Mayans	Ancient Greece	Romans	Great Fire of London	Victorians	World War 1

Key Vocabulary	
Mythology	A collection of myths belonging to a particular religion or culture.
Civilisation	The society, culture and way of life of a particular people and place.
Dynasty	A succession of rulers from the same family.
Pharaoh	The ruler of Egypt. Pharaoh means great house in Egyptian. They were believed to be gods.
Hieroglyphs	The ancient system of using pictures as a system of writing.
Pantheon	A group of Gods. In this case, it refers to the 2000 gods the Ancient Egyptians believed in.
Mummification	The process of embalming a body after death to keep it looking lifelike.
Sarcophagus	The old stone coffins used by wealthy people during Ancient Egyptian times.
Scribes	The few educated Egyptians who could read and write. They were employed to record information.
Shaduf	A hand operated device that pulls up water from a watering hole.
Inundation	The annual flooding of the Nile, allowing new plants to grow.
Afterlife	The life a person has after they die and take their buried belongings with them.

Famous Figures

King Tutankhamun (1341 B.C)

He is known for his intact tomb discovered in the Valley of Kings in 1922 by Howard Carter (English archaeologist). Known now simply as 'King Tut', he took the throne aged 9 and died aged 19. His tomb was filled with precious jewellery, artefacts, gold, a mural of his journey to the afterlife and his now famous death mask and sarcophagus.

Cleopatra VII (69 B.C.)

She reigned as the queen of Egypt and inspired a Shakespeare play and several movies. She was part of the Macedonian dynasty and became romantically involved with Roman leaders Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony. In a male dominated society, her political ambition and power led to her legacy.

General Knowledge

Afterlife

Ancient Egyptians believed that when they died, they would make a journey to another world where they would lead a new life. They would need all the things they had used when they were alive, so families would put those things in their graves. Egyptians paid vast amounts of money to have their bodies properly preserved. Those who were poor were buried in the sand, whilst the rich were buried in a tomb.

Farming

Egyptians grew many crops, the most important being grain used to make bread, porridge and beer. They also grew vegetables and used irrigation to their advantage.

Ancient Egyptian artefacts



mummified cats



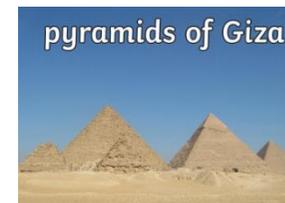
mask of Tutankhamun



pitcher



canopic jars

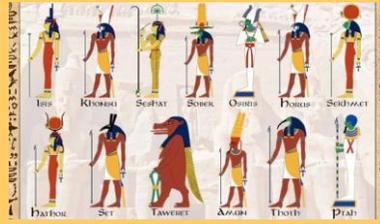


pyramids of Giza



coffin

Gods – Ancient Egyptians believed in over 2000 gods. They used them to explain the world around them. As a sign of respect to the gods, they were given offerings and sacrifices. They also constructed great temples and statues to honour their gods.



Pyramids – Pyramids and tombs were built as extravagant burial sites for the Pharaohs, who employed great volumes of slave labour to construct them all by hand.



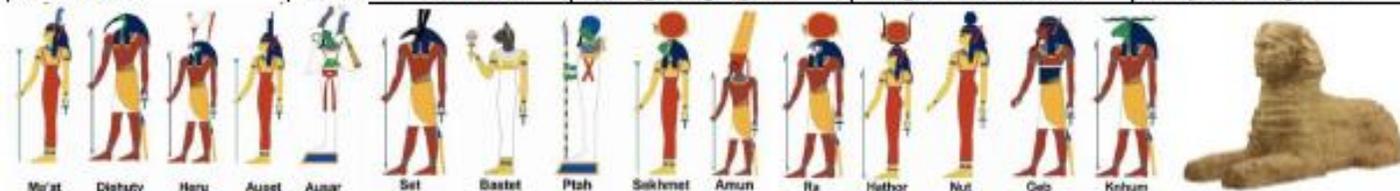
Hieroglyphs – There is evidence to show that hieroglyphs, the first system of writing, was established around 3500 BC by only a few educated and important citizens. They used ink and papyrus paper and documented their stories of the gods.



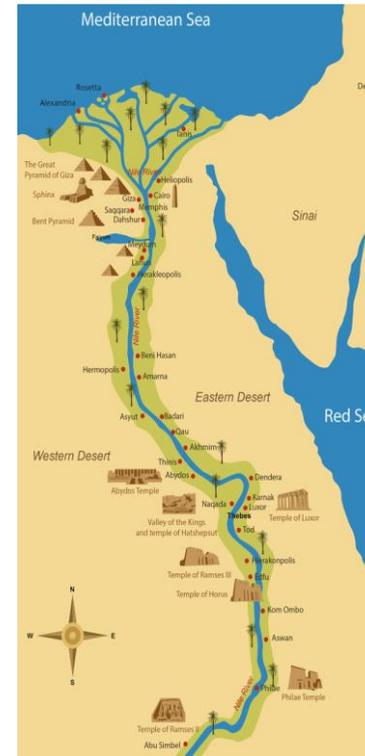
Afterlife – The Egyptians placed a large importance on the preservation and preparation of the body after death, where they felt their lives continued and they took anything that was buried with them from their old life, into the afterlife.



Amenhotep (Pharaoh 1391 – 1353 BC)	Tutankhamen (Pharaoh 1341 – 1323 BC)	Rameses II (Pharaoh 1303 – 1213 BC)	Cleopatra (Pharaoh 69 – 39 BC)	Howard Carter Archaeologist (1874 – 1939)
Ruled Egypt during the peak of the civilization.	The most famous of Pharaohs due to his discovered tomb.	Often regarded as the greatest and longest reigning ruler.	The last ruling Pharaoh before killing herself with a snake.	Found King Tut's tomb in the Valley Of The Kings in 1923.



Why was the River Nile crucial to the Ancient Egyptians?



It would flood every year and leave behind a rich, black silt that fertilised the soil.

This was essential for growing food for everyone.

A system of canals that led from the Nile were also used to water fields in other areas. This is called irrigation.

