

Alder Coppice Primary School — Knowledge Organiser

Subject: History

Year: 4

Unit 1: The Ancient Egyptians

Links to: The Romans & The Early Ancients

Where is Egypt?

Egypt is located in the north-eastern corner of **Africa**. It once was split into Lower and Upper Egypt until it was united by the first pharaoh. Its landscape is 90 per cent desert.



Why was the River Nile important?

The Egyptians followed a calendar that was influenced by the River Nile. The calendar followed three seasons, Akhet, the season of flood was most important. During Akhet, when the flood disappeared, it would leave behind a rich, black soil. The soil was fertile, and the Egyptians would plant all their seeds in this area. Without the River Nile, the Egyptians would not have been able to survive as Egypt would all be desert.



Who were the Ancient Egyptians?

The **Ancient Egyptians** were one of the most advanced civilisations. Lasting from **3100BC – 30BC** before they were conquered by the **Romans**.



They invented their own way of writing called hieroglyphics. Historians were finally able to read their writing because of the **Rosetta Stone**. They also created the earliest paper-like material using the papyrus plant and built the Pyramids.



Ancient Egyptian society was ruled by **the pharaoh**. The pharaoh created the laws and made sure Egypt was at peace. Pharaohs ruled ancient Egypt for more than 3000 years. Although they were at the bottom of the hierarchy, Farmers and slaves were important members of society as they ploughed the land, gathered crops and built homes for the Egyptians.

Significant People

Howard Carter

In 1922, Howard Carter made one the greatest archeological discoveries of the 20th century. He discovered the hidden tomb of Tutankhamun, the 'boy king'. The tomb was untouched and held many treasures that are still in museums today.



King Tutankhamun

Tutankhamun was one of the youngest pharaohs aged eight years old. He died aged just 18. He is known primarily for his tomb which was discovered untouched in 1922 in the Valley of the Kings.

What I Should Know by the End of the Unit:

- What Ancient Egypt was like over 5,000 years ago.
- Why the pyramids were built.
- What life was like for men, women and children in Ancient Egypt.
- That the Ancient Egyptians believed in the after-life.
- Know who Tutankhamun was and who discovered him

THEMES: Chronology, Significance, Characteristic Features, Interpretation, Historical Enquiry and Similarity and Difference.

Unit Specific Vocabulary:

Ancient - something in the long distant past and no longer in existence.

Afterlife - A belief in some religions that there is life after death.

Civilisation - A civilisation is a **large group of people who share certain advanced ways of living and working**. They live in some kind of urban settlement, usually ruled by some form of government and have a class structure (hierarchy). They have a variety of jobs and have tools to grow their own food. Writing, trading, artwork and monuments and development of science and technology are all aspects of civilisations.

Egyptology - The study of the language, history and culture of ancient Egypt. Howard Carter was the Egyptologist that found the tomb of Tutankhamun.

Fertile - soil or land that is good for growing.

Hieroglyphics - The formal writing system used by the Ancient Egyptians. Each character or symbol would stand for a word or part of a word

Papyrus - A material prepared in ancient Egypt from the stem of a water plant to make paper and rope.

Pharaoh - A ruler of Ancient Egypt.

Pyramid - A monumental structure with a square base and sloping sides that meet in a point at the top, built of stone as a royal tomb in ancient Egypt.

Sarcophagus - A stone coffin usually decorated with images or writing.

Tomb - A monument to the memory of a dead person.

Significant Places

Valley of the Kings

The Valley of the Kings is located near Luxor on the west bank of the Nile. It became the burial site of Kings and Queens during the New Kingdom. This was so that tombs could be well hidden deep within the rock.



Pyramids of Giza

The Giza pyramids were built by 3 different pharaohs. The Great Pyramid is the largest of the 3 at 481 feet high. It is estimated that it took 10,000 workers 30 years to build a pyramid.

