



How was life different in Ancient Egypt compared to the modern world?

St White's Primary School - History

Phase: UKS2

Topic: Ancient Egypt



What should I already know?

Rivers played a key role in settlements being established. The achievements and society of early civilisations including the Ancient Sumer, Indus Valley and Shang Dynasty.

Early Egypt

In c. 3000 BC, King Menes united two Egyptian kingdoms to build the empire of ancient Egypt. It lasted until 30 BC when the Romans took over. The Nile provides jobs – transport, farming and trading. Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt unified to create Egypt. The separate crowns were unified to create a special red and white headdress. In the Egyptian hierarchy, the pharaoh was at the top and slaves and farmers at the bottom. Artefacts help us understand what life was like in Early Egypt. Artefacts such as the pyramids, the use of hieroglyphics and papyrus rolls provide evidence of what Egyptian life and society.

Mummification and the afterlife

- Most Ancient Egyptians only lived until the age of 30 so they strongly believed in life after death.
- 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.
- Canopic jars each held a body part from the dead person.
- The bodies of important people, such as pharaohs, were placed in pyramids, which were built as tombs.

Egyptian Rulers

Tutankhamun was a pharaoh known 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; it contained over 3000 treasures. The discovery helped people to understand more about the Egyptian pharaohs. Death Masks were used to cover the face after mummification. They were made from gold and elaborately decorated. Cleopatra was the last pharaoh of Egypt before the Romans took over in 30BC.

Technical vocabulary

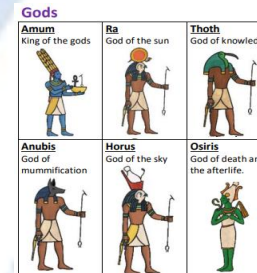
pharaoh	The supreme leaders of the land.
Papyrus	A type of ancient paper used by the Egyptians.
Scribe	The name for someone who can read and write. These were well respected in ancient Egypt.
Amulet	A small object worn or carried by someone in the name of a god as that person believed they would receive protection.
Canopic jar	Small containers that would hold the internal organs of a mummy.
Sarcophagus	A stone container for a body.
Hieroglyphics	A system of writing that used pictures and symbols instead of letters and numbers.
Mummification	The process of preserving the skin and flesh of a body by embalming it and drying it out.
Egyptologist	Someone who studies the ancient Egyptians. One of the most famous examples was Howard Carter.
Pyramid	A four sided structure that was built by the Egyptians.
Rosetta stone	A stone slab found with identical Egyptian and Greek writing, meaning that the hieroglyphics could be decoded and understood.

Achievements

- Buildings - Built amazing structures like the pyramids without modern technology.
- Paper - One of the first civilisations to make paper to write on.
- Maths - Developed a system of maths that helped them measure accurately.
- Medicine - They knew to keep healthy and learnt lots about the body from dissecting dead bodies
- Calendar - They invented a 365 day calendar system based on the when the Nile flooded, giving them seasons
- Writing - One of the first civilisations to have a form of writing, called hieroglyphics. Allowed them to communicate
- Farming - Great at farming which kept the population well fed. Used the Nile to good effect.
- Language - Created a language that they could understand and communicate with
- Mummification - Knew how to preserve bodies so that they didn't decay quickly. Means we know more about them today

Gods and goddesses

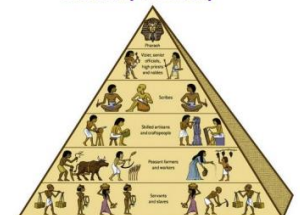
- The Egyptians had many gods.
- People believed Osiris made the Nile flood each year so crops could grow.
- Hapy was the god of the Nile.



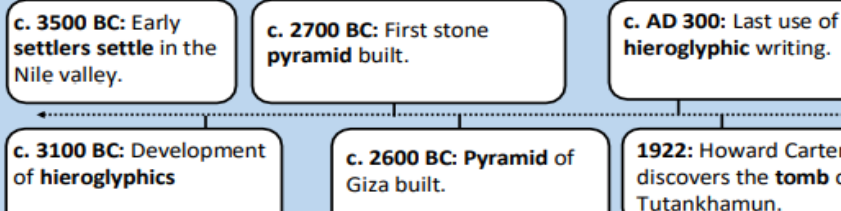
Egyptian Society

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.

Hierarchy in Society



Timeline



Historians are like good detectives; they are curious and ask important questions about the past.