

Nelson St Philip's CE Primary School – History – Y4/5 Spring One

Topic: Ancient Egyptians

Year: 4/5

Strand: Civilisation

What should I already know?

- Egypt is a country in the **continent** of Africa.
- The **climate** of Egypt is different to that of the UK.
- Human and physical geographical features of Egypt.
- What life was like in Stone Age Britain.



Important Facts

- 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 considered 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 communications such as the use of **hieroglyphics** and **papyrus** rolls.
- 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**.
- **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**.
- The bodies of important people, such as the **pharaohs**, were placed in these **pyramids**, which were built as **tombs**.
- 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**.

Subject Specific Vocabulary

afterlife	A life that some people believe begins when you die, for example a life in heaven or as another person or animal.
ancient	Belonging to the distant past, especially to the period in history before the end of the Roman Empire (AD410)
archaeologist	People who work out our history by looking at the artefacts that have been found.
architecture	The art of planning, designing and constructing buildings
artefacts	An object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like
chronology	The order of events in time
circa	Latin meaning around ' . c.800 means around 800 BC.
civilisation	A human society with its own social organisation and culture.
climate	The general weather conditions that are typical of a place.
continent	A very large area of land that consists of many countries . Europe is a continent.
culture	Activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation
fertile	Rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants
hierarchy	A system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance, for example in society .
hieroglyphs	The term hieroglyph refers to the fact that it is a carving for sacred things, but hieroglyphs were also written on papyrus.
Irrigation	Supply land with water in order to help crops grow

Egyptian Artefacts



scarab



death mask

sphinx

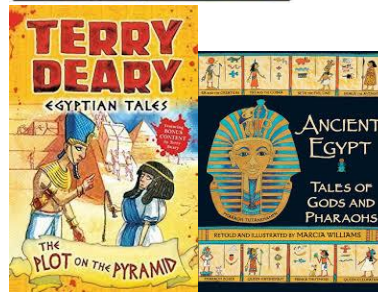
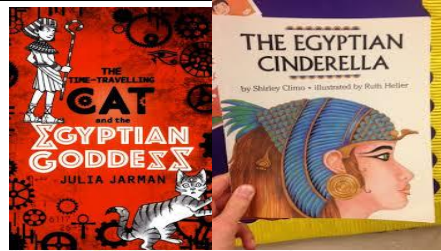


Sticky Egyptian Knowledge

- Cleopatra was the last pharaoh of Egypt before the Romans took over.
- Tutankhamun was known as the boy king, famous because his tomb was found in 1922.
- Egyptian men and women wore makeup.
- The Egyptians were the first civilization to invent writing.

Exciting Books

Diagrams / Maps



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Mummification

If a dead body is **mummified**, it is **preserved**, for example by rubbing it with special oils and wrapping it in cloth

papyrus

A tall water plant that grows in Africa. Its reeds are slit and placed in layers in order to form a paper

pharaohs

The word pharaoh originally meant 'great house', but came to mean the person who resided in it.

polytheists

The worship of or belief in more than one god

preserve

Making sure that something remains as it is, and does not change or end

pyramids

A geometrical term that refers to the ancient stone buildings which were part of the burial complexes for Egyptian pharaohs.

sarcophagus

A large decorative container in which a dead body was placed in **ancient** times.

scarab

Scarabs are amulets formed to look

scribe

A scribe recorded in writing the everyday life and extraordinary happenings in **ancient** Egypt.

settler/settlement

People who migrate to a new place. When people start a community, this is a settlement

society

People in general, thought of as a large organised group

tombs

Ancient Egypt is known for its magnificent and beautiful tombs. The most well known are within the pyramids in the Valley of the Kings.

vizier

The vizier in Ancient Egypt was the most powerful position after that of king. A vizier was the equivalent of the modern-day prime minister.

Timeline

c.3500 BC: Early **settlers settle** in the Nile valley.
c.3100BC: Development of hieroglyphics

c.2700 BC: First stone **pyramid** was built
c.2600 BC: **Pyramid** of Giza built

c.AD300: Last use of **hieroglyphic** writing.
1922: Howard Carter discovers the **tomb** of Tutankhamun

Historical Skills and Enquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe how Egyptian artefacts and ruins tell us about their culture, and religious beliefs• Describe what Egyptian life was like for different groups of people.	