



How can we rediscover the wonders of Ancient Egypt?

Within this history topic, pupils should have the opportunity to use a variety of sources in order to collect information about Ancient Egypt and the Egypt of today. Pupils should aim to ask a range of questions about the past and understand how to choose reliable sources of evidence to answer them. They should be able to understand how Egypt has changed over time and pupils will use timelines to sequence historical periods and events, and consider the effect they have had on modern civilisation. They will be able to understand that features with the country can be either natural or man-made.

The ancient Egyptian civilization began 5,000 years ago when people started building villages next to the River Nile in north-east Africa. The ancient Egyptians were experts at farming and construction. They were ruled by kings and queens called pharaohs. Religion was an important part of their civilization, worshipping over 2,000 gods and goddesses. The ancient Egyptians also believed in a never-ending afterlife and preserved the bodies of important people, after death, through mummification who were buried in tombs inside giant pyramids.

Key Events

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|-----------------|--|
| 7,500 BC | The first settlers arrived in the Nile Valley. |
| 3,200 BC | Hieroglyphs are used to keep trade records. |
| 2,640 BC | The first pyramid is built. |
| 2,555 BC | The Giza pyramids are built for three kings. |
| 2,520 BC | The Great Sphinx is built. |
| 2,200 BC | First ploughs are attached to oxen. |
| 1,539 BC | Valley of the kings starts and pharaohs are buried with their treasures. |
| 1,332 BC | The 10 year rule of Tutankhamun begins. |
| 51 BC | Cleopatra's reign begins, the Egyptian civilisation ends. |

Important Vocabulary

| Spelling | Definition |
|-------------------------|--|
| pharaoh | A ruler in Ancient Egypt |
| pyramid | A structure built in ancient Egypt often as a tomb for pharaohs. |
| mummy/ mummification | The body of a person or animal prepared by the Ancient Egyptians for burial. |
| sphinx | A creature in Egyptian stories with the body of a lion and the head of a person. |
| canopic jars | Jars used in Ancient Egyptian burial to hold the organs. |
| coffin | The box in which dead person is buried. |
| hieroglyphs | A writing system (as used by the Ancient Egyptians) which uses pictures to represent words, syllables or sounds. |
| desert | An area of very dry land that is usually very hot and covered in sand. |
| Nile | A river in Eastern Africa, the longest river in the world, which flows through Egypt. |
| tomb | A large building for burying the dead. |



As geographers, in this topic, children will have the opportunity to consider where in the world Egypt is, considering its continent and neighbouring countries using a variety of maps. Children will explore modern Egypt, considering the climate and landscape, as well as finding more about traditional food, housing, religion etc. Children will have the chance to find out more about the River Nile and the effect it has had both on ancient and modern civilisations. At the end of the topic, children will reflect on what remains of Ancient Egypt today and how we can use this to remind ourselves of the past. They will also make comparisons with the area around where we live.

FAST FACTS

- OFFICIAL NAME: Arab Republic of Egypt
- FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Republic
- CAPITAL: Cairo
- POPULATION: 99,413,317
- OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Arabic
- MONEY: Egyptian pound
- AREA: 386,662 square miles (1,001,449 square kilometers)
- MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGES: Eastern Highlands
- MAJOR RIVER: Nile



Creations and Inventions:

The Ancient Egyptians created some marvellous inventions, many of which we still use in our lives today; paper, vases, architecture, temples, tools and astronomy are just some of the things they invented.



The River Nile:

At 4,132 miles long, the River Nile was, and still is, vital to peoples' survival in Egypt. It allows people to travel and transport goods, helps to provide water for communities and helps crops to grow.

