



Unit of work
The Ancient Egyptians

Year group
3

Prior learning

- 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.

National Curriculum

The achievements of the earliest civilisations.

Knowledge/ Skills

- 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.
- Describe how the Egyptian society has had an impact on modern society.
- Describe why people chose to settle in certain areas in ancient Egypt.
- Compare what was happening in the Egyptian civilisation with what was happening in Britain at the same time. Compare aspects of life such as achievements, society, beliefs, and architecture.
- Present what you know about the Egyptians using a variety of skills (e.g. Geography, English, Maths, Computing, etc)
- Use appropriate vocabulary to communicate about the Egyptians.

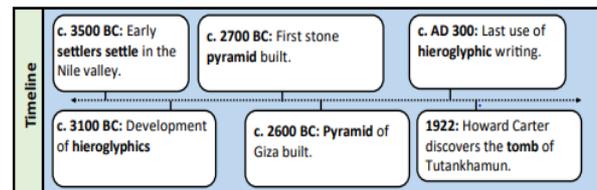
The Nile was important because it provided water for crops but also fertile soil - this means that people settled near the banks of the Nile as it was considered a prime location. They were among the first civilisations to use irrigation systems.

- 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 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.

Vocabulary and definitions

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 (AD 410)
archaeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
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 BC 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
deities	a god or goddess
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
hieroglyphics	symbols in the form of pictures which are used in some writing systems, for example those of ancient Egypt.
irrigation	supply land with water in order to help crops grow
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
pharaoh	a king of ancient Egypt
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	ancient stone buildings with four triangular sloping sides. The most famous pyramids are those built in ancient Egypt to contain the bodies of their kings and queens.
sarcophagus	a large decorative container in which a dead body was placed in ancient times
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 organized group
tomb	a large grave that is above ground
trade	the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services

Timeline



Significant people – Howard Carter



Ancient Sumer

- The Ancient Sumerians lived in Sumer from 4000BC.
- The Sumerians built large cities and invented a written script.
- Ordinary people lived in mud brick houses in the cities, crowded tightly together.
- Sumerians believed in many gods that took human form:
- Different cities had their own gods, although the same god might be acknowledged in other cities:
 - In Eridu, Enki was the god of water, thought to have brought humans the arts and sciences.
 - In Nippur, Enlil was the god of air or lord of the ghost land who gave humans spells to use on spirits.
 - In Larsa and Sippar, Utu was the sun god.
 - In Ur, Sin was the moon god.
- They grew barley, wheat, chickpeas, lentils, dates, onions, garlic, lettuce, leeks and mustard.

Timeline	
3300BC	Farmers come to the Indus Valley.
3200BC	Indus Valley people use a form of signs or script.
2600BC	Ploughs used. Indus script found on artefacts.
2550BC	Main cities flourish and brick houses and drainage system built.
2500BC	Seals used for trading.
2400BC	Indus Valley at its peak.
2000BC	Referred to by other cultures.
1800BC	Start to decline.
1500BC	End of the culture
Key Figures	
Charles Masson	1826 British traveler noticed a mound of earth now Harappa.
Sir Alexander Cunningham	1853-1872 Found Harappa.
Sir John Marshall	1876-1958 Found Mohenjo-Daro
RD Banerji	1920 excavated more of Mohenjo-Daro and <u>Daya Ram Sahnii</u> in Harappa.
JP Joshi	1967-68 discover <u>Dholavira</u> (5 th largest Indus Valley site).

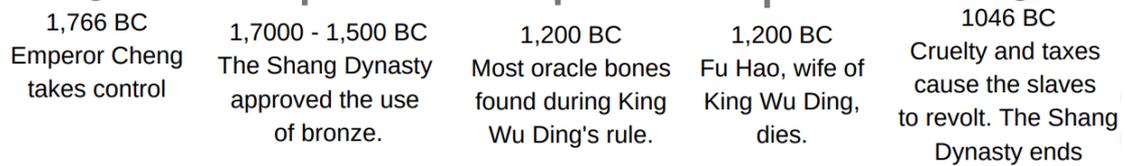




Shang Dynsnasty



Timeline



Key People

Fu Hao

- A wife of King Wu Ding
- Her tomb is the only one to be left untouched and unlooted



Shang Di

- Believed to be the God with the ultimate spiritual power



Cheng Tang

- The first King / Emperor of the Shang Dynasty



Wu Ding

- The longest reigning king of the Shang Dynasty era
- His reign was seen as the climax of the Shang Dynasty

