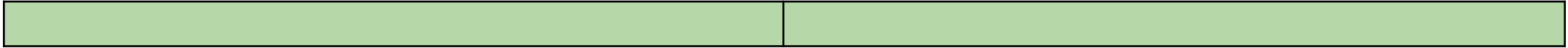




History Knowledge Organiser

Topic: Ancient Egypt

Year: 6





Core Knowledge (Need to Know)

| |
|---|
| Ancient Egypt was an ancient North African civilization. Due to the richness offered by the River Nile, this civilization expanded and developed significantly |
| For 3000 years, Ancient Egypt was home to some of the most influential inventions and discoveries in history. The Egyptians developed systems for writing (including hieroglyphics) and mathematics; they used paper (papyrus) and wrote texts on religion, astronomy and medicine. |
| The Egyptians built magnificent buildings, temples and tombs, decorating them with pictures, paintings and carvings. |
| The civilisation continued until the death of Cleopatra VII in 30 BCE when Egypt fell to the Roman Empire. |
| Pharaohs were believed to be gods in human form, and so they had power over everything. |
| The pyramids were built to bury Ancient Egyptian kings and queens. They were designed to be a comfortable place to enjoy the afterlife, and also acted as a display of power and wealth. |
| Hieroglyphics were pictures that Ancient Egyptians used to represent objects, actions, sounds, and ideas. This was one of the first written languages. |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| AD | Stands for anno domini, Latin for “in the year of the lord,” and refers specifically to the birth of Jesus Christ. |
| BC | Before Christ: used in the Christian calendar when referring to a year before Jesus Christ was born. |
| Primary source | Primary sources provide a first-hand account of an event or time period and are considered to be authoritative. |
| Secondary source | A secondary source of information is one that was created later by someone who did not experience first-hand or participate in the events or conditions. |
| Pyramid | A monumental structure with a square or triangular base and sloping sides that meet in a point at the top, especially one built of stone as a royal tomb in ancient Egypt. |
| River Nile | River originates in central Africa and flows north to the Mediterranean Sea, with its delta in Egypt. |
| Afterlife | The place where Egyptians believed they would go after they died. |
| Dynasty | A period of rule when a series of Pharaohs all came from the same family. |
| Egyptologist | An archaeologist who focuses Ancient Egypt. Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun’s tomb. |
| Hieroglyphics | A type of writing that used a combination of pictures and symbols: |



Good to Know



Ramesses II is often considered as the greatest, most powerful Egyptian pharaoh of all – later Egyptians often called him ‘The Great Ancestor.’ He led the Egyptians into many battles (which were almost always won) and constructed many temples and buildings. His queen, Nefertari, was famed for her beauty.

The Pharaoh and those that were linked to religion were the most powerful in society. Skilled workers made up the middle classes. Those at the bottom had no power and worked long hours for little return. The pharaoh made peasants farm on the fertile lands. The people of Egypt were able to grow things like wheat, barley, fruit, vegetables, figs and melons.

Menes is believed by many to have been the first pharaoh of Ancient Egypt (between 3407 and 3346 BCE) – it is said that he became pharaoh by bringing upper Egypt and lower Egypt together for the first time. He is thought to have even worn both crowns: the white crown of lower Egypt and the red crown of upper Egypt. He built the city of Memphis and made it the capital. Some historians credit Narmer with the unification of Egypt, or even Namer and Menes together, however most Egyptologists think they are actually the same person.



| | |
|---------------|---|
| Mummification | The process of preserving a body after death in preparation for the afterlife. |
| Papyrus | A plant that grew on the banks of the Nile. It was used as an early version of paper. |
| Pharaoh | The supreme ruler of all of Ancient Egypt. |
| Sarcophagus | A large stone box that held a mummy’s coffin. Often richly decorated for Pharaohs. |



Cleopatra was the last pharaoh of Ancient Egypt, living between 69 BC and 30 BCE. After her father's death, the throne was left to 18-year-old Cleopatra and her 10 year old brother, Ptolemy. She quickly became the main ruler. It is believed that then, as ruler, she had all three of her siblings killed. She became a close ally of Julius Caesar of Rome and had his baby.

The area near the River Nile that flooded was known as the Black Land. Areas further away were known as the Red Land. Ancient Egyptians relied on the Nile's flood to grow crops and farm.

Doctors learned about the human body from mummy-makers. They set bones and made medicines. Their legacy helped others like the Ancient Greeks to understand the human body, Egyptians even created the first false teeth.

Among the many inventions of the ancient Egyptians was the ox-drawn plough and improvements in irrigation. Egyptians also invented the calendar.



Tutankhamen, known as the boy king, is famous because his tomb was found in 1922.

Timeline of Key Events:

All dates below are approximate

- Old Kingdom: 2600 BCE - 2100 BCE
- Middle Kingdom: 2000 BCE - 1650 BCE
- New Kingdom: 1540 BCE - 1075 BCE

- 7500 BCE First settlers in Nile valley
- 3500 BCE First use of hieroglyphic symbols
- 3100 BCE Narmer unites regions of Lower and Upper Egypt.
- 2650 BCE First step pyramid built
- 2550 BCE Pyramids at Giza built
- 2335 BCE Pyramid texts written (magical spells to protect pharaohs)
- 1472 BCE Hatshepsut becomes caretaker ruler. (Later declares herself pharaoh)
- 1336 BCE Tutankhamen becomes pharaoh
- 1279 BCE Ramses II becomes pharaoh
- 1100 BCE Upper & Lower Egypt split
- 332 BCE Alexander the Great conquers Egypt
- 196 BCE Rosetta stone carved
- 1279 BCE Ramses II becomes pharaoh
- 30 BCE Egypt becomes a Roman Province
- 1922 CE Carter discovers Tutankhamen's tomb

