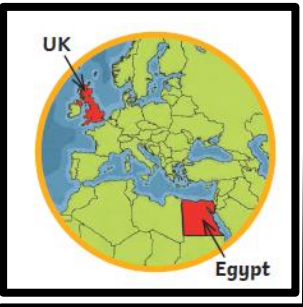


Knowledge Organiser: The Egyptians



The Nile



The river Nile was essential to life in ancient Egypt. Every year, it flooded, leaving behind a black silt that enriched the soil for growing crops. The river was also used to irrigate fields in other areas.

Most people lived along and around the Nile. This is still true in Egypt today. The river was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from the river was used for bricks and papyrus plants were used to make paper.

Mummification

1. Wash the body.
2. Pull out the brain through the nostrils with a hook and fill the skull with sawdust.
3. Remove all internal organs except the heart. Put them into canopic jars.
4. Cover the body in natron salt and leave it to dry for 40 days.
5. Remove the natron salt and pack the body with straw, dried grass or linen.
6. Apply makeup and fake eyes.
7. Wrap the body in linen fabric, adding amulets and a Book of the Dead.
8. Place the mummy in a sarcophagus (decorated coffin).



Famous Pharaohs'

Narmer

Djoser

Thutmoses III

Akhenaten

Tutankhamun

Seti I

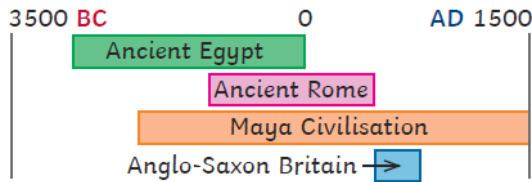
Ramses II

Hatshepsut

Cleopatra

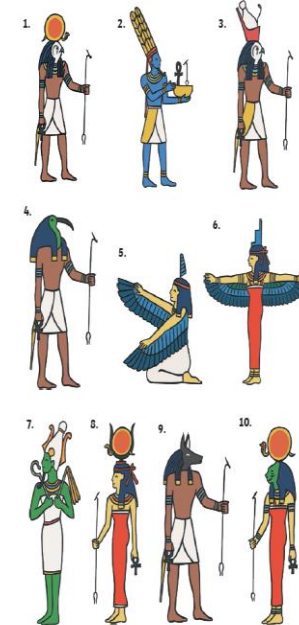


Timeline in History



BC	Used to show that a date is before the year 0. This is counted backwards, so 200 BC is before 100 BC.
AD	Used to show that a date is after the year 0. This is counted forwards, so AD 100 is before AD 200.
irrigation	A system of canals or channels Egyptians dug to supply water to grow crops over a larger area than the water would reach naturally.
silt	Fine particles of soil, clay or sand carried and left by water.
hieroglyphics	A system of writing that used pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters.
cartouche	An oval shape in which the names of kings and queens were often written in hieroglyphics to show that they were special.
pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt.

The Gods and Goddesses



Ra	Sun god, lord of the gods. Sailed his boat through the sky during the day and through the underworld at night.
Amun	Created all things. Usually invisible unless mixed with another god, e.g. as Amun-Ra.
Horus	God of the sky. Pharaoh were believed to be a god-like, living version of Horus.
Thoth	God of wisdom. Believed to have invented hieroglyphics and to keep a record of all knowledge.
Ma'at	Goddess of truth. Pharaohs promised to follow Ma'at and be fair and honest.
Isis	Queen of the goddesses.
Osiris	God of the dead.
Hathor	Goddess of love, music and dance.
Anubis	God of mummification. Weighed the hearts of the dead against Ma'at's feather. If your heart was lighter, you would live forever.
Sekhmet	Goddess of war, fire and medicine.

Ancient Egypt

7,500BC The first settlers arrive in the Nile Valley. They survive by eating wild plants and the animals they hunt. As the climate becomes drier, they learn to domesticate and breed animals closer to the river to farm the land along the banks.

7,000BC Trade increases and food is distributed throughout Egypt. To keep records of this they start to use hieroglyphs, a language of symbols. These records along with their beliefs and knowledge are written out on paper scrolls made from the papyrus plant.

2,640BC The Great Sphinx is built. The 'Step Pyramid' is built in sandstone and encased limestone, standing about 70 metres tall.

2,520BC The Great Sphinx is thought to have been built during the reign of King Khafre and stands on the Giza Plateau. It is the largest statue to be made out of one stone and is also believed to be the oldest known monumental sculpture. In 1798, Napoleon buried the Sphinx in sand up to its neck and it wasn't cleared until 1936.

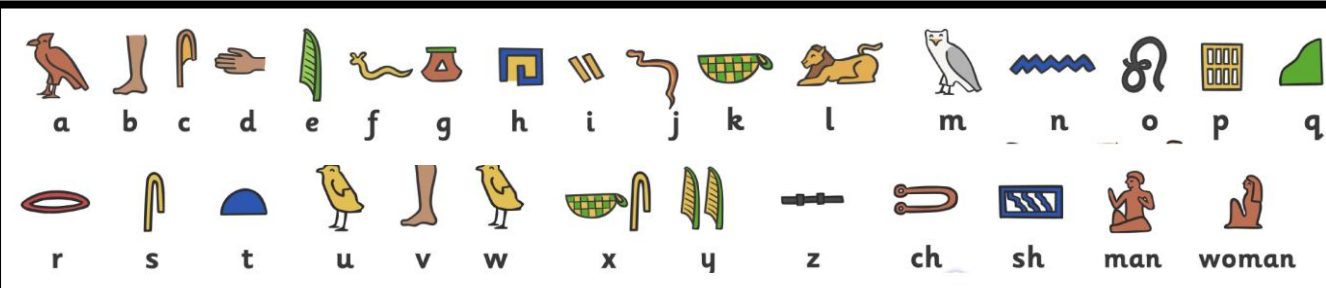
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1,539BC Valley of the Kings is started and expanded up to 1,069BC. The mummies of Pharaohs were buried with their treasures to take with them in the afterlife. To date, 43 tombs have been discovered including Ramses II and Tutankhamun.

2,000BC First thoughts are attached to ovens. This revolutionises farming and combined with the already rhythm of the River Nile, makes the production of food much easier.

1,332BC The 19 year rule of Tutankhamun begins. The boy king is arguably the most famous pharaoh of our time, probably because his tomb was discovered intact in 1922 by a team of British archaeologists. He is thought to have only been 13 when he died, the cause of death is in mystery but some scholars believe he may have been killed in a hippopotamus attack.

518BC Reign of Cleopatra VII, the last pharaoh of Egypt, begins and she rules for 21 years. During her reign she has a son with the Roman leader Julius Caesar. She is defeated in 30BC by the Roman leader Octavian and is believed to have committed suicide with poison from a snake.



Hieroglyphs were written by scribes, who had to go to a special school to learn how to write. Almost all scribes were men, although there is some evidence of female doctors being able to read hieroglyphs in medical texts.

Hieroglyphs were used for religious texts and inscriptions on statues and tombs. They were also used for counting crops and animals so that the right taxes could be taken.

The Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799, was written in hieroglyphs and two other languages, including ancient Greek, which linguists (language experts) could still read.

Linguists translated the hieroglyphs by comparing the languages. It took 20 years to translate all the text into modern language.