

Ancient Egypt

An exploration into the empire of the ancient Egyptians, their culture, art and traditions.

Year 4
Summer Term
HISTORY

Background information

The ancient Egyptian civilisation began 5,000 years ago when people started building villages next to the River Nile in **north-east Africa**. It lasted for around 3,000 years. The ancient Egyptians were one of the greatest civilisations of the past and are renowned for the pyramids, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Ancient Egyptians helped us learn a lot about maths, medicine and farming. They also made their own paper out of reeds called papyrus, and wrote using pictures called hieroglyphics.

Knowledge and Understanding

In this unit pupils will learn...

- About the hierarchy of ancient Egypt.
- How and why the Egyptians mummified the dead.
- About the purpose and building of the pyramids.
- About the importance of the River Nile.
- About the religion of the ancient Egyptians.

Enquiry skills and Key concepts

- Use evidence to ask questions and find answers to questions about the past
- Suggest suitable sources of evidence for historical enquiries
- Use more than one source of evidence to gain a more accurate understanding of history
- Suggest causes and consequences of some of the main events and changes in history
- Describe the social, ethnic, cultural or religious diversity of past society
- Describe the characteristic features of the past, including ideas, beliefs, attitudes and experiences of men, women and children
- Place events, artefacts and historical figures on a timeline using dates

Key Vocabulary:

- Afterlife** – The place where Egyptians believed they would go after they died.
- Akhet** – The season of the year when the River Nile flooded.
- Amulet** - A charm worn that the Ancient Egyptians thought had magical powers.
- Canopic jars** – Special jars that held the organs of a mummy including the lungs, intestines, liver and stomach.
- Dynasty** – A period of rule when a series of kings or pharaohs all came from the same family.
- Giza** - A place where several large pyramids and the Great Sphinx were built.
- Hieroglyphics** – A type of writing that used a combination of pictures and symbols.
- Mummification** - The process of preserving a body.
- Papyrus** – A plant that grew on the banks of the Nile.
- Pharaohs** – The supreme ruler of all of Ancient Egypt.
- Rosetta Stone** - A special stone that had the same inscription written both in Greek and in Egyptian hieroglyphics. It was very helpful in translating and understanding hieroglyphics.
- Sarcophagus** – A large stone box that held a mummy's coffin.
- Sphinx** - A mythological beast with the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh or god. The Egyptians built sphinx statues to guard tombs.