



History Knowledge Organiser

Year 3: Spring Term

Ancient Egypt



Key Knowledge

Learn this information

Where is Egypt?

Egypt is a country located in Africa.

The ancient Egyptian civilisation began 5,000 years ago, when people started building villages next to the River Nile. This time period lasted around 3,000 years, from 7500BC to 30AD.



Why was the River Nile

important for the ancient Egyptian civilisation?

The river was an important source of water in a hot and dry desert landscape. People were also able to grow lots of crops amongst other things.

Hieroglyphics:

The writing system used by the ancient Egyptians consisted of symbols called 'hieroglyphs', which means 'sacred carving'. The people who wrote the hieroglyphics were called scribes who needed to learn over 700 different symbols. Scribes wrote on a thick type of paper made from reeds that grew along the River Nile called 'papyrus'.

Hieroglyphs were used for religious texts and inscriptions on statues and tombs.



Pyramids

The pyramids were impressive structures built as burial places and monuments to the pharaohs. Ancient Egyptians believed that the pyramids helped pharaohs' spirits to reach the afterlife, where they needed food, furniture and other items. The pyramids also showed the religious beliefs and power of the rulers who could afford to build them.



Mummification

The ancient Egyptians believed in life after death and thought that bodies had to be preserved so they could be used in the afterlife. It was a long and expensive process. The body would be washed, organs removed and put in Canopic jars and then the body would be wrapped in linen. The heart was left inside the body.



Key Vocabulary

Understand these key words

Vocabulary	Definition
Ancient	Belonging to the very distant past.
Shang Dynasty	A period of rule when a series of Pharaohs all came from the same family (Shang).
Sumer	The earliest known civilisation in Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq).
Indus Valley	One of the first civilisations (2500BC to 1700BC).
Period	A certain amount of time.
Mummification	The process of preserving a body after death in preparation for the afterlife.
Afterlife	The place where Egyptians believed they would go after they died.
Hieroglyphics	A type of writing that used a combination of pictures and symbols.

Key knowledge

Key concepts

7500BC	First settlers in the Nile valley.
3500BC	First use of hieroglyphic symbols.
2650BC	First step pyramid built.
2500BC	Indus civilisation began (ending in 1700BC).
1600BC	Shang Dynasty began their rule in China (ended in 1046BC).
1336BC	Tutankhamun becomes Pharaoh.
1275BC	Battle of Kadesh
196BC	Rosetta stone carved.
30AD	Ancient Egypt ended following the death of Cleopatra.
1922AD	Carter discovers Tutankhamun's tomb.

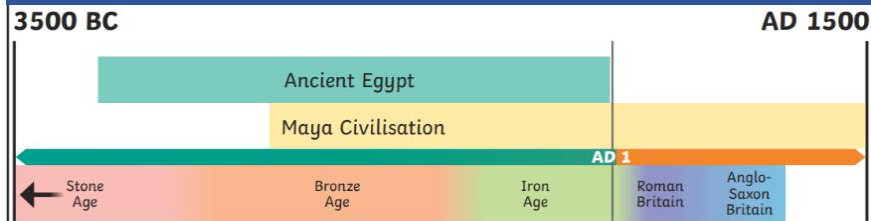
Tutankhamun

Tutankhamun was Pharaoh from 1333BC to 1323BC. He was known as the 'boy king' because he became Pharaoh at age 9. His tomb was discovered in the Valley of the Kings by Howard Carter and his team in 1922. His tomb contained many treasures. The discovery helped people to understand more about the Egyptians pharaohs.



Tutankhamun's death mask

Chronology



Vocabulary	Definition
Chronology	Order of events from earliest to latest.
Civilisation	A group of people with their own languages and way of life.
Peace Treaty	An agreement for peace.
Settlement	A place, usually one where nobody has lived before, where people create a community.
Culture	The ideas or behaviours of a particular group of people/society.
Pharaoh (ruler)	Pharaohs were the King or Queen of Egypt. A pharaoh was the most important and powerful person in the kingdom.
Trade	The actions of swapping, buying and selling goods.
Transport	Take or carry people or goods from one place to another by means of a vehicle, aircraft, or ship.
Farming	The activity of growing crops or raising livestock.
Power	The ability to direct or influence the behaviour of others by having authority (being in charge).
Kingdom	A country ruled by a king or queen (pharaoh).