



# Ancient Egypt



Year Group: 3

Subject Focus: History

Term: Spring 1

## Key facts

- Around 5000 years ago the ancient Egyptians established an extraordinary civilisation.
- Egypt was built around the banks of the River Nile, which allowed them to farm and fish.
- They believed in over 2000 gods and used these to explain the world around them.
- They were ruled by Pharaohs who were seen as gods or half-gods.
- The Egyptians believed in life after death.
- Pyramids and tombs were built as burial places for the Pharaohs. Slave labour was used to construct them all by hand.
- The ancient Egyptians built temples and statues to honour their gods.
- There is evidence to show that hieroglyphs, the first system of writing, was established around 3500 BCE.



Egypt is a country on the continent of Africa. Ancient Egypt means what that country was like a long time ago—before 500AD.

Much of Egypt is covered in desert and there is very little rain. The River Nile flows through Egypt and was the source of life for Ancient Egyptians who used it for farming, fishing, trading.



## Key people/ places

### Pharaohs

<b>Narmer</b>	Said to be the first Pharaoh of all Egypt, around 3150 BCE. Also known as Warrior Menes.
<b>Khufu</b>	Pharaoh responsible for the building of the Great Pyramid at Giza.
<b>Hatshepsut</b>	First and longest-reigning female Pharaoh.
<b>Tutankhamun</b>	Youngest Pharaoh, famed for his burial tomb in the Valley of the Kings (mask, left).
<b>Ramses II</b>	Often known as Ramses the Great, his mummy still rests in Cairo's Egyptian Museum. Built more statues and temples than any other!
<b>Cleopatra VII</b>	Often considered the last Pharaoh of Egypt. Kept power by making alliances with famous Romans such as Mark Antony & Julius Caesar.

### Gods



## Exciting books/ web links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg87xnb/resources/1>  
<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/egypt/ten-facts-about-ancient-egypt/>

## Key words:

canopic jar	a jar used during the mummification process to hold the body's organs.
hieroglyphics	symbols used by Ancient Egyptians to convey messages
irrigation	the supply of water to land or crops
mummification	a way of preserving a body after death.
papyrus	paper made from the stems of the papyrus plant.
pharaoh	a ruler of Ancient Egypt
River Nile	the longest river in Africa which flows through Egypt.
Rosetta Stone	a part of a bigger stone slab. It was an important clue that helped researchers read hieroglyphics.
sarcophagus	a stone coffin
sphinx	a fictional creature with the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh or god.

## Parents as partners:

- Encourage your child to create some amazing fact cards about life in Ancient Egypt.
- The Ancient Egyptians believed in many gods and goddesses. Research the names of some of them and see if you can find a picture of what they looked like.
- Support your child to create a model of a pyramid. Can you find a way of showing what it was like inside?
- Create a word search or crossword about ancient Egypt.
- Find out what life is like in Egypt today. Create a factfile.