

Who were the Ancient Egyptians?



Year Group: 3

Subject Focus: History

Term: Spring 2

Key facts

- Around 5000 years ago the ancient Egyptians established an extraordinary civilisation.
- 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.
- Egyptians were mummified once they had died, they believed the heart was the most important organ as it guided them to the afterlife.
- Tutankhamun was known as the 'boy pharaoh', he ascended to the throne when he was 9.

Embalming and Mummification

1. Wash the body in water, salts, oil and wine.
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 70 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).

Key people/ places

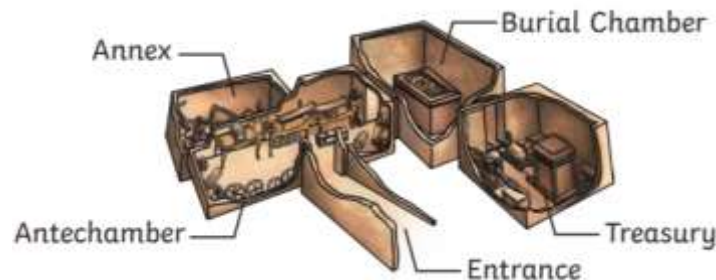
Pharaohs

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

The Discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb



Howard Carter: British archaeologist who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings.



Key words:

ancient	from a time long past
archaeologist	person who studies the lives of people who lived in the past.
artefacts	objects made by human beings
canopic jar	a jar used during the mummification process to hold the body's organs.
excavation	to dig in the ground to discover old buildings or objects that have been buried for a long time.
hieroglyphics	symbols used by Ancient Egyptians to convey messages
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
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.
- Create a word search or crossword about ancient Egypt.

Exciting books/ web links:



<https://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/learning-activities/history/ancient-egypt/introduction/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq87xnb>