

Team 3 Theme Knowledge Organiser – Ancient Egyptians

Key Vocabulary

ancient	Extremely old; existing for many years.
Africa	Egypt is within this continent.
Egyptian	Describe something of, from, or related to Egypt.
Cairo	The capital city of Egypt, the largest city in the Arab world.
pharaoh	Monarchs of Ancient Egypt, e.g. Cleopatra.
archaeologist	A person who history through the analysis of artefacts.
sarcophagus	A stone coffin that contains a mummy.
afterlife	A belief in an underworld, eternal life and rebirth of the soul.
mummification	The process of preserving the body after death, e.g. embalming the flesh.
artefact	An object made by a human. They are typically of historical interest.
hieroglyphics	A system of writing that used pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters.

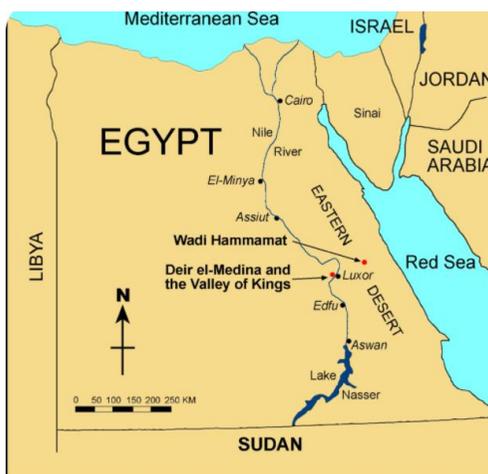


Figure 1 - Map of Egypt showing the locations of Deir el-Medina, the Valley of Kings, and Wadi Hammamat.



Ancient Egyptian Writing

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.

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

The Nile

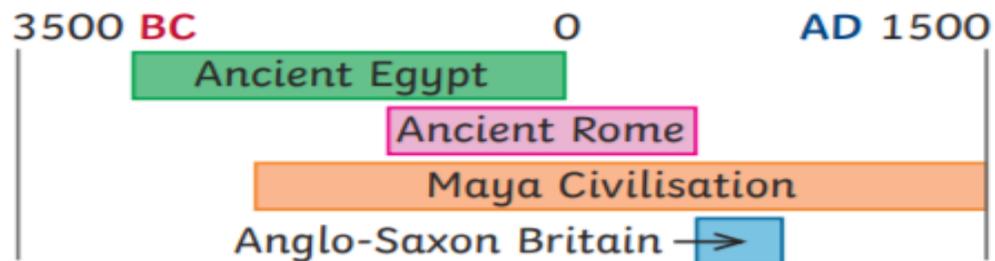
The river Nile was essential to life in ancient Egypt. Every year, it flooded, leaving behind a black silt that enriched the soil for growing crops. The river was also used to irrigate fields in other areas.

Most people lived along and around the Nile. It was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from the river was used for bricks and papyrus plants were used to make paper.

Key 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.

Timeline



Tutankhamun Facts

- Born: around 1342 BC
- Died: around 1323 BC
- Pharaoh from approx. 1333 BC to 1323 BC
- Known as the 'boy king' as he became pharaoh aged only 9
- Tomb discovered by Howard Carter and his team in the Valley of the Kings in 1922
- Tomb contained over 3000 treasures
- Historians believe Tutankhamun died suddenly as the tomb was finished hastily.

Embalming and 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).