

Ancient Egyptians

History

Knowledge Organiser



Key Facts

- Ancient Egypt was home to some of the most influential inventions in history. They developed systems for writing and mathematics, used paper, and wrote texts on religion, astronomy and medicine.
- The Rosetta Stone is one of the most significant discoveries—it has the same text on it in three different types of writing, helping historians to decipher hieroglyphics.
- The Great Pyramid of Giza is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It was built for Pharaoh Khufu and took 20 years to build. It was 147m tall and built from 2.3million stones.
- Tutankhamun was 9 when he became king and died at the age of 18. It is not known exactly how he died. His tomb (KV62) was discovered by Howard Carter in the Valley of the Kings. It is the only tomb to have been discovered intact.
- Mummification — the body was embalmed to prevent it from decaying. First of all, the brain and internal organs were removed and placed in special canopic jars. The body was then treated with a mineral called natron to help preserve it. The preserved body was then wrapped in layers of bandage made from linen. The final stage was to put a funeral mask over the face. Embalming was a lengthy process that could take up to 70 days. Then the funeral could take place, and the body would be left in the tomb with all the objects and treasures needed in the afterlife.
- Ra—the sun god, Horus—god of the sky, Anubis—god of the dead, Thoth—god of wisdom, Osiris—god of the underworld, Seth—god of chaos,

Chronology

7500 BC	First settlers in the Nile Valley
3500 BC	First use of hieroglyphic symbols
3100 BC	Narmer unites regions of upper and lower Egypt
2650 BC	First step pyramid is built
2600—2100 BC	The Old Kingdom
2560 BC	The Great Pyramid is completed
2335 BC	Pyramid texts written
2200 BC	End of the pyramid era
2000—1650 BC	The Middle Kingdom
1540—1075 BC	The New Kingdom
1472 BC	Hatshepsut becomes caretaker ruler and later declares herself pharaoh
1336 BC	Tutankhamun becomes pharaoh
1279 BC	Rameses II becomes pharaoh
1100 BC	Upper and Lower Egypt is split
332 BC	Alexander the Great conquers Egypt
196 BC	Rosetta Stone is carved
30 BC	Egypt becomes a Roman province
1799 AD	Rosetta Stone discovered
1922 AD	Howard Carter discovers Tutankhamun's tomb

Vocabulary

BC/BCE	Before Christ/Before the Common Era
AD	Anno Domini—after the birth of Jesus
archaeologists	People who study the past, examining remains and artefacts
canopic jars	Containers holding organs from the body
sarcophagus	Decorative container for the body
mummy	Preserved body
afterlife	A life some people believe begins when you die
preserve	Protect from decay or damage
embalmed	Preserved with special substances
pharaoh	King or queen
Valley of the Kings	The location of the tombs of many pharaohs

Useful links and sources

- <https://www.historyextra.com/period/ancient-egypt/8-things-you-probably-didnt-know-about-tutankhamun/>
- https://www.osirisnet.net/3d-tours/e_3d-tours.htm
- <https://sites.google.com/site/ancientegyptiantour/virtual-tour-of-ancient-tombs>
- <https://www.britannica.com/list/to-all-nations-8-fascinating-jesuit-missionaries>
- <https://tutankhamun-london.com/learn-about-tutankhamun-for-kids/>