



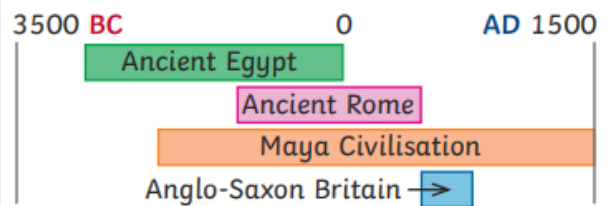
# Ancient Egyptians

The Ancient Egyptians ruled over 5000 years ago and lasted for 3000 years. Pharaohs ruled Egyptians and one of the most famous was a boy called Tutankhamun. Ancient Egypt depended on the waters of the River Nile, which flows through harsh and arid desert. Only the land on the banks of the Nile could be cultivated to support life and farm on. The rest of Egypt was, and is, desert. The Ancient Egyptians made paper from reeds called papyrus and that is where we get the word 'paper'. They wrote in pictures called hieroglyphics. The Egyptians were famous for creating magnificent buildings called Pyramids. The Egyptians built over 100 pyramids and some of them were almost 150 meters tall.

## In this unit the children will:

- Develop an understanding of the Ancient Egyptian time period.
- Understand the mummification process.
- Recognise the significance of the papyrus of Anti Tale.
- Consider the significance of the Pharaoh, Hatshepsut.
- Consider how Ancient Egyptian inventions are relevant today.
- Understand what everyday life was like for men, women and children.
- Understand what the Ancient Egyptians had in common with other ancient civilisations during this time period.

## Timeline



## Link to previous knowledge on rivers – The River 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. This is still true in Egypt today. The river was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from the river was used for bricks and papyrus plants were used to make paper.

## History skills:

- Chronology.
- Knowledge and Understanding.
- Enquiry.
- Analysing sources of information.



**Key Vocabulary:**

**Pharaoh-** The title of an Ancient Egyptian King.

**Scarab-** A large dung beetle of the eastern Mediterranean area, regarded as sacred in Ancient Egypt.

**Papyrus-** A material made in Ancient Egyptian times. Made from a stem of a water plant and used to write on.

**Amulet-** An ornament or piece of jewellery thought to give protection against evil, danger or disease.

**Canopic Jar** – A covered urn used in Ancient Egyptian burials to hold organs from an embalmed body.

**Sarcophagus-** A stone coffin, typically adorned with a sculpture or inscription and associated with the ancient civilisations of Egypt, Rome and Greece.

**Tomb-** A large vault underground where Ancient Egyptians are buried.

**Afterlife-** The Egyptians believe in an underworld, eternal life and rebirth of the soul.

**Hieroglyphics** – Symbols and writing. Without the Rosetta Stone, it is likely that Egyptian Hieroglyphics would still be a mystery.

**Mummification-** Embalming and drying a body to stop decay.

**Egyptologist-** Somebody that specialises in the history of the Ancient Egyptians.

**Ankh-** Symbol of life used in Ancient Egypt. Similar to a cross but having a loop at the top.

**Fun Facts about the Ancient Egyptians:**

-Most Ancient Egyptian **pyramids** were built as tombs for **pharaohs** (rulers of Ancient Egypt) and their families. To date, over 130 pyramids have been discovered in Egypt.

-The afterlife was incredibly important to the Egyptians. They believed that by preserving a dead person's body which they did through the process of **mummification** – their soul would live on in the after-life forever.

-The **Pyramid of Khufu** at **Giza** is the largest Egyptian pyramid. This incredible structure weighs as much as 16 Empire State buildings!

-Both Egyptian men and women wore make-up. The eye-paint was usually green (made from **copper**) or black (made from **lead**). As well as offering protection from the sun, the Egyptians believed make-up had magical healing powers, too!

-Unwrapped, the bandages of an Ancient Egyptian mummy could stretch for **1.6km**. Yikes!

-The Egyptian alphabet contained more than **700 hieroglyphs**!

-Ancient Egyptians believed in more than **2,000** deities! They had gods for everything, from dangers to chores! Each had different responsibilities and needed to be worshipped so that life could be kept in balance.

-**Cats** were considered to be a sacred animal by the Ancient Egyptians. It's thought that most families kept a cat as a pet, which they believed would bring the household good luck!

-Love playing boardgames with your pals? Well, so did the Ancient Egyptians! One popular game was **Senet**, which was played for over **2,000** years! The game involved throwing sticks (in the same way we throw dice) to see how many squares to move your piece forward on the board.

-The Ancient Egyptians **invented** lots of things we still use today, such as paper, pens, locks and keys and – believe it or not – toothpaste!



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