

**ANCIENT EGYPT**

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

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| **Important Facts**  |
| * The Nile was important because it provided water for crops but also **fertile** soil - this means that people **settled** near the banks of the Nile as it was considered a prime location. They were among the first **civilisations** to use **irrigation** systems.
* The Nile also provided mud for bricks and pots, opportunities for fishing, papyrus reeds and a key means of transport.
* We know about **ancient** Egyptian life be-cause of evidence such as the pyramids, the **artefacts** that were found there and methods of communications such as the use of **hieroglyphics** and **papyrus** rolls.
* Egyptian **society** was very **hierarchical** - this means that some groups of people were deemed more important than others. Each group had a different role to play in Egyptian **society.**
* **Mummification** was the process of **preserving** a body - this process was very important to the Egyptians as they believed this would prepare the body for their journey into the **afterlife**.
* The bodies of important people, such as **pharaohs**, were placed in these **pyramids**, which were built as **tombs.**
* Religion was very important in Ancient Egypt. They were **polytheists** - they believed in different gods and goddesses that were in charge of different parts of their lives. These were called **deities.**

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 | **Vocabulary**

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| afterlife  | a life that some people believe begins when you die, for example a life in heaven or as another person or animal  |
| ancient  | belonging to the distant past, especially to the period in history before the end of the Roman Empire |
| archaeologist  | someone who studies the past by exploring old remains  |
| architecture  | the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings  |
| artefacts  | an object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like  |
| Canopic jar | Jars used by ancient Egyptians to hold mummified remains. During the mummification process the organs of the human body were removed and preserved separately in canopic jars. |
| cartouche  | Ancient Egyptian name plate Shaped like an oval with a horizontal bar at the bottom, each cartouche contains a royal name. |
| civilisation  | a human **society** with its own social organisation and **culture**.  |
| culture  | activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation  |
| deities  | a god or goddess  |
| fertile  | rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants  |
| hierarchy  | a system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance, for example in **society**  |
| hieroglyphics  | symbols in the form of pictures which are used in some writing systems, for example those of ancient Egypt.  |
| irrigation  | supply land with water in order to help crops grow  |
| mummification  | If a dead body is **mummified**, it is **preserved**, for example by rubbing it with special oils and wrapping it in cloth  |
| papyrus  | a tall water plant that grows in Africa  |
| pharaoh  | a king of **ancient** Egypt  |
| polytheists  | the worship of or belief in more than one god  |
| preserve  | making sure that something remains as it is, and does not change or end  |
| pyramids  | ancient stone buildings with four triangular sloping sides. The most famous pyramids are those built in ancient Egypt to contain the bodies of their kings and queens.  |
| sarcophagus  | a large decorative container in which a dead body was placed in **ancient** times  |
| settler/settlement  | people who migrate to a new place. When people start a community, this is a settlement  |
| shabti | Shabti dolls were funerary figures in ancient Egypt who accompanied the deceased to the afterlife.  |
| shaduf | Hand-operated device for lifting water  |
| society  | people in general, thought of as a large organized group  |
| scribe | Scribes were people in ancient Egypt who learned to read and write. |
| stonemason | A person who builds with stone |
| tomb  | a large grave that is above ground  |

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Ancient Egypt Timeline

3o BC – Queen Cleopatra died, signalling the end of Ancient Egypt as is it is normally known

1325 BC– King Tutankhamun was buried in the Valley of Kings

1550 BC – Many of the royal tombs are built in the Valley of Kings.

3000 BC– Walled towns and villages begin to be built, made of mud brick

2500 BC – The Great Sphinx and the Great Pyramid are built at Giza.

3500 BC – Craftsman begin to create wall paintings using hieroglyphic symbols

5000 BC – Egyptians farmed sheep and cattle, and grew wheat and barley

6000 BC – People began to settle in the Nile valley