



Would the Ancient Egyptians have achieved as much without the Nile?

St White's Primary School - History

Phase: UKS2Topic: Ancient Egypt



What should I already know?

- Rivers played a key role in settlements being established.

Early Egypt

- People migrated to live next to the Nile
- The Nile provides jobs – transport, farming and trading.
- Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt unified to create Egypt.
- The separate crowns were unified to create a special red and white headdress.
- In the Egyptian hierarchy, the pharaoh was at the top and slaves and farmers at the bottom.
- Artefacts help us understand what life was like in Early Egypt.

Mummification and the afterlife

- Most Ancient Egyptians only lived until the age of 30 so they strongly believed in life after death.
- To keep the body from rotting away, the Egyptians used mummification.
- Canopic jars each held a body part from the dead person.
- The mummification process was only done to the most important people.
- Pharaohs built pyramids for after they died.

Achievements

- Buildings - Built amazing structures like the pyramids without modern technology.
- Paper - One of the first civilisations to make paper to write on.
- Maths - Developed a system of maths that helped them measure accurately.
- Medicine - They knew to keep healthy and learnt lots about the body from dissecting dead bodies
- Calendar - They invented a 365 day calendar system based on the when the Nile flooded, giving them seasons
- Writing - One of the first civilisations to have a form of writing, called hieroglyphics. Allowed them to communicate
- Farming - Great at farming which kept the population well fed. Used the Nile to good effect.
- Language - Created a language that they could understand and communicate with
- Mummification - Knew how to preserve bodies so that they didn't decay quickly. Means we know more about them today

Ancient Civilisations

- Ancient Sumer (3500BC - 2200BC)** - South Iraq between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
- Achievements: system of time; one of the world's first written languages - cuneiform; made cylinder seals for identification; government part king (monarchy) and part council (elected.)
- Impact on today: same system of time today; signatures used for identification. Monarchy and government still exist
- Indus Valley (2600BC - 1300BC)** - Pakistan/India along the Indus River
- Achievements: Created a system of writing and maths; created public hygiene systems; invented a uniform system for weights.
- Impact on today: Public health taken seriously; standard sized bricks and materials.
- Shang Dynasty (1600BC - 1046BC)** - Eastern China along the Yellow River
- Achievements: Developed a system of writing; developed ways of using bronze; created a strong government.
- Impact on today: China still uses a similar writing system; governments around the world are still organised similarly.

History

Historians are like good detectives; they are curious and ask important questions about the past.

Gods and goddesses

- The Egyptians had many gods.
- People believed Osiris made the Nile flood each year so crops could grow.
- Hapi was the god of the Nile.

Technical vocabulary

pharaoh	The supreme leaders of the land.
Scarab	A type of beetle found in Egypt that was sacred to the Egyptians.
Papyrus	A type of ancient paper used by the Egyptians.
Scribe	The name for someone who can read and write. These were well respected in ancient Egypt.
Amulet	A small object worn or carried by someone in the name of a god as that person believed they would receive protection.
Canopic jar	Small containers that would hold the internal organs of a mummy.
Sarcophagus	A stone container for a body.
Tomb	A place where a body would be buried or laid to rest. These were usually reserved for important people and might include details about their lives painted on the walls.
Afterlife	Relating to the time after a person's death. The Egyptians believed that death was a mere interruption.
Hieroglyphics	A system of writing that used pictures and symbols instead of letters and numbers.
Mummification	The process of preserving the skin and flesh of a body by embalming it and drying it out.
Irrigation	Watering crops through man-made channels such as ditches and canals.
Shaduf	An Egyptian pump that lifted water.
Sphinx	A mythical being that had the body of a lion or cat and the head of a human.
Oasis	An area of desert that has a fresh water supply.
Egyptologist	Someone who studies the ancient Egyptians. One of the most famous examples was Howard Carter.
Civilisation	A group of people with their own languages and way of life.
Polytheistic	Worshipping more than one god
Pyramid	A four sided structure that was built by the Egyptians.
barter	A system used to exchange goods without using money.
Rosetta stone	A stone slab found with identical Egyptian and Greek writing, meaning that the hieroglyphics could be decoded and understood.