

## Knowledge Organiser

Year: 3    Subject: History    Unit: Why was Ancient Egypt so successful as an Ancient Civilisation?

### Overview:

During this sequence of learning, pupils will discover what Ancient Egypt was really like 5,000 years ago, examine different sources of evidence and find out what these tell us about everyday life. Pupils will also look at why Ancient Egypt was so successful as an ancient civilisation.

### What should I already know?

- We can find out about life in the past using sources of evidence such as objects and pictures.
- How to order events on a timeline starting with the earliest.
- Basic facts about the Egyptians such as they built pyramids and mummified the dead.

### Historical Skills:

- Find out about the daily lives of people in different periods.
- Identify key features, aspects and events during different time periods.
- Use a range of sources to find out about the past.

### What will I know by the end of the unit?

- The Ancient Egyptian civilisation began in approximately 3000BC and lasted for nearly 3000 years.
- Ancient Egypt was ruled by a King or a Pharaoh.
- The river Nile was incredibly important to the Egyptians as it provided them with water and they were able to grow crops on the bank as it provided fertile soil due to flooding every year. They also fished in the river and papyrus grew on the banks.



- We can find out what life was like in Ancient Egypt by paintings that have been discovered on the walls of tombs such as the one below.

- Howard Carter was a British archaeologist who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922. The tomb

was discovered in the Valley of the Kings.

- Tutankhamun was a Pharaoh who died when he was only 18. It is not known how he died but there have been many suggestions put forward.
- Tutankhamun's tomb contained lots of important evidence such as paintings on the walls, jewellery, gold and games.
- The people of Ancient Egypt built mud-brick houses using the mud from the banks of the river Nile, they grew some of their own food and traded in the villages.

### Vocabulary:

pharaoh    The ruler of all of Ancient Egypt.

archaeologist    A person who studies history by looking at artefacts and remains.

ancient civilisation    The name given for the first settled and stable communities.

hieroglyphs    A type of writing using pictures and symbols.

mummification    A process that happens once you die to preserve the body and prepare it for after-life.

canopic jars    Special jars that held the organs of a mummy.



sarcophagus

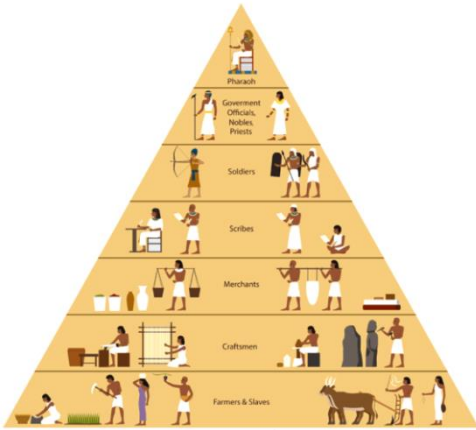


A large stone box that held a mummy's coffin.

tomb    A chamber used to protect the dead, built within the pyramids or underground.

peasantry    A poor farmer or farm worker.

- Most ancient Egyptians worked in the fields or were farmers, craftsmen or scribes.
- The pyramid shows the hierarchy of importance with the Pharaoh as the most important and the farmers and slaves as the least important.
- The Egyptians believed that once they died they would have an after-life.



Therefore, they had to stop their body from rotting and preserve it for their second life. We know this because after one died they carried out a series of steps known as mummification.

- Mummification involved removing the brain and organs before washing the whole body. They would then place the organs in special jars known as Canopic Jars and fill the body with sawdust, spices and linen. Finally, the body would be dried and wrapped in linens, before placing it in a special coffin known as a sarcophagus.

## A comparative time-line of the first civilisations

