



Year 4
Ancient Egyptians

Builds on Knowledge and Skills

Ancient Egypt was a powerful and exciting civilization that lived a very long time ago, in the country we now call Egypt, in Africa. It started more than 5,000 years ago, around 3100 BCE, and lasted for thousands of years! It was built along the River Nile, which helped them grow food, travel, and build big cities. They were ruled by pharaohs, who were like kings and queens. Some of their names, like Tutankhamun (King Tut) and Cleopatra, are still famous today! They built huge pyramids as tombs, made mummies, and believed in many gods. Ancient Egypt began around 3100 BCE and ended in 30 BCE when the Romans took over. That's over 3,000 years ago! Ancient Egypt is one of the most amazing parts of history, and people still study it today to learn about their writing, art, buildings, and beliefs.

Books, texts, primary and secondary sources you may use:

- Henry's House: Egyptians by Philip Ardagh.
- Julius Zebra: Entangled with the Egyptians by Gary Northfield.
- Tony Robinson's Weird World of Wonders: Egyptians!
- The Egyptian Cinderella by Shirley Climo.
- Horrible Histories: The Ancient Egyptians by Terry Deary.
- DK Eyewitness Books: Ancient Egypt by George Hart.
- The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan (The Kane Chronicles series).

Suggested family experience

La Hougue Bie Museum in St. Saviour is one of the oldest historical sites in Jersey. It has a Neolithic passage grave and a museum with old objects found by archaeologists.

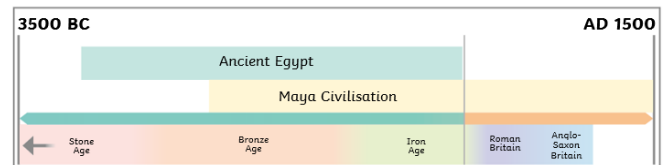


Vocabulary you will use:

Word	Definition
ancient	Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.
civilization	The society, culture, and way of life of a particular area.
Egypt	An ancient kingdom in northeastern Africa.
hieroglyphics	A writing system that uses pictures and symbols instead of letters and words.
pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt.
tomb	A sealed room where a person was placed after death.
pyramid	A massive structure built especially in ancient Egypt that usually has a square base and four triangular sides meeting at a point.
irrigation	A system of canals or channels dug by the Egyptians to supply water to grow crops over a larger area than the water would naturally reach.
The Nile	A river that runs through Egypt. It was essential to life in ancient Egypt.

Local History Links

La Hougue Bie Museum in St. Saviour is one of the oldest historical sites in Jersey. It has a Neolithic passage grave and a museum with old objects found by archaeologists. One of the displays shows items linked to the "Jersey Mummy"—an Egyptian mummy brought to Jersey in the 1800s by explorer John Gosset. The mummy itself was lost in the 19th century, but the objects that remain help us learn about ancient Egyptian life.



Key Dates

Ancient Egypt lasted for thousands of years! To make it easier, historians split it into three big time periods, or "kingdoms." Here they are:

Old Kingdom (around 2700–2200 BCE)

Also called "The Age of the Pyramids".

- 2600 BCE — The Great Pyramid of Giza was built for Pharaoh Khufu.
- Pharaohs were super powerful and ruled like kings.
- Egypt became strong and rich.

Middle Kingdom (around 2050–1650 BCE)

Also called "The Time of Rebuilding".

- Egypt grew bigger and built canals and temples.
- Pharaohs worked to help the people more.
- Egypt got better at protecting itself from enemies.

New Kingdom (around 1550–1070 BCE)

Also called "The Age of Famous Pharaohs".

- c. 1470 BCE — Queen Hatshepsut became one of Egypt's first female pharaohs!
- c. 1330 BCE — King Tutankhamun (King Tut) ruled Egypt.
- Egypt fought wars and became very powerful.
- They traded with many countries.
- After the New Kingdom, Egypt was taken over by other empires, like the Greeks and Romans.

What is Ancient Egypt?

Ancient Egypt was a fascinating civilization that existed a long time ago along the Nile River in Africa. The people there built massive pyramids, worshiped many gods, and had powerful leaders called pharaohs. They used picture symbols, known as hieroglyphs, to write. They were also known for their amazing art, inventions, and achievements. Ancient Egypt is one of the most famous ancient cultures in the world!

Writing: They created pictures and symbols called hieroglyphs to write down stories and ideas.

Math: Egyptians used math to build their big pyramids and measure land.

Medicine: They knew how to treat sickness with plants and even did surgeries!

Calendar: They made a special calendar to help with farming and planning festivals.

Mummification: They preserved bodies to help people's spirits live on after death.

Art: The Egyptians made beautiful paintings and statues that we can still see today!

What achievements did the Ancient Egyptians make?

Key Facts

Cats were very special in Ancient Egypt. They were believed to bring good luck and were even mummified like people!



The River Nile gave them water, food, and helped them grow crops. Every year, the river flooded and left behind rich soil for farming.

The Great Pyramid of Giza is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World!

Pharaohs wore crowns to show their power. Some crowns were shaped like cobras or had feathers.



The ancient Egyptians built huge pyramids to bury their pharaohs (kings and queens).



What was life like in Ancient Egypt?



Homes

People in Ancient Egypt lived in houses made of mud bricks. Rich people had bigger houses, but poor people had smaller ones.

Clothes

People wore clothes made from linen. Men wore skirts and women wore dresses. Rich people wore fancy clothes and jewelry.



Food

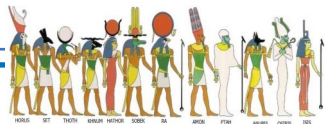
The Egyptians ate bread and drank beer. They also ate vegetables and fruits. Rich people ate meat and sweet foods.

Jobs

Most people worked on farms. Some worked building pyramids. Pharaohs were the kings of Egypt.

Religion

The Egyptians believed in many gods and thought the gods controlled everything. They believed in life after death.



What beliefs did the Ancient Egyptians have?

Horus

God of the sky. The ancient Egyptians believed a pharaoh was a god-like living version of Horus.

Thoth

God of wisdom. He is believed to have invented hieroglyphics and kept a record of all knowledge.

Ma'at

Goddess of truth. Pharaohs promised to follow Ma'at and be fair and honest.

The Nile River

The Nile River was very important. It gave people water and helped them grow crops.

Writing

The Egyptians used pictures and symbols to write. Only a few people could read and write.

Fun

The Egyptians liked to play games and go to festivals with music and dancing.



What were the Pyramids?

The pyramids are huge stone buildings built in ancient Egypt as tombs for the pharaohs (kings). They believed the pharaohs would go to the afterlife, and the pyramids helped them on that journey. The Great Pyramid of Giza is the most famous and was built over 4,000 years ago. People still wonder how they were built, but they show how smart and strong the ancient Egyptians were!

The pyramids were built by many workers who used large stones. They didn't have machines, so they used tools like ropes, wooden ramps, and even their hands to move the heavy stones into place. The stones were carefully stacked, one by one, to create the pyramid shape. It took a long time, sometimes many years, to finish each pyramid!

The ancient Egyptians worshipped many gods and goddesses who were responsible for different aspects of life and death.

Osiris

God of the dead.

Anubis

God of mummification. He weighed the hearts of the dead against Ma'at's feather. If the heart was lighter, the person could pass to the afterlife.