

Who built the pyramids?

In this unit of work the children will be immersed in the history of the Ancient Egyptians, learning about their lives in comparison to today and how differently they lived.

In this unit children will:

- Learn who the Egyptians were and when they first were founded.
- Learn about Egypt, locating it on a world map and discussing features in the country.
- Look at what life was like in Ancient Egypt, comparing it to life today.
- To know how the Egyptians used the River Nile for their way of life.
- Understand how mummies were created and the ancient art of mummification and then learn about famous Pharaohs including Tutankhamun.
- Understand what Egyptians believed in life after death.
- Who built the pyramids, why and how.
- Explore the different Egyptian Gods.
- Learn about how Egyptians created papyrus paper and used pictures to create their own alphabet.

Prior Learning

Year 1 - Timelines

Year 2 – Historical figures

Year 3 – The Romans

Cross Curricular Links

Letter writing

Key Vocabulary

Afterlife - The place where Egyptians believed they would go after they died.

Akhet - The season of the year when the Nile river flooded. A very important time of year in the desert.

Canopic jars - Special jars that held the organs of a mummy including the lungs, intestines, liver and stomach.

Dynasty - A period of rule when a series of Pharaohs all came from the same family.

Egyptologist - An archaeologist who focusses Ancient Egypt. Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's tomb.

Hieroglyphics - A type of writing that used a combination of pictures and symbols.

Mummification - The process of preserving a body after death in preparation for the afterlife.

Papyrus - A plant that grew on the banks of the Nile. It was used as an early version of paper.

Pharaoh - The supreme ruler of all of Ancient Egypt.

Sarcophagus - A large stone box that

Key Knowledge

- A unified kingdom was formed in **3150 BC** by King Menes, leading to a series of dynasties that ruled **Egypt** for the next three millennia.
- **Tutankhamen** became **Pharaoh** in 1336 BC and he was discovered by **Howard Carter** in 1922.
- Most Ancient Egyptian **pyramids** were built as tombs for **pharaohs** and their families. To date, over 130 **pyramids** have been discovered in **Egypt**.
- The Egyptian alphabet contained more than 700 **hieroglyphs**.
- Cats were considered a **sacred** animal by the Egyptians.



Key Questions

- Who was the founder of the Egyptians?
- How long did the Egyptians rule?
- Who discovered Tutankhamun?

- 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.

Substantive concepts

- Power
- Trade
- Settlement

A comparative timeline of the first civilisations

