

Ancient civilisation: focus on Ancient Egypt

What is a civilisation?		Key People and Places		Key Vocabulary							
A civilisation is a group of people with their own language and ways of life. Most civilisations have agriculture (a way to grow food) and system of government such as kings and queens or elections. Civilisations have common systems for living and can have a shared religion of some kind that the population follows.		<p>Narmer Said to be the first Pharaoh of Egypt, around 3150 BC.</p> <p>Khufu Pharaoh responsible for building the Great Pyramids at Giza.</p> <p>Hatshepsut First and longest reigning female Pharaoh.</p> <p>Tutankhamun Youngest Pharaoh, famed for his burial tomb in the Valley of the Kings.</p> <p>Howard Carter An archaeologist who discovered King Tutankhamun's tomb.</p> <p>Valley of the Kings Valley in Egypt where tombs were built for famous Pharaohs.</p> <p>Pyramids of Giza Royal tombs built for three different Pharaohs.</p> <p>Cleopatra The last ruler of Ancient Egypt.</p>		<p>afterlife Life after death.</p> <p>hieroglyphic Type of writing using pictures and symbols.</p> <p>papyrus A tall water plant that grows in Africa.</p> <p>pyramid Buildings usually with four triangular sloping slides. These were built to contain the bodies of Kings and Queens in Ancient Egypt.</p> <p>tomb A large grave where people were buried.</p> <p>pharaoh The supreme ruler of all of Ancient Egypt.</p> <p>fertile land Land rich in nutrients to support the growth of plants.</p> <p>mummification When a dead body is preserved (kept in its original state) by rubbing it in special oils and wrapping in linen cloth.</p> <p>excavate Remove earth from an area to find buried remains of a body or artefacts</p> <p>canopic jar Special jars which hold organs of the mummy.</p> <p>sarcophagus A large decorative container in which a dead body was kept in ancient times.</p>							
Timeline - ancient civilisations											
3200 BC - 1792 BC		Ancient Sumer civilisation									
3150 BC - 30 BC		Ancient Egyptian civilisation									
2600 BC - 1900 BC		Indus Valley civilisation									
1760 BC - 1046 BC		Shang Dynasty civilisation									
Timeline - Ancient Egypt											
3500 BC		First use of hieroglyphic symbols									
2550 BC		Pyramids at Giza built									
1336 BC		Tutankhamun becomes Pharaoh									
1922		Howard Carter's discovery									
What else was going on in the World											
3000 BC		The Bronze Age started in Europe.									
 											
Why was Howard Carter's discovery significant?											
<p>Howard Carter was an English archaeologist. He became world-famous after discovering the untouched tomb of Tutankhamun. Significant artefacts found in Tutankhamun's tomb, which tell us about life in Ancient Egypt, included a golden death mask, chariot and a dagger made from iron!</p>											
What were Ancient Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife?											
<p>Mummification was the process of preserving the body. This process was very important to Ancient Egyptians as they believed that when they died their soul would take a journey through the underworld where they would be judged to see whether they had lived a good life. As well as the food and drink they would need in the afterlife, Pharaohs were buried with valuable treasures, canopic jars containing their organs, games and even furniture.</p>											
											