

Grange Park Primary School Year 3 Summer 1 and 2 History

Ancient civilisation: focus on Ancient Egypt

What is a civilisation?

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.

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.
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Key People and Places

Narmer	Said to be the first Pharaoh of Egypt, around 3150 BC.
Khufu	Pharaoh responsible for building the Great Pyramids at Giza.
Hatshepsut	First and longest reigning female Pharaoh.
Tutankhamun	Youngest Pharaoh, famed for his burial tomb in the Valley of the Kings.
Howard Carter	An archaeologist who discovered King Tutankhamun's tomb.
Valley of the Kings	Valley in Egypt where tombs were built for famous Pharaohs.
Pyramids of Giza	Royal tombs built for three different Pharaohs.
Cleopatra	The last ruler of Ancient Egypt.

Why was Howard Carter's discovery significant?

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!

What were Ancient Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife?

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.

Key Vocabulary

afterlife	Life after death.
hieroglyphic	Type of writing using pictures and symbols.
papyrus	A tall water plant that grows in Africa.
pyramid	Buildings usually with four triangular sloping sides. These were built to contain the bodies of Kings and Queens in Ancient Egypt.
tomb	A large grave where people were buried.
pharaoh	The supreme ruler of all of Ancient Egypt.
fertile land	Land rich in nutrients to support the growth of plants.
mummification	When a dead body is preserved (kept in its original state) by rubbing it in special oils and wrapping in linen cloth.
excavate	Remove earth from an area to find buried remains of a body or artefacts
canopic jar	Special jars which hold organs of the mummy.
sarcophagus	A large decorative container in which a dead body was kept in ancient times.

