

Knaphill School – Could you live like an Ancient Egyptian?

Focus subject: History

Year Group: 6

Term: Summer

What do I already know?

- Egypt is one of 54 countries in the continent of Africa.
- Ancient Egypt was one of the earliest civilisations.
- The pyramids were built by the Ancient Egyptians.



Key Information



Ancient Egypt was one of the greatest and most powerful civilisations in the history of the world. It lasted for over 3000 years from approximately 3150 BC to 30 BC.

Ancient Egypt was located along the River Nile in the North-East of Africa. The Nile was the source of much of the Ancient Egyptians' wealth. Egyptian cities grew up along the Nile as the Egyptian people were able to use the water from the Nile to grow rich and profitable crops. The Nile provided food, soil, water, and transportation for the Egyptians. Great floods would come each year and would provide fertile soil for growing food.

The Ancient Egyptians were ruled by Pharaohs, who were seen as half-gods that had been given the right to rule by the other great Gods of Egypt. Tutankhamun is the most well-known Pharaoh today.

What will I know by the end of the topic?

Who were the Ancient Egyptians?	Ancient Egyptians were part of one of the greatest civilisations of the past. They were one of the first civilisations to invent writing and used ink to write and paper called papyrus. Many Ancient Egyptians were scientists and mathematicians: they invented innovations including new ways to construct buildings, medicines, cosmetics, the calendar, the plough for farming, musical instruments, and even toothpaste.
Why was the River Nile so important to Ancient Egyptians?	Most Egyptians lived near the River Nile as it provided water, food, transportation and excellent soil for growing food. Since rainfall is almost non-existent in Egypt, the floods provided the only source of moisture to sustain crops. Every year, heavy summer rain in the Ethiopian highlands, sent a torrent of water that overflowed the banks of the Nile. When the floods went down, it left thick rich mud (black silt) which was excellent soil to plant seeds in after it had been ploughed.
Why were Gods and Goddesses so important to Ancient Egyptians?	The Ancient Egyptians believed in many different gods and goddesses. Each one had their own role to play in maintaining peace and harmony across the land. The Ancient Egyptians believed that it was important to recognise and worship these gods and goddesses so that life continued smoothly.
Who were the Pharaohs?	Pharaohs were the King or Queen of Egypt. A Pharaoh was the most important and powerful person in the kingdom. He/she was the head of the Government and high priest of every temple. The people of Egypt considered the pharaoh to be a half-man, half-god. The Pharaoh owned all of Egypt.
Why were Egyptians mummified?	It was very important to Ancient Egyptian religious beliefs that the human body was preserved. The Egyptians believed in life after death. They believed that they had to preserve their bodies so they could use them in the afterlife. A method of artificial preservation, called mummification was developed by the Ancient Egyptians. The Egyptians believed that when they died, they would make a journey to another world where they would lead a new life.

Vocabulary

Mythology	A collection of myths belonging to a particular religion or culture.
Civilisation	The society, culture and way of life of particular people and places.
Pharaoh	The ruler of Egypt. Pharaoh means great house in Egyptian. They were believed to be half-gods.
Hieroglyphs	The ancient system of using pictures as a system of writing.
Mummification	The process of embalming a body after death to keep it looking lifelike.
Sarcophagus	The old stone coffins used by wealthy people during Ancient Egyptian times.
Inundation	The annual flooding of the Nile, allowing new growth to take place in the hot soils.
Afterlife	The Ancient Egyptians believed it was possible to live again after death.
Canopic jars	Special jars that preserved the organs of a mummy including the lungs, intestines, liver and stomach.