

# Ancient Egyptians

The ancient Egyptians lived over 5000 years ago from 3100 BC to 332 BC. They lived along parts of the longest river in the world (the River Nile) in Kemet, now known as Egypt.

## What Jobs Did They Do?

There were a variety of different jobs in ancient Egypt, such as scribes, bakers, priests, doctors, craftsmen, merchants and many more. Inherited from their parents, many Egyptians worked on farms where they grew crops.

Farming was extremely important to the Egyptians and their **ingenuity** meant they were one of the first groups of people to successfully practise farming on a large scale. They grew many things throughout the year, including grains, such as wheat and barley, and other crops like flax and papyrus. It is believed that they lived by the Nile as the yearly flooding helped to fertilise the soil for crops and gave them access to water for washing and cleaning. Every year, the River Nile would rise and fall so the Egyptians dug channels and walls to divert flood water towards their fields for farming.



## The Pyramids

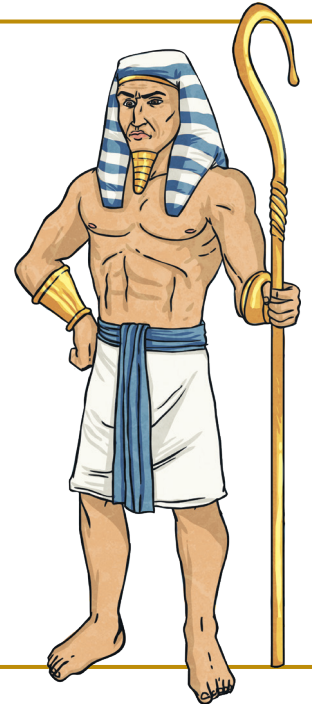
Ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife and thought that one's body and possessions would be needed. This meant that great care was taken with bodies after death. A process called **mummification** meant the bodies could be preserved and were buried in a tomb surrounded by all their worldly possessions. These tombs are what we now know as the pyramids. The more important the person, the bigger their tomb.

Hieroglyphics, one of the earliest formal writing systems, were created by the ancient Egyptians. They would be drawn all around the tomb to tell the life story of the dead and to help guide them to the afterlife.

### Pharaohs

Pharaohs were rulers who were seen as religious leaders and the bridge between the gods and the Egyptians.

One of the most famous ancient Egyptian pharaohs was Tutankhamun (also known as King Tut). In 1922, his tomb was discovered by a group of explorers. This discovery was hugely important due to the good condition they found his body in. They also found over 3000 treasures inside which were made from, or covered in, gold and were there for Tutankhamun to take with him into the afterlife. The tomb was split into many different rooms with most of them being home to the objects, apart from the burial chamber which just held his **sarcophagus**.



### Gods

There were more than 2000 gods in ancient Egypt. Many of them took human form but some were represented with heads of animals. They believed that life on Earth was just part of the eternal journey and the gods would guide them through the afterlife.

### Did You Know...?

Each god represented an aspect of the Egyptian world, for example, Ra was the god of the sun and Anuket was the god on the River Nile.

### Glossary

<b>ingenuity</b>	The quality of being clever, original, and inventive.
<b>mummification</b>	The process of preserving the body after death by drying or treating flesh.
<b>sarcophagus</b>	A stone coffin, decorated with inscriptions and sculptures.



# Questions

1. How many years ago did the ancient Egyptians live? Tick one.

- ☐ 3100 years ago
- ☐ 5000 years ago
- ☐ 332 years ago
- ☐ 3000 years ago

2. What jobs were done by the ancient Egyptians? Tick **two**.

- ☐ farmers
- ☐ drivers
- ☐ merchants
- ☐ school teachers

3. Find and copy one word which describes the quality of being clever, original and inventive.

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4. Find and copy one word which means the process of preserving the body after death by drying or treating flesh.

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5. Why do you think the process of mummification was important to the ancient Egyptians?

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6. What are hieroglyphics?

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7. Why do you think the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb was so important?

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8. Why was it important to the ancient Egyptians to live a good and harmonious life?

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# Answers

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  - ☒ **merchants**
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**ingenuity**
4. Find and copy one word which means the process of preserving the body after death by drying or treating flesh.  
**mummification**
5. Why do you think the process of mummification was important to the ancient Egyptians?  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: The ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife and that the body would be needed in this afterlife so great care was taken when preserving the body to ensure it could last once buried in a tomb along with their possessions.**
6. What are hieroglyphics?  
**Hieroglyphics were the writing system used by ancient Egyptians.**
7. Why do you think the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb was so important?  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb was important because King Tut's body and possessions were in such good condition, meaning that the people who discovered the tomb would have been able to learn lots of new things about him and the ancient Egyptians.**
8. Why was it important to the ancient Egyptians to live a good and harmonious life?  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: The ancient Egyptians believed they had to lead a good and harmonious life because life on Earth was just a part of their eternal journey; to be guided by the gods through the afterlife, the Egyptians had to be good people while living on Earth.**



# Ancient Egyptians

The ancient Egyptians were one of the most powerful and innovative civilizations in the history of the world. They lived over 5000 years ago from 3100 BC to 332 BC. They lived along parts of the longest river in the world - the River Nile - in Kemet, now known as Egypt.

## What Jobs Did They Do?

There were a variety of different jobs in ancient Egypt, such as scribes, bakers, priests, doctors, craftsmen, merchants and many more. Inherited from their parents, many Egyptians worked on farms where they grew crops.

Farming was extremely important to the Egyptians and their **ingenuity** meant that they were one of the first groups of people to successfully practise agriculture and farming on a large scale. They grew many things throughout the year, including grains, such as wheat and barley, and other crops like flax and papyrus. It is believed they lived by the Nile as the yearly flooding helped to fertilise the soil for crops and gave them access to water for washing and cleaning. Every year, the River Nile would rise and fall so the Egyptians dug channels and walls to divert flood water towards their fields for farming.



## The Pyramids



Ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife and thought that one's body and possessions would be needed. This meant that great care was taken with bodies after death. A process called mummification – where the body, after death, is dried and treated - meant the bodies could be preserved and were buried in a tomb surrounded by all their worldly possessions. Mummification was a delicate, complex and lengthy process which lasted up to 70 days.

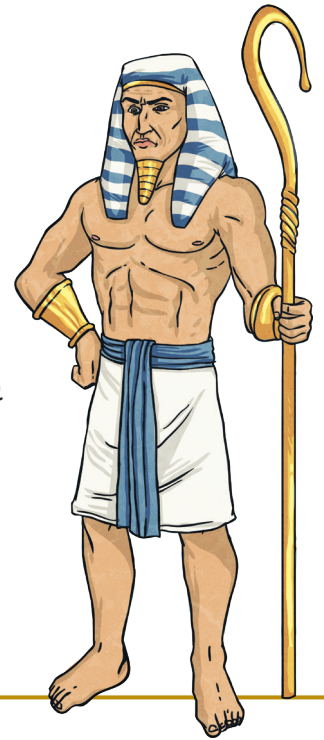
These tombs are what we now know as the pyramids. The more important the person, the bigger their tomb.

Hieroglyphics, one of the earliest formal writing systems, were created by the ancient Egyptians. These would be drawn all around the tomb to tell the life story of the dead and to help guide them to the afterlife. It's believed that Egypt has 118 pyramids! The Great Pyramid of Giza is the oldest and largest in Egypt and took nearly 25 years to build.

### Pharaohs

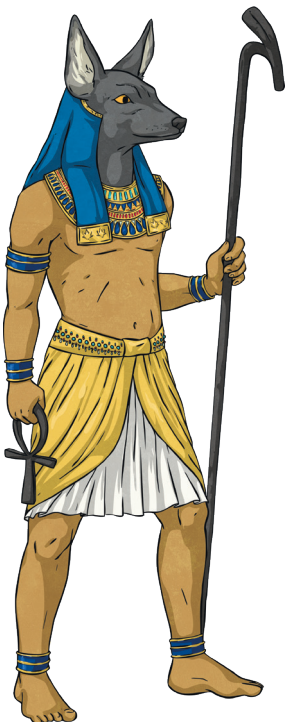
Early Egyptian rulers were first called 'kings' but over time, the name 'pharaoh' began to be used more. Pharaohs were rulers who were seen as religious leaders and the bridge between the gods and the Egyptians.

One of the most famous ancient Egyptian pharaohs was Tutankhamun (also known as King Tut). In 1922, his tomb was discovered by a group of explorers. This discovery was hugely important due to the good condition they found his body in. They also found over 3000 treasures inside which were made from, or covered in, gold and were there for Tutankhamun to take with him into the afterlife. The tomb was split into many different rooms with most of them being used to hold the objects, apart from the burial chamber which just held his sarcophagus - a stone coffin, decorated with inscriptions and sculptures.



### Gods

There were more than 2000 gods in ancient Egypt. Many of them took human form but some were represented with heads of animals. Long ago, the Egyptians believed that there was nothing but chaos and that the gods came to create order and harmony for all. They believed that life on Earth was just part of the eternal journey and that everyone must live a good and harmonious life so that the gods would guide them through the afterlife. Each god represented an aspect of the Egyptians world, for example, Ra was the god of the sun and Anuket was the god on the River Nile.



### Glossary

**ingenuity**

The quality of being clever, original and inventive.

# Questions

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2. Why do you think the River Nile was important to the ancient Egyptians?

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3. What jobs were done by the ancient Egyptians? Tick **two**.

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- ☐ drivers
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9. Do you think the Egyptians were interesting people? Explain your answer.

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2. Why do you think the River Nile was important to the ancient Egyptians?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the River Nile was important because its yearly flooding helped to fertilise the soil which they used to grow crops. The river also provided water for washing and cleaning.**

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**Hieroglyphics were the writing system used by ancient Egyptians.**

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**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb was important because King Tut's body and possessions were in such good condition, meaning that the people who discovered the tomb would have been able to learn lots of new things about him and the ancient Egyptians.**

8. Why was it important to the ancient Egyptians to live a good and harmonious life?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The ancient Egyptians believed they had to lead a good and harmonious life because life on Earth was just a part of their eternal journey; to be guided by the gods through the afterlife, the Egyptians had to be good people while living on Earth.**

9. Do you think the Egyptians were interesting people? Explain your answer.

**Pupil's own responses, such as: I think the Egyptians were really interesting because they used clever and innovative techniques to help them farm and created one of the earliest writing systems in history. They also had fascinating ideas about the afterlife and gods, showing that they were creative and intelligent people.**

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## What Jobs Did They Do?

Back in ancient Egypt, children did not attend schools like we do now. Instead, children worked as apprentices to learn different skills and jobs that they would continue through their life. There were a variety of different jobs, such as scribes, bakers, priests, doctors, craftsmen, merchants and many more. Inherited from their parents, many Egyptians worked on farms where they grew crops.

Farming was extremely important to the Egyptians and their ability to invent and create new technologies meant that they were one of the first groups of people to successfully practise agriculture and farming on a large scale. They grew many things throughout the year, including grains, such as wheat and barley, and other crops like flax and papyrus. It is believed they lived by the Nile as the yearly flooding helped to fertilise the soil for crops and gave them access to water for washing and cleaning. Every year, the River Nile would rise and fall so the Egyptians dug channels and walls to divert flood water towards their fields for farming.



## The Pyramids

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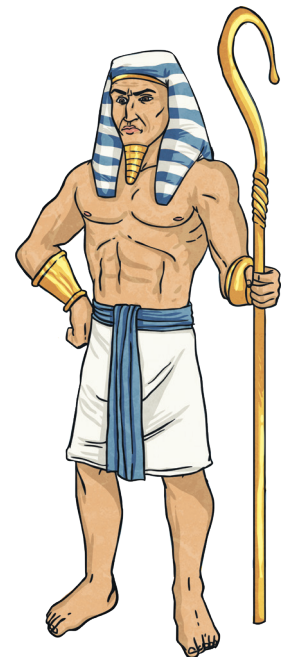
by all their worldly possessions. Mummification was a delicate, complex and lengthy process which lasted up to 70 days.

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### Pharaohs

Early Egyptian rulers were first called 'kings' but over time, the name 'pharaoh' began to be used more. Pharaohs were the heads of state and religious rulers who were seen as the bridge between the gods and the Egyptians. They were the most powerful people in Egypt and owned land, created and upheld laws, collected taxes and defended Egypt from foreigners.

One of the most famous ancient Egyptian pharaohs was Tutankhamun (also known as King Tut). In 1922, his tomb was discovered by a group of explorers. This discovery was hugely important due to the good condition they found his body in. They also found over 3000 treasures inside which were made from, or covered in, gold and were there for Tutankhamun to take with him into the afterlife. The tomb was split into many different rooms with most of them being used to hold the objects, apart from the burial chamber which just held his sarcophagus - a stone coffin, decorated with inscriptions and sculptures.



### Gods

There were more than 2000 gods in ancient Egypt. Many of them took human form but some were represented with heads of animals. Animals played a significant role in the lives of the Egyptians; cats were seen as extremely sacred and were used to represent justice, fertility and power.

Long ago, the Egyptians believed that there was nothing but chaos and that the gods came to create order and harmony for all. They believed that life on Earth was just part of the eternal journey and that everyone must live a good and harmonious life so that the gods would guide them through the afterlife.

Each god represented a natural and social element as well as abstract concepts, for example, Ra was the god of the sun and Ammit was a goddess who devoured condemned souls.



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