



Ancient Egypt



Vocabulary

archaeologist	People who dig up sites to find things from the past to learn about life during these times.
ankh	A symbol for life and immortality (eternal life).
Cleopatra	An Egyptian queen.
Egyptologist	People who focus on learning about ancient Egypt
Flood plain	An area of land that occasionally floods as a river overflows. This can be useful to farmers as the soil get more nutrients helping crops to grow.
hieroglyphics	Ancient Egyptian writing using pictures.
mummification	The process of process when the skin and flesh of a dead body can be preserved.
pharaohs	The rulers of Ancient Egypt.
pyramid	A structure (square based pyramid) used as a tomb for important rulers of the Ancient Egyptians.
River Nile	A river which runs through Ancient Egypt.
sarcophagus	A Coffin for important Ancient Egyptians usually cover in gold.
Scarab beetle	Also called a dung beetle. This was symbol for eternal life.
Sphinx	A statue in Egypt (body of a lion and the head of a human).
Tutankhamun	A young pharaoh who died when he was about 18 years old. He is also called King Tut.



Pyramids

Pyramids were built as tombs for the pharaohs and their queens. There are over 130 pyramids known today in Egypt.

The tallest pyramid in Egypt is the Great Pyramid of Giza (the Pyramid of Khufu). When it was built, it was 146.5 metres tall and is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.



Dear parents,

Our next Humanities topic is a History unit called '**Ancient Egypt**'. Please help your children to prepare for this topic by learning some of the key words and the facts on this sheet.

There are some homework activities on the back of this sheet. Your child can complete these at any time. Your child's teacher would love to see what they have created.

Thank you for your support,
Kind regards,
Year 4 Teachers



The Sphinx

This is a statue which has the body of a lion and the head of a human. It is located by the pyramids in Giza by the River Nile. Some people believe that the head of the Sphinx may once have been a lion.

The River Nile

The **River Nile** was important as for water and for transporting goods and people in Ancient Egypt. When the River Nile flooded, this would help to fertilise the soil to help their crops grow. The Pharaohs had fancy boats which they used to travel up and down the Nile.

Ancient Egyptian Gods

The Egyptians believed in over 2000 different gods who all had different responsibilities. These gods were worshipped for over 3000 years. Many of the gods were drawn as human with animal heads. This made it easier to identify them. Male gods were painted with reddish-brown skin colours and the females were painted with yellow skin (to show that they spent much of their time indoors). The pharaohs and kings of ancient Egypt were worshipped as living gods.

Canopic Jars

There were used to store the stomach, intestines, lungs and the liver of somebody who had been mummified. It was believed that they would need these in the afterlife. There was no jar for the heart which was left inside of the body.



Egyptian Sarcophagus

An Egyptian **sarcophagus** is a large stone coffin that was used to bury important people in ancient Egypt. Sarcophagi were often decorated with carvings, paintings, and hieroglyphs.

The Ankh

This is a hieroglyphic symbol used to represent the word for life and life after death (immortality).



Ra - The god of the sun.



Anubis - The god of mummification and the dead.



Hathor - The goddess of music, dance and motherhood.



Homework Ideas:

- Find out about what ancient Egyptian homes looked like. Present this in pictures, words or as a model.
- Write your name or a message using Hieroglyphics. Remember to colour these in.
- Create a model of a pyramid.
- Create a model of a sarcophagus or a canopic jar.
- Make a mummy by wrapping a doll or teddy in bandages.
- Visit the Egyptian exhibit at Birmingham's Museum and Art Gallery. (It's free to enter!)
- Create your own 3D Ancient Egyptian burial mask.
- Find out more about Howard Carter. Write a diary entry for him discovering Tutankhamun's tomb.
- Make a model of a pharaoh's boat.

Howard Carter

Howard Carter first went to Egypt when he was 17 in 1891. He got a job as an archaeologist and his responsibility was to copy drawings and inscriptions so that they could be studied later. He was very good at this job (maybe because his father was an artist although Howard never wanted to be one of these).

Howard found some artifacts with a Pharaoh's name written on. He was called Tutankhamen (King Tut). He was convinced that he could be the first person find the tomb of this pharaoh. He needed money to do this and met with Lord Carnarvon who decided to help Howard by giving him money.

He dug for years and found nothing. Lord Carnarvon told Howard to give up. Howard however asked for one more chance as he wanted to dig under some stone huts he had recently found. Lord Carnarvon agreed. During his dig, Howard found some steps and a secret door. He waited for Lord Carnarvon to travel from England to open the door with him. When they did, they found rooms full of treasures all gleaming with gold including vases, statues, chariots and jewelled chests. They also found Tutankhamen's coffin (sarcophagus) which was covered in gold and the mummy of Tutankhamen.