

ANCIENT DISCOVERIES

Key facts about Egypt:

Capital City: Cairo

Continent: Africa

Climate: Desert. hot, dry summers with mild winters, little rainfall

Famous places: Great pyramids of Giza, Sphinx of Giza, Valley of the Kings, Aswan High Dam, River Nile

Key Vocabulary:

pharaoh – an ancient Egyptian ruler

pyramid – the stone tombs of Egypt's pharaohs

irrigation – a supply of water for the crops

inundation – the flooding season

shaduf – a device used for raising water

hieroglyphics – a system of picture writing using pictures instead of letters and words

civilization –

mummy – a dead body preserved so that it does not decay

mummification – the process of making a body into a mummy

natron salt – used to dry out and mummify bodies

archaeology – a study of objects and remains left behind by people in ancient times

Rosetta Stone – a stone with writing on it created in 196 BC which enables us to understand hieroglyphics. It was found in the town of Rosetta.

Key characters:

Akhenaten – Pharaoh and father of Tutankhamun

Rameses – the name of 11 pharaohs, the most famous of which is Rameses II

Nefertiti – wife of Akhenaten

Tutankhamun – Pharaoh whose intact tomb was discovered in 1922

Howard Carter – Archaeologist who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb

Thutmose – an ancient Egyptian sculptor in the reign of Akhenaten

Cleopatra – the last active pharaoh of ancient Egypt

Hatshepsut – the second female pharaoh



The River Nile:

Egypt is located beside the River Nile. The River Nile is the longest river in the world (approximately 6670 kilometres).

It is located in the continent of Africa and it flows through Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Burundi and Egypt.

Key geography vocabulary

Mouth – where the river enters the ocean. The River Nile's mouth is in Egypt and it flows into the Mediterranean Sea

Source – the place where the river begins. The River Nile's source is in Burundi

Tributary – a river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake

Stream – a small, narrow river

Delta – This is an area of low, flat land created at the mouth of a river as sediment builds up when the river joins the sea.

Dam – a barrier to stop the flow of water. The Aswan Dam is built across the River Nile in Egypt to help control flooding, provide water storage and generate hydroelectricity.

Ra

Gods and goddesses:

Ra – the sun god

Bes – god of babies and mothers

Anubis – god of the dead and embalming

Osiris – god of the dead and the underworld

Sobek – god of the waterways

Hapi – god of the Nile

Tefnut – goddess of moisture

Horus – god of the sky

Thoth – god of writing and knowledge

Isis – the mother goddess



Anubis

7,500 BC



The first settlers arrived in the Nile Valley.

2,640 BC



The first pyramid is built.

2,520 BC



The Great Sphinx is built.

1,539 BC



Valley of the Kings starts and pharaohs are buried with their treasures.

51 BC



Cleopatra's reign begins, the Egyptian civilization ends.

3,200 BC



Hieroglyphs are used to keep trade records.

2,555 BC



The Giza pyramids are built for the kings Kufu, Kharfe and Menkaure.

2,200 BC



First ploughs are attached to oxen.

1,332 BC



The 10 year rule of Tutankhamun begins.

The year 0

The **Vizier** was the Pharaoh's chief advisor and was sometimes also the High Priest. He was responsible for overseeing administration and all official documents had to have his seal of approval.

The **Pharaoh** was believed to be a God on earth and had the most power. He was responsible for making laws and keeping order, ensuring that Egypt was not attacked or invaded by enemies and for keeping the Gods happy

Nobles ruled the regions of Egypt (Nomes). They were responsible for making local laws and keeping order in their region.

Scribes were the only people who could read and write and were responsible for keeping records.

Priests were responsible for keeping the Gods happy. They spent their time performing rituals and ceremonies to the God of their temple.

Soldiers were responsible for the defence of the country

Craftsmen were skilled workers such as – pottery makers, leatherworkers, sculptors, painters, weavers, jewellery makers, shoe makers, tailors.

Farmers worked the land of the Pharaoh and nobles and were given housing, food and clothes in return.

There were no slave markets or auctions in Ancient Egypt. **Slaves** were usually prisoners captured in war.

