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Knowledge Organiser Geography Year 4

Autumn
Ancient Egypt



What was everyday life like in Ancient Egypt?

Stretching as far back as 3,000 BC, ancient Egypt was a remarkable civilization. Innovations in areas such as **agriculture**, writing, astronomy, and other scientific disciplines. Sprawling along the great Nile River in northeast Africa, this civilization went on to become one of the most dominant in the ancient world, as it conquered many territories and civilizations in the region.

Ancient Egypt has a rich **culture**, which included a remarkable kingship and governance structure, architectural marvels, religion, and arts. Structures of those nature took at least four decades to construct, involving several thousands of laborers, craftsmen and architects.



Famous & important Pharaohs		
1	Narmer	Said to be the first Pharaoh of all Egypt, around 3150 BCE. Also known as Warrior Menes.
2	Khufu	Pharaoh responsible for the building of the Great Pyramid at Giza.
3	Hatshepsut	First and longest-reigning female Pharaoh.
4	Tutankhamun	Youngest Pharaoh, famed for his burial tomb in the Valley of the Kings (mask, left).
5	Ramses II	Often known as Ramses the Great, his mummy still rests in Cairo's Egyptian Museum. Built more statues and temples than any other!
6	Cleopatra VII	Often considered the last Pharaoh of Egypt. Kept power by making alliances with famous Romans such as Mark Antony & Julius Caesar.

Where was the River Nile?

In c. 3000 BC, King Menes united two **Egyptian** kingdoms to build the empire of **ancient Egypt**. It lasted until 30 BC when the Romans took over.



Area near the River Nile that flooded was known as the **Black Land**. Areas further away were known as the **Red Land**. They relied on the Nile's flood to grow crops and farm.



Why was The River Nile important to Egyptians?

Life revolved around **the Nile**. Every year, it flooded and left behind a black silt that enriched the soil for growing crops. The river was also used to **irrigate** fields in other areas. **The Nile** was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from the riverbanks was used to make bricks and papyrus plants were used to make paper. Most people lived along and around **the Nile**. This is still true in **Egypt** today.



Ancient Egypt

In **ancient Egypt**, scribes wrote on papyrus. Papyrus was a thick type of paper made from reeds that grew along **the Nile**. Scribes were mostly men who went to a special school to learn to write. Scribes wrote using **hieroglyphs**. **Hieroglyphs** were used for religious texts and inscriptions on statues and **tombs**. They were also used for counting crops and animals so that the right taxes could be taken. Tutankhamun was a **pharaoh** known more recently as the 'boy king' because he became **pharaoh** when he was 9 years old. His **tomb** was discovered by Howard Carter and his team in the Valley of the Kings in 1922. The discovery helped people to understand more about the **Egyptians pharaohs**.

Key Vocabulary

Pharaoh, Sphinx, tomb, papyrus, hieroglyphs, sarcophagus

Equator, Tropic of Cancer, Tropic of Capricorn, river, fertile, flooding, transport, trade

Egyptian Gods

Egypt had one of the largest and most complex pantheons of gods of any civilization in the ancient world. Over the course of Egyptian history hundreds of gods and goddesses were worshipped.



Books about Egypt!

