



Autumn Year 5/6 Ancient Egyptians

Key Facts

The Rosetta Stone

The Rosetta Stone is an important artefact that was discovered in 1799. It has an inscription in hieroglyphs and two other languages – ancient Greek and Demotic, a more common Egyptian way of writing. It took linguists 20 years to translate the hieroglyphs by comparing the languages. We can now read the hieroglyphs found on many other artefacts, including on cartouches, to find out about different aspects of Egyptian life.

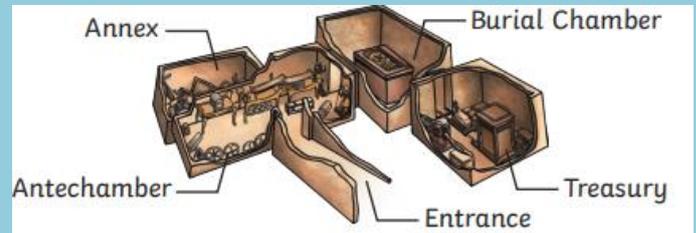
Mummification

When they died, pharaohs and important or wealthy people in ancient Egypt were mummified. Their organs, with the exception of the heart, were removed. Their body would then be dried in natron salt and wrapped in linen fabric with amulets and a Book of the Dead to take with them in the next life. The mummy would then be put in a sarcophagus (decorated coffin) and placed in a tomb. Ordinary Egyptians were simply buried in the desert.

The River Nile

The river Nile was central to life in ancient Egypt; most Egyptians still live along and around it today. It had many uses as it provided: • Silt from annual floods • Irrigation • Water for drinking and washing • Fishing • Trade • Mud for making bricks • Papyrus plants for making paper

The jobs of many people in ancient Egypt, such as farmers, merchants and builders, relied on the river.



Tutankhamun's Tomb.

In November 1922, British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb along with its treasure of **more than 5,000 objects**, many in solid gold. The tomb was nearly intact and it took Carter six years to excavate, with funding from Britain's Lord George Carnarvon.

Vocabulary

civilisation	An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time
irrigation	A system of canals or channels Egyptians dug to supply water to grow crops over a larger area than the water would reach naturally
silt	Fine particles of soil, clay or sand, which enrich the soil for crops, carried and deposited by water
hieroglyphics	A system of writing that used pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters
cartouche	An oval shape in which the names of kings and queens were often written in hieroglyphics to place on their tombs.
shabti	Figurine buried with mummified bodies to serve in the afterlife
canopic jars	Used to store the internal organs of the body before being mummified
Ra	Sun god and lord of the gods – sailed his boat through the sky during the day and the underworld at night
Amun	Created all things – usually invisible unless mixed with another god e.g. Amun-Ra
Horus	God of the sky Pharaohs were believed to be a god-like, living version of Horus.
Anubis	God of mummification. Weighed the hearts of the dead against Ma'at's feather. If your heart was lighter, you would live forever.

Useful links and resources <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/primary-resource/tutankhamuns-treasures-primary-resources/> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg87xbn> <http://primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/news/index.htm>