

Tomb Raiders: Ancient Egypt

What was it like to live in Ancient Egypt? How have they influenced modern Egyptian life?

Key Vocabulary

After life	The place where Egyptians believed they would go after they died
Canopic Jars	Special jars that held the organs of a mummy including the lungs, liver, intestines and stomach
Cartouche	A carved stone that showed a royal name only worn by Pharaohs
Civilisation	The society, culture and way of life of a group of people at different times
Dam (Aswan)	A barrier constructed to hold back water forming a reservoir (Lake Nasser) to create electricity (hydro-electric dam)
Egyptologist	An archaeologist who focuses on Ancient Egypt like Howard Carter
Fertile (land)	Earth that is rich in nutrients that helps plants grow well
Hieroglyphics	A type of writing used by the Egyptians that used pictures and symbols
Irrigation	Supplying water to land to help crops grow through (hand dug) channels
Mummification	The process of preserving a body after death in preparation for the afterlife.
Papyrus	A plant that grew in the banks of the Nile that was flattened and dried to make paper
Pharaoh	The supreme ruler of all Ancient Egypt
Pyramid	A monumental structure with a square base meeting in a point at the top, built as a royal tomb for Pharaohs
Sarcophagus	A large stone box that held a mummy's coffin often richly decorated
Shaduf	A hand-operated device that lifted water from the Nile into irrigation channels
Silt	The black soil that washed over the land when the Nile flooded each year. Helped crops to grow as it made the land fertile.

Historical Knowledge:

Egypt was one of the greatest civilisations in history. Their civilisation lasted almost 3000 years and some of their greatest achievements such as the Pyramids and Giza and the Sphinx are still standing today.

Historical Knowledge:

The Egyptians used a writing system called hieroglyphics - it was one of the first forms of picture writing. The Rosetta stone helped us understand them.

Historical Knowledge

The Egyptians mummified their dead so their body could be preserved to be used in the afterlife (where the Egyptians believed they lived after they had died). The process took around 60 days.

The Egyptians believed in lots of different gods. Amun was King of the Gods and Anubis, the jackal headed God, was the god of mummification.

Historical Knowledge

The Egyptians had a hierarchy in their society that can be shown like a pyramid.

Tutankhamun is an important Pharaoh only because his tomb was discovered intact by Howard Carter in 1922.



Geographical Knowledge

About 90% of Egypt is covered by desert. There are 2 main deserts in Egypt - the Libyan desert and the Arabian desert. However, there are also lots of populated cities and villages, especially near the Nile.

Geographical Knowledge

The Ancient Egyptians had 3 seasons: Akhet (June-Sept) - the flooding season, Peret (Oct - Feb) - the growing season, Shemu (March-May) - the harvesting season.

Geographical Knowledge

People had to live next to the Nile because:
It provided food and water;
It was the quickest way to travel;
Crops grew well in the nutrient-rich ground.
They also had to get water to the crops so used an irrigation system of canals moving water into them with machines called shadufs.

The Nile is the longest river in the world. It is 6695km long. It begins in Burundi and flows northwards into the Mediterranean Sea. The Nile has 2 parts: the White Nile and the Blue Nile which meet in Sudan.

