

What was Important to Ancient Egyptians?

Overview

In this topic, the children will be developing awareness of how historians learn about the past using mummies, the Book of the Dead and pyramids, children learn the place of the ancient Egyptians in time. Pupils learn about the importance of religion in the ancient Egyptians' lives and consider how this is evident in pyramids, worship and mummification. They will learn how the ancient Egyptians explained the existence of the world using their creation story.

Essential Knowledge

- Identify the ancient civilisations and key periods in ancient Egypt.
- Describe the physical features of Egypt.
- Explain the Egyptian creation story.
- Identify the characteristics of important gods or goddesses.
- Explain why the pyramids were built.
- Identify the stages and challenges of building a pyramid.
- Explain the links between ancient Egyptian beliefs and mummification.
- Name sources that can be used to find out about ancient Egyptian beliefs.
- Explain some Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife.

Hook into a Book



Activate Prior Knowledge

EY

- Beginning to recognise similarities and differences between the past and today.
- Using photographs and stories to compare the past with the present day.
- Recognise significant dates for them (birthday).

KS1

- Understanding of monarchs in Britain (William the Conqueror)
- Compare aspects of life in different periods.
- Understanding of chronology

Context: What is a monarch?

Links to Future Learning

LKS2

- Identify key periods within ancient civilisations
 - Make links between different time periods
 - Beliefs of different civilisations and how they compare
- Context: How did the achievements of the Ancient Maya impact their society and beyond? Anglo Saxons*

UKS2

- Identify key periods
- How ancient democracy worked
- Identify the achievements of other ancient civilisations

Context: What is the legacy of the ancient Greek civilisation, Saxons

What does ancient civilisation mean?

What is the difference between 'old' and 'ancient'?

What was the purpose of the canopic jars?

Did the ancient Egyptians live before or after the birth of Jesus?

Which other civilisations existed at the same time as the ancient Egyptians?

Why do you think pharaohs were buried with treasures and everyday items in their tombs?

ancient	From a very long time ago.
*civilisation	A large group of people with a common language, way of life and governance.
fertile	Soil which is rich with nutrients and good for growing crops.
grave goods	Objects buried with a dead person.
hieroglyphics	A writing system using symbols and pictures.
immortal	Living forever.
mummification	The process of preserving a dead body as a mummy.
papyrus	A plant that grows along the River Nile, which was used to make paper.
pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt, like a king or queen.
River Nile	A river in North Africa which is the longest in the world.

Ancient Egyptian beliefs

Ancient Egyptians worshipped over 1,500 gods and goddesses, responsible for all aspects of daily Egyptian life. For example, Thoth was the god of writing. Temples were built for the gods and festivals were dedicated in their honour.

The River Nile

The ancient Egyptian civilisation developed along the banks of the River Nile. It gave ancient Egyptians water for drinking, fishing and trade. It flooded every year, making the soil rich for growing crops.



The afterlife

The ancient Egyptians believed in life after death and that people would journey to another world where they could live forever. They preserved the bodies of the dead because they believed the soul needed the body for its journey to the afterlife.

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Hieroglyphics

Ancient Egyptians had a writing system made up of hieroglyphs - symbols representing sounds, words or ideas. Specially trained scribes used them to record important events, laws and prayers on papyrus and they were inscribed on temple and tomb walls.



