

THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS

YEAR 4 TERM 3



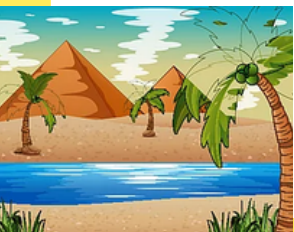
What have we learned previously?

- For thousands of years, humans made weapons and tools out of stone. This was called the Stone Age. In about 3300BC, bronze replaced stone. This was called the Bronze Age. In about 1200BC, iron replaced the use of Bronze. This was the start of the Iron Age.
- The Roman Empire was a civilisation that rose in 753BC and lasted until 476AD. The Romans ruled Britain from 43AD to 410AD. After the Romans, Anglo-Saxons began their rule of England.

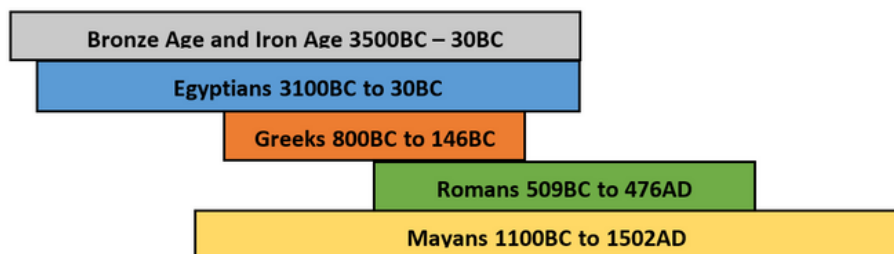
Why did the Egyptian civilisation flourish around the River Nile?

The River Nile is the longest river in the world - 4160 miles. The river was essential to life in Egypt. Every year it flooded, leaving behind a black silt that helped the crops to grow.

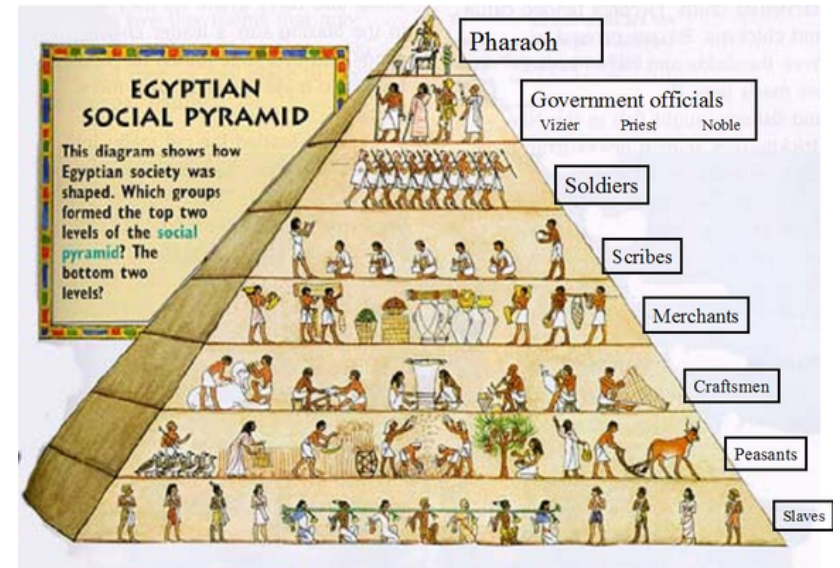
Many people lived along the Nile, so that they could grow their own food. The River was used for water, transport, fishing and trade.



Other Ancient Civilisations



How was Egyptian society structured?



What were their religious beliefs?

Like the Romans, the Egyptians believed in a pantheon of gods, which means many gods with different roles. For example, Osiris was the God of the dead.



The Egyptians believed that death was the start of a journey to the afterlife and prepared their dead for that journey.

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What is mummification and why was it practised by the Egyptians?



Mummification involved removing organs from the bodies and preserving it with special chemicals to help it move on into the afterlife. The body was wrapped in linen bandages and then sealed in a sarcophagus to protect it for eternity.

Cleopatra: hero of Egypt or power-hungry tyrant?



Cleopatra was the final ruler of the Ancient Egyptian civilisation. Some see her as a hero for trying to strengthen the land of Egypt whilst others see her as a power-hungry tyrant who murdered her rivals to the throne. The Romans took over Egypt after her death.

Key Vocabulary

Pharaoh - the ruler of Egypt. They were seen as living gods.

Pyramid - a huge structure built as tombs for the pharaohs.

Mummification - preparing a body for the journey to the afterlife.

Sarcophagus - the coffin that mummies were placed in.

Irrigation - transporting water from a river to other locations.

Hieroglyphics - the Egyptian written language which used pictures.

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Why did hieroglyphics pose a mystery to historians?

Hieroglyphics are pictures which were used to make words or letters. Historians could not translate the hieroglyphics until the discovery of the Rosetta Stone which 'unlocked' the Egyptian writing.

How and why did the Egyptians build pyramids?

The pyramids are ancient structures located in Egypt. Many were built as temples in preparation for the death of a Pharaoh. It was believed that the Pharaoh would become a God in the afterlife.

Some people think slaves built the pyramids but others think that they were built by paid workers during the flood season each year.

Why was the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb so significant?



Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb was very significant because most of the other tombs discovered had been disturbed by grave robbers years before. Tutankhamun's tomb taught historians about Egyptian religious beliefs and showed what Pharaoh's would be buried with when they died.