



Ancient Egyptians



Egypt
(Africa)

Timeline

6000 B.C.	5000 B.C.	4500 B.C.	3500 B.C.	3000 B.C.	2500 B.C.	1500 B.C.	1325 B.C.	332 B.C.	30 B.C.
People settle near the River Nile	Farmed wheat, barley and cattle	Use of sails for the first time	First use of hieroglyphics	Buildings of mud brick	Sphinx and Giza Pyramids	Valley of the Kings tombs built	King Tutankhamun buried	Alexander the Great rules	Death of Cleopatra

Key Vocabulary

canopic jar	Jars with intestines, stomach, lungs and liver - all of which were thought to be needed in the afterlife.
cartouche	An oval containing hieroglyphics with a horizontal line underneath indicating a royal name.
hieroglyphics	A writing system where picture symbols stood for meanings or sounds. It meant 'sacred carving'.
irrigation	Using the Nile, Egyptians would use annual flooding to channel water to dry areas to help crops grow.
mummy	A body prepared for burial according to ancient Egyptian practice.
sarcophagus	A stone coffin adorned with a sculpture or inscription containing a mummy.
shadoof	The system invented to raise water from the river using a pole and bucket.
tomb	A chamber or vault to protect the dead, the most elaborate built within pyramids or underground.
papyrus	A type of plant grown in abundance in ancient Egypt turned into a paper-like material for writing.
pyramids	Over 130 giant pyramids were created as tombs for pharaohs, mostly built west of the River Nile.
pharaoh	The kings of ancient Egypt were known as pharaohs and ruled all Egyptians.

The **River Nile** is about 6,670 km (4,160 miles) in length and is the longest river in Africa and in the world. Fertile soil along the banks of the river were used to produce food for themselves and their animals.

General Knowledge

Gods

Amun – King of gods (head of a ram).
Anubis - God of mummification and priests often wore masks of Anubis during ceremonies (head of a jackal).
Bast – Goddess of protection and of household entertainment (head of a cat).
Sekmet – God of war and battle (head of a lion).
Horus – God of the sky (head of a falcon)

Afterlife

Ancient Egyptians believed that when they died, they would make a journey to another world where they would lead a new life. They would need all the things they had used when they were alive, so families would put those things in their graves. Egyptians paid vast amounts of money to have their bodies properly preserved. Those who were poor were buried in the sand whilst the rich were buried in a tomb.

Farming

Egyptians grew many crops, the most important being grain used to make bread, porridge and beer. They also grew vegetables and used irrigation to their advantage.

Writing

Egyptians developed one of the earliest forms of writing, known as hieroglyphics. It took until 1799AD for them to be translated when the Rosetta Stone was discovered, which had them translated into Ancient Greek and Demotic. They also used reeds to create papyrus one of the earliest forms of paper that could withstand the dry heat of Egypt, many of which survive today.

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