

Ancient Egyptians

1. When did the Egyptians exist?

7,500 BC



The first settlers arrived in the Nile Valley.

2,640 BC



The first pyramid is built.

1,332 BC



The 10 year rule of Tutankhamun begins.

51 BC



Cleopatra's reign begins, the Egyptian civilization ends.

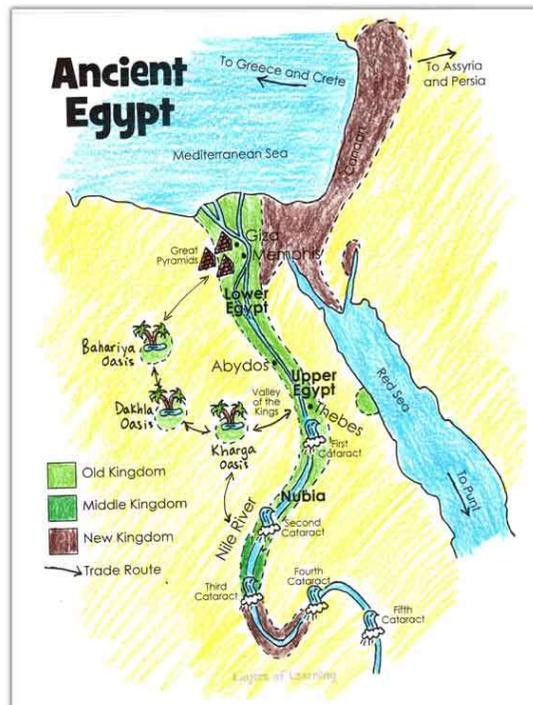


3. What is mummification and why did the Egyptians follow this ritual?

A mummy is the body of a person (or an animal) that has been preserved after death. It was very important to ancient Egyptian religious beliefs that the human body was preserved. A method of artificial preservation, called mummification was developed by the ancient Egyptians. Mummification was a complicated and lengthy process which lasted up to 70 days. The 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 their families would put those things in their graves. Egyptians paid vast amounts of money to have their bodies properly preserved. Egyptians who were poor were buried in the sand whilst the rich ones were buried in a tomb.

5. Which River runs through the desert where the Egyptians lived?

The Nile River is the longest river in the world.



2. What are hieroglyphics, what do they look like, and what were they used for?



Hieroglyphics are pictures that are used to make words or letters. There are over 1000 different symbols. People used these to communicate in Ancient Egypt; to write about things and to keep things documented. Hieroglyphics was very hard to learn. Not only did they have to learn the sounds, they also had to learn to write the shapes. Some people would start at five or six to learn how to write these ancient texts.

4. Who is Tutankhamun and what is he well known for?

Tutankhamun became pharaoh in 1336 BCE, at just nine years of age. He ruled until he was 18, in 1327 BCE, when he died suddenly. He is famous today because his tomb was left undisturbed for almost 3,000 years after his death, without being broken into like the tombs of many other pharaohs.



	Term	Definition
1	Afterlife	The place where Egyptians believed they would go after they died.
2	Akhet	The season of the year when the Nile river flooded. A very important time of year in the desert!
3	Canopic jars	Special jars that held the organs of a mummy including the lungs, intestines, liver and stomach (Right).
4	Dynasty	A period of rule when a series of Pharaohs all came from the same family.
5	Egyptologist	An archaeologist who focusses Ancient Egypt. Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's tomb.
6	Hieroglyphics	A type of writing that used a combination of pictures and symbols (Right).
7	Mummification	The process of preserving a body after death in preparation for the afterlife.
8	Papyrus	A plant that grew on the banks of the Nile. It was used as an early version of paper.
9	Pharaoh	The supreme ruler of all of Ancient Egypt.
10	Sarcophagus	A large stone box that held a mummy's coffin. Often richly decorated for Pharaohs.



Area near the River Nile that flooded was known as the **Black Land**. Areas further away were known as the **Red Land**. They relied on the Nile's flood to grow crops and farm.



Famous & important Pharaohs

- Narmer** Said to be the first Pharaoh of all Egypt, around 3150 BCE. Also known as Warrior Menes.
- Khufu** Pharaoh responsible for the building of the Great Pyramid at Giza.
- Hatshepsut** First and longest-reigning female Pharaoh.
- Tutankhamun** Youngest Pharaoh, famed for his burial tomb in the Valley of the Kings (mask, left). Often known as Ramses the Great, his mummy still rests in Cairo's Egyptian Museum. Built more statues and temples than any other!
- Ramses II** Often considered the last Pharaoh of Egypt. Kept power by making alliances with famous Romans such as Mark Antony & Julius Caesar.
- Cleopatra VII**



Timeline of Key Events:

All dates below are approximate

- Old Kingdom:** 2600 BCE - 2100 BCE
- Middle Kingdom:** 2000 BCE - 1650 BCE
- New Kingdom :** 1540 BCE - 1075 BCE
- 7500 BCE** First settlers in Nile valley
- 3500 BCE** First use of hieroglyphic symbols
- 3100 BCE** Narmer unites regions of lower and Upper Egypt.
- 2650 BCE** First step pyramid built
- 2550 BCE** Pyramids at Giza built
- 2335 BCE** Pyramid texts written (magical spells to protect pharaohs)
- 1472 BCE** Hatshepsut becomes caretaker ruler. (Later declares herself pharaoh)
- 1336 BCE** Tutankhamen becomes pharaoh
- 1279 BCE** Ramses II becomes pharaoh
- 1100 BCE** Upper & Lower Egypt split
- 332 BCE** Alexander the Great conquers Egypt
- 195 BCE** Rosetta stone carved
- 1279 BCE** Ramses II becomes pharaoh
- 30 BCE** Egypt becomes a Roman Province
- 1922 CE** Carter discovers Tutankhamen's tomb