

Perton Primary Academy Knowledge Organiser

History Topic: Ancient Egypt

Year Group: Year 4

Overview: Children will learn about what an ancient civilisation is and understand the four early civilisations. Ancient Sumer, Ancient Indus Valley, Shang Dynasty of Ancient China and Ancient Egypt. They will find out about the river Nile and how it helped the Egyptians. Children will find out about everyday life, including the use of hieroglyphics, religious beliefs and mythology. They will look at pyramids and Pharaohs, understanding the importance of Howard Carter. Children will find out about mummification and why it was done.

	Evident in books
	Evident in pupil voice

Significant dates (timeline)

Around 3100 BC - Start of Ancient Egypt
 30 BC- End of Ancient Egypt (Roman conquest)
 Around 1332-1323 BC- Tutankhamun rule
 51 BC-30 BC- Cleopatra rule
 1922 - Howard Carter discovery

Significant / famous people:

- Howard Carter
- Tutankhamun
- Cleopatra

Key vocabulary:

Civilisation
 Ancient
 Hieroglyphics
 Rosetta Stone
 Gods and Goddesses
 Pyramids
 Mummification
 Mythology
 Creation story

Prior Learning:

Year 2 - Monarchs
 Year 3 - Romans
 Year 3 - Through the ages

Future Learning:

Ancient Greece - Y4 summer

Key knowledge:

Where and when did the first civilisations appear?

Ancient Sumer began around 4100 BCE till 1750 BCE. They are credited for inventing writing, the wheel and a base-60 number system. Ancient Indus began around 3300 BCE till 1300 BCE. They made significant advancements in urban planning, sanitation and trade. Shang Dynasty of Ancient China began around 1600 BCE till 1050 BCE. They are known for the development of writing, bronze technology and social structure. Ancient Egypt began around 3100 BCE till 30 BCE. They made advancements in writing, architecture, maths, medicine and agriculture.

Pictures of presenting knowledge of one civilisation to class.

Knowledge of civilisations.

Why was the river Nile so important?

The civilisation was set up by the river Nile because it helped them develop their agriculture, trade and transport of goods.

Drawing of river Nile with it being used in the above ways and labelled. Sentence about the most important.

How do we know so much about Ancient Egypt?

The Rosetta Stone helped historians understand how to read hieroglyphics, meaning they could better understand sources from the time. This is because it had been translated into Greek and people were able to understand this.

Picture of the Rosetta Stone and annotated with the importance.

What do sources suggest about religious beliefs?

Ancient Egyptians believed they would be judged by their gods and goddesses to see if they could move on to the afterlife. Osiris was chief god of the dead and one of the most popular gods. Nephthys, wife of Osiris, was known as friend of the dead because she looked after the souls of the dead in the afterlife. Tawaret was a goddess of childbirth and a protector of women and children.

Drawing one god/goddess and explain why they feel they are important.

To explain how Ancient Egyptians worshipped different Gods.

What are the pyramids and why are they a wonder?

Pyramids are tombs, where mummies were buried. They were often built for Pharaohs, but there were also smaller pyramids built for others. They are the shape of square-based pyramid. The wonder is how they created this with lack of technology and resources.

To explain what Ancient Egyptians used the pyramids for.

Who were the pharaohs?

Pharaohs were kings and queens of Egypt. Tutankhamun was a pharaoh. They collected taxes and enforced the law. Tutankhamun inherited the throne at 9 years old around 1332 BC.

A fact file about Tutankhamun.

To explain what a pharaoh is.

What do Ancient Egyptians believe happened after death?

Ancient Egyptians believed they could pass into the after life after death and to do this they needed to be mummified. To do this, they would follow these steps Pull the brain out through the nose

Organs put in jars so they do not decompose.

Pour salt on the body and let it dry for 40 days.

Wrap it in a bandage.

Put in artificial eyes

Put prayer scrolls in the coffin.

Storyboard of steps of mummification.

To explain why Egyptians got mummified after death.

Who is Howard Carter and why is he important?

Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. The tomb contained 5398 items including his gold death mask, gold sarcophagus, thrones, trumpets, a chariot and much more.

To explain what an archaeologist is and what Howard Carter discovered.

Who was Cleopatra?

Cleopatra inherited the throne alongside her younger brother. They had a civil war and she won. She was very intelligent and could speak 9 languages. Cleopatra was renowned for creating the Cleopatra look. She allied herself with Julia Caesar and Mark Anthony from Rome. She eventually took her own life to avoid being captured.

Timeline of Cleopatra's life.

Mythology - Creation story

The ancient Egyptian creation story centers around the emergence of the world from a watery chaos called Nun. A primeval mound, the Benben, rose from the waters, and on it, the creator god, Atum (or Ra), came into being. Atum then created other deities, including Shu (air) and Tefnut (moisture), who in turn created Geb (earth) and Nut (sky). This narrative is often linked to the annual flooding of the Nile River and the fertile land that emerged afterward.

Family tree of the people in the creation story.

To describe the Egyptian creation story.

Mythology - Festivals

In Ancient Egyptian, "Wepet-Renpet" translates to "the opening of the year" and refers to the ancient Egyptian New Year festival. This festival was not fixed to a specific date like our modern New Year, but was instead tied to the heliacal rising of Sirius and the annual flooding of the Nile. This flooding was crucial for agriculture, bringing fertile silt to the land, and the festival was a time of rebirth and renewal, both for the land and for the people.

Venn diagram to compare to modern New Year.

To explain what Wepet-Renpet is.

Memorable Learning Experiences:

Presentations to class

Recording a radio broadcast.

Assessment Questions:

What is an ancient civilisation?

How did the River Nile help the Egyptians?

How did the Rosetta Stone help historians?

What were hieroglyphics used for?

What did they believe? How did they worship?

What makes it a wonder? What is the point of pyramids?

Who is Tutankhamun?

What did they do? What is mummification?

How has Howard Carter's discovery help historians?

What were her accomplishments?

What is the creation story?

What do they celebrate? How does it differ to festivals today?