

# St Austin's R.C. Primary School - History

## Topic: Ancient Egyptians

Year: 3

## Strand: Settlements and War

### What should I already know?

- Egypt is a country in the **continent** of Africa.
- The **climate** of Egypt is different to that of the UK.
- Human and physical geographical features of Egypt.
- What life was like in Stone Age Britain.

### Where is Egypt?



### Important Facts

- During the **Old Kingdom**, things were peaceful and there wasn't much fighting unless it was to neighbouring countries who threatened their land. This would be fought by untrained soldiers chosen at the time with basic weapons as there wasn't an army in place.
- In the **New Kingdom** era, the Egyptian empire was growing, which brought more attacks and threats forcing them to create a trained and skilled army. These soldiers used **bow and arrow**, **javelins** and often charged in **chariots** led by horses.
- The Nile was important because:
  - ❖ it provided water for crops but also **fertile** soil
  - ❖ they were among the first **civilisations** to use **irrigation** systems.
  - ❖ provided mud for bricks and pots
  - ❖ opportunities for fishing, papyrus reeds and a key means of transport.
- We know about **ancient** Egyptian life because of pyramids, the **artefacts** that were found there and methods of communications such as the use of **hieroglyphics** and **papyrus** rolls.
- Egyptian **society** was very **hierarchical** - this means that some groups of people were thought to be more important than others. Each group had a different role to play in Egyptian **society**.
- **Mummification** was the process of **preserving** a body - this process was very important to the Egyptians as they believed this would prepare the body for their journey into the **afterlife**. The bodies of important people, such as **pharaohs**, were placed in these **pyramids**, which were built as **tombs**.
- Religion was very important in Ancient Egypt. They were **polytheists** - they believed in different gods and goddesses.



### Vocabulary

chronology	the order of events in time
fertile	rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants
hieroglyphics	symbols in the form of pictures which are used in some writing systems, for example those of ancient Egypt.
irrigation	supply land with water in order to help crops grow
mummification	If a dead body is <b>mummified</b> , it is <b>preserved</b> , for example by rubbing it with special oils and wrapping it in cloth
papyrus	a tall water plant that grows in Africa
pharaoh	a king of <b>ancient</b> Egypt
preserve	making sure that something remains as it is, and does not change or end
pyramids	ancient stone buildings with four triangular sloping sides. The most famous pyramids are those built in ancient Egypt to contain the bodies of their kings and queens.
sarcophagus	a large decorative container in which a dead body was placed in <b>ancient</b> times
tomb	a large grave that is above ground

### Timeline

- c. 3500 BC: Early settlers settle in the Nile valley.
- c. 2700 BC: First stone pyramid built.
- c. AD 300: Last use of hieroglyphic writing.
- c. 3100 BC: Development of hieroglyphics.
- c. 2600 BC: Pyramid of Giza built.
- 1922: Howard Carter discovers the tomb of Tutankhamun.