



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

HISTORY: ANCIENT EGYPTIANS

Y3 SUMMER TERM

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS:	
DATE	WHAT HAPPENED
6000 BC	Early people settled in the Nile Valley
5000 BC	Egyptians farmed sheep and cattle and grew wheat and barley on the fertile valley
4500 BC	Sails were used on ships for the first time and ships were used as transport
3500 BC	Craftsmen made first wall paintings using hieroglyphics
3000 BC	Walled towns and villages were built using mud and bricks
2500 BC	Egyptians built the Great Sphinx and Great Pyramid at Giza
1550 BC	Many of the Royal tombs are built in the Valley of Kings
1325 BC	Tutankhamun is buried
332 BC	Egypt is invaded by Alexander the Great and ruled by Greek kings

KEY VOCABULARY:	
WORDS	MEANING
Amulet	an object to protect its owner from harm or danger
Book of the Dead	a book of magic spells
Hieroglyphics	a type of writing using pictures and symbols
Mummy/ mummification	a dead body that has been specially preserved/the process of making a mummy
Papyrus	a plant from the banks of the Nile used to make paper, boats, sandals, baskets and rope
Pharaoh	the supreme ruler of all of Ancient Egypt, considered a god
Pyramids	monuments providing tombs for pharaohs.
Sarcophagus	a large stone coffin for a mummy
Scarabs	amulets, often in the form of beetles.
Sphynx	a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh.

KEY KNOWLEDGE:
QUESTION 1: Why were the Ancient Egyptians successful?
ANSWER The success of Ancient Egyptian civilisation came partly from its ability to adapt to the conditions of the River Nile's valley for agriculture. This produced surplus crops which enabled population growth. It was also largely safe from external threats due to its position. Egypt used its supply of gold and excess of grain to export and raise finances.
QUESTION 2: How did lives differ in Ancient Egypt for different people?
ANSWER Pharaohs and Queens were heads of the government and high priest of every temple. He or she set laws and were considered half human and half God. Priests were very important. They taught and even helped with harvesting. Nobles were often gifted land by the Pharaoh so they could earn money by taxing others. Scribes were the few Egyptians who could read or write. This was difficult as they wrote in hundreds of hieroglyphics. It took 12 years to train. Craftsmen were highly skilled in a trade passed from their father. They were often employed by the Pharaoh or temples. Peasants generally farmed, working in fields or barns. During flood seasons when no farming could occur they often worked on temples and palaces.



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QUESTION 3: What was the Ancient Egyptian religion?

ANSWER

Religion played a big part in the lives of Ancient Egyptians. They believed in a whole variety of gods and goddesses. These took different forms, usually as animals.

QUESTION 4: How were the pyramids constructed?

ANSWER

How the pyramids were built has been a mystery that archaeologists have been trying to solve for many years. It is believed that thousands of slaves were used to cut up the large blocks and then slowly move them up the pyramid on ramps.

KEY PEOPLE:

NAME	WHAT THEY DID
Ra	Sun God; the most important God in Egypt
Isis	Mother Goddess
Osiris	Ruler of the Underworld (God)
Horis	God of the Sky
Thoth	God of knowledge
Khfu	Pharaoh from 2589 – 2566 BC (Builder of the Great Pyramid of Giza)
Tutankhamun	Pharaoh from 1334 -1325 BC (youngest Pharaoh in Egyptian history)
Ramses the Second	Pharaoh from 1279 – 1212 BC (most powerful ever Pharaoh)

SUGGESTED WEBSITES TO FIND OUT MORE:

www.ducksters.com/history/ancient_egypt.php

www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zg87xnb/resources/1