

## Important Topic Vocabulary

<b>archaeologist</b>	A person who studies the lives of people who lived in the past.
<b>afterlife</b>	A world the Ancient Egyptians believed they would travel to after death.
<b>civilisation</b>	A culture or society developed by a particular nation or region
<b>hierarchy</b>	A system where members of society are ranked according to their status.
<b>hieroglyphics</b>	A method of writing used by the Ancient Egyptians that used pictures.
<b>mummification</b>	A way of preserving life after death.
<b>pharaoh</b>	A ruler of Ancient Egypt. Kings or Queens of Ancient Egypt.
<b>tomb</b>	A stone structure or underground room where someone is buried.
<b>Valley of the Kings</b>	A valley in Egypt where many tombs were built.

Egypt is in the north-east corner of Africa. Much of Egypt is covered in desert and there is very little rain. The **Ancient Egyptian civilisation** began around 5000 years ago and lasted around 3000 years. People started by building villages next to the River Nile. *What facts do you already know about The River Nile?*



### What should I already know?

The capital city of Egypt is Cairo and it is home to the pyramids.  
BC stands for Before Christ.  
During The Stone Age, villagers lived near rivers for food, water and farming. They were craftsmen and carved their own tools and methods of transportation such as boats.

The **Ancient Sumer civilisation** is in modern-day Iran (Asia) was a collection of city states in the southern part of Mesopotamia (a historical region of Western Asia). Sumerian civilization was very long lived and lasted from 5300BC to 1940BC (the late Stone Age to the early Bronze Age).

The **Indus Valley civilisation** began nearly 5000 years ago in an area of modern-day Pakistan and Northern India. There were more than 1400 towns and cities in the Indus Valley and around 80,000 people lived in these cities.

The **Shang Dynasty** was the earliest well-known dynasty in China and it ruled from around 1600-1046BC. A dynasty is a society ruled by a line of kings from the same family. The Shang Dynasty was very successful as people learned how to make bronze. People called it China's 'Bronze Age'.



**Hieroglyphics** were pictures that the Ancient Egyptians used to represent objects, sounds and words. There were more than 700 in total.

Religion was an important part of the Ancient Egyptian civilisation. They worshiped gods and goddesses. Osiris was the god of the underworld, life and death and Anubis was the god of mummification. The ancient Egyptians believed in a never-ending afterlife. Important members of their society were **mummified** and buried in tombs below pyramids.

The ancient Egyptians were ruled by kings and queens called pharaohs. Khufu, Ramses II, Tutankhamun and Cleopatra were the most famous ones.

**Cleopatra VII** 51 – 30 BC

Cleopatra was the last pharaoh of Egypt and ruled with the help of two Roman leaders, Julius Caesar and Mark Antony.

**Tutankhamun** 1332 - 1323 BC

Tutankhamun was one of the most famous pharaohs. He became the youngest pharaoh in Egyptian history when he became King at just nine or ten years old.



In 1922, archaeologists Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon excavated Tutankhamun's tomb. It contained over 3000 treasures. This photo shows the tomb.

This is The Valley of the Kings. It is a well-known place in Egypt where many of the pharaohs are buried.

Wonderful Websites!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxn3r82/articles/z9mpsbk>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg87xn/b>

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