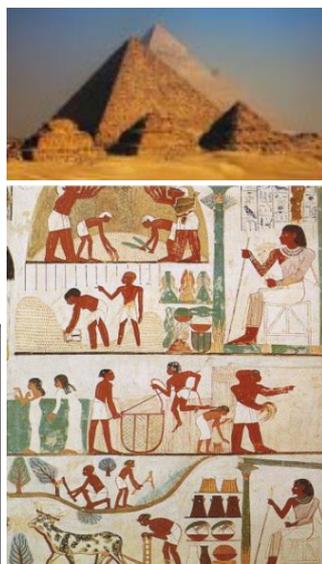


Important facts

- The Nile was important because it provided water from crops but also fertile soil – this means that people settled near the banks of the Nile as it was considered a prime location. They were amongst the first civilisations to use irrigation systems.
- The Nile also 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 evidence such as the pyramids, the artefacts that were found there and methods of communication such as hieroglyphics and papyrus rolls.
- Egyptian society was very hierarchical – this means that some groups of people were deemed 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 to 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 that were in charge of different parts of their lives.

Key Vocabulary

afterlife	A life some believe begins when you die
ancient	Belonging to the distant past
archaeologist	Someone who studies the past exploring old remains
artefacts	Objects from the past that show evidence of what life was like
civilisation	A human society with its own social organisation and culture
Deity	A god or goddess
fertile	Rich in nutrients to support the growth of plants
hierarchy	A system of organising people into different levels of importance
hieroglyphics	Symbols in the form of pictures 
irrigation	Supply land with water in order for crops to grow
Mummification	Preserving a dead body by rubbing it with special oils and wrapping in cloth 
papyrus	A tall water plant that grows in Africa, also the name given to paper.
Pharaoh	A king in ancient Egypt
pyramids	Huge ancient stone buildings with four triangular sloping sides 
sarcophagus	Large decorative container for a dead body in ancient 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.