

Pharaohs - History Knowledge Organiser

Timeline	
3100BC - 30BC	Egyptian Era
2,640 BC	First pyramid is believed to be built.
2,520 BC	The Great Sphinx (body of a lion and head of a human) is believed to be built.
1,332 BC	The 10-year rule of Tutankhamun begins
55-54 BC	Julius Caesar leads two Roman military expeditions to Britain, but was driven back by the Celts on both occasions
51 BC	Queen Cleopatra's reign begins. She is the last Pharaoh of the ancient Egypt period
43 AD	Romans invade Britain. It becomes part of the Roman Empire
1922 AD	Howard Carter discovers the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings

Introduction

The ancient Egyptian civilisation began 5,000 years ago when people started building villages next to the River Nile in north-east Africa. It lasted for around 3,000 years. The people were ruled by Pharaohs. The river was an important source of water in a hot and dry desert landscape. It enabled the ancient Egyptians to grow lots of crops like wheat, barley, fruit and vegetables. They also grew flax to make clothes. Papyrus also grew along its banks and they used this to write on.



Egyptian Calendar

The Egyptian year was based on the happenings of the River Nile. It had 3 seasons, each one lasting 4 months: AHKET - July - October: flooding season PERET - November - February: fields were planted in this season SHEMU - March - June: crops were harvested

Tutankhamun's tomb



Tutankhamun reigned for roughly 10 years. He died around the age of 18 and was buried in a tomb in the Valley of the Kings. His burial place was hidden for many centuries. It was discovered by the Egyptologist Howard Carter in 1922. It contained many amazing artefacts, including Tutankhamun's famous golden death mask, a chariot and a dagger made from meteorite iron!

Hieroglyphs



The ancient Egyptians invented a writing system using symbols called hieroglyphs, which comes from a Greek word meaning 'sacred carving'. This is because they believed that hieroglyphs had been invented by the gods.

The Afterlife

The ancient Egyptians also believed in a never ending afterlife. They thought it was more important than their life on Earth, so they spent a lot of time planning for their death.

The ancient Egyptians preserved the bodies of important people through mummification. They built special tombs to be buried in, which they filled with all their favourite things. Some pharaohs built their tombs in the shape of giant pyramids.

A death mask, that looked like the person when they were alive, was made and put on top of the mummy so that their soul (Ba) could find them.

Key Vocabulary

BC	Before Christ. A way of dating years before the birth of Jesus. The bigger the number BC, the longer ago in history it was.
AD	Anno Domini - "in the year of our Lord". AD is used to show dates after the birth of Jesus.
Civilisation	A particular society at a particular time and place. For example, the ancient Egyptian civilization.
Papyrus	A material like paper used by ancient people to write on.
Tomb	A large grave which is above ground with a sculpture or decoration on it.
Hieroglyphs	A picture used as a form of writing instead of letters.
Mummification	The process in which the flesh and skin of a corpse (dead body) can be preserved.
Pyramid	A building with triangular sides built as an Egyptian tomb (a place to bury the dead).
Source	The start or cause of something; where something comes from.
Polytheist	Belief in, or worship of, multiple gods.
Egyptologist	Someone who studies of the archaeology and language of ancient Egypt.