



Historical Skills Vocabulary

BC	Used to show that a date is before the year AD 1. This is counted backwards so 200 BC is before 100 BC.	AD	Used to show that a date is after the year AD 1. This is counted forwards so AD 100 is before AD 200.
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The Ancient Egyptian Empire

In c. 3000 BC, King Menes united two **Egyptian** kingdoms to build the empire of **ancient Egypt**. It lasted until 30 BC when the Romans took over.

The Nile

Life revolved around **the Nile**. Every year, it flooded and left behind a black silt that enriched the soil for growing crops. The river was also used to **irrigate** fields in other areas.

The Nile was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from the river banks was used to make bricks and papyrus plants were used to make paper.

Most people lived along and around **the Nile**. This is still true in **Egypt** today.

A Pharaoh's Death



The **ancient Egyptians** built the pyramids as resting places for the **pharaohs**.

When a **pharaoh** died, priests would prepare their bodies with a process called mummification.

The **pharaoh** was then placed in a **tomb**, often under a pyramid, with their most treasured possessions. The **ancient Egyptians** believed that these treasures would help them in the afterlife.

Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt

The **ancient Egyptians** worshipped many gods and goddesses who were responsible for different aspects of life and death.

Horus	God of the sky. The ancient Egyptians believed a pharaoh was a god-like living version of Horus.
Thoth	God of wisdom. He is believed to have invented hieroglyphics and kept a record of all knowledge.
Ma'at	Goddess of truth. Pharaohs promised to follow Ma'at and be fair and honest.
Osiris	God of the dead.
Anubis	God of mummification. He weighed the hearts of the dead against Ma'at's feather. If the heart was lighter, the person could pass to the afterlife.

Key Vocabulary

ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
civilisation	A human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
Egypt	The country on the continent of Africa where the ancient Egyptian civilisation was created.
hieroglyphics	A system of writing that consists of pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters.
irrigation	A system of canals or channels dug by the Egyptians to supply water to grow crops over a larger area than the water would naturally reach.
the Nile	A river that runs through Egypt . It was essential to life in ancient Egypt .
pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt .
tomb	A sealed room where a person was placed after death.

Tutankhamun

Tutankhamun was a **pharaoh** known more recently as the 'boy king' because he became **pharaoh** when he was 9 years old.

His **tomb** was discovered by Howard Carter and his team in the Valley of the Kings in 1922.

The discovery helped people to understand more about the **Egyptians pharaohs**.



Tutankhamun's death mask

Writing (Hieroglyphics)

In **ancient Egypt**, scribes wrote on papyrus. Papyrus was a thick type of paper made from reeds that grew along **the Nile**. Scribes were mostly men who went to a special school to learn to write.

Scribes wrote using **hieroglyphs**. **Hieroglyphs** were used for religious texts and inscriptions on statues and **tombs**. They were also used for counting crops and animals so that the right taxes could be taken.



Did You Know...?

The Rosetta Stone was discovered in 1799. It was written in **hieroglyphs** and two other languages, including **ancient Greek**, which language experts could still read. They translated the **hieroglyphs** by comparing the languages. It took 20 years to translate all the text into modern language.

