





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

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| 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 |

