

History Y6: Ancient Egyptians

Key Vocabulary

Afterlife the place where Egyptians believed they would go after they died.

Hieroglyphics a picture used as a form of writing instead of letters.

Mummification the process in which the flesh and skin of a corpse can be preserved.

Pharaoh an ancient Egyptian ruler.

Archaeology the study of things that people made, used, and left behind.

Sarcophagus a large stone coffin for a mummy.

Sphinx a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of a **pharaoh**.

Shaduf a device used in Egypt and other Eastern countries for raising water, especially for irrigation, consisting of a long suspended rod with a bucket at one end and a weight at the other.

Nebamun a middle-ranking official "scribe and grain accountant" during the period of the New Kingdom in ancient Egypt.

Key Facts and Knowledge

The River Nile: The River Nile is about 4,160 miles in length and is the longest river in the world. Most Egyptians lived near the Nile as it provided water, food, transportation and excellent soil for growing food. As rainfall is almost non-existent in Egypt, the Nile was the only source of water. Without the river, the ancient Egyptian civilisation would not have existed.

Farming: The Egyptians grew their crops along the banks of the River Nile on the rich black soil, or kemet, which was left behind after the yearly floods. The fertile soil was ideal to grow healthy crops. Egyptian farmers divided their year into three seasons, based on the cycles of the Nile River: **Akhet** the inundation (June-September): The Flooding Season, **Peret** (October-February): The Growing Season, **Shemu** (March-May): The Harvesting Season.

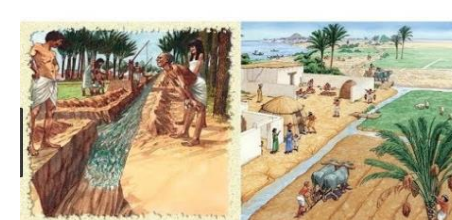
Religion: The Egyptians had a deep belief in the supernatural and that their lives were controlled by their deities. Each god had different responsibilities and needed to be worshipped so that life could be kept in balance. Ra was the most important god and was the lord of all the gods. When Egyptians died, they were mummified and buried in tombs with all the things that they would need in the afterlife.

Ra – the lord of all the gods



Ra was usually shown in human form with a falcon head and crowned with a sun disc.

Irrigation



Links to prior learning:
Ancient Greece (Y4)
Links to other subjects:

3500 BCE Early settlers in the Nile Valley

3100 BCE Hieroglyphic script developed

2700 BCE First stone pyramid built

2600 BCE Pyramids of Giza built