

# ANCIENT EGYPT



The ancient Egyptian civilization lasted for more than 3000 years, longer than any other civilization in human history. Although we are talking about a period that began more than 5000 years ago, we know a great deal about ancient Egypt!

## WHERE IS EGYPT?

Egypt is situated in the northeast corner of Africa. Egypt is a super dry, hot desert country. Ancient life depended on the waters of the River Nile.



## THE RIVER NILE

A large river called the River Nile flows through the country into the Mediterranean Sea.

Ancient Egypt depended on the waters of the River Nile, which flows through harsh and arid desert. The first people to live on the banks of the Nile were hunters and fishermen, who settled there over 8,000 years ago. They learned to grow crops and raise animals, and they began to build villages and towns. They traded with their neighbours and learned to sail boats. By 3000 B.C., a civilization was started.

## THE PYRAMIDS

Most Ancient Egyptian pyramids were built as tombs for pharaohs (rulers of Ancient Egypt) and their families. Over 130 pyramids have been discovered in Egypt to date. The pyramids that we see in Egypt today continue to be 'Wonders of the World'. They were built thousands of years ago and yet still stand.

## EGYPTIAN PHARAOHS

The pharaoh that was the leader was thought to be both a man and a god. There were about 170+ pharaohs that were the leaders of Egypt. A pharaoh was believed to be able to speak to the gods, therefore, anything that the pharaoh requested was obeyed. There were groups of advisors that helped the pharaoh in making decisions.

The most famous pharaoh today is Tutankhamen, who is also called King Tut. His tomb was one of the few that was discovered that had not been robbed of all of its treasure. King Tut took the throne as a boy and then mysteriously died at the age of 18.



## MUMMIES AND THE AFTERLIFE

The afterlife was incredibly important to the Egyptians. Ancient Egyptians believed in many gods and that when a person died they passed into an 'afterlife'. They thought that the individual would have a life that was very close to the one that they lived in with everyone else. In order to have that kind of life, their body needed to be preserved, bandaged and buried with all of the possessions that they would take with them on their journey into the afterlife. Unwrapped, the bandages of an Ancient Egyptian mummy could stretch for 1.6km. Yikes!



## ANIMALS

Cats were considered a sacred animal by the Ancient Egyptians. It's thought that most families kept a cat as a pet, which they believed would bring the household good luck!

## EGYPTIAN ART

From the earliest times, Egyptian art was developed in the service of the king. Ancient Egyptian art was first created to show that the king was a god. The art-forms were first of all worked out by the master craftsmen in the Pharaoh's court.

