



Year 6: Ancient Egypt

Important dates in chronological order:

5500 BC Early settlers made their home along the River Nile

3100 BC The first Pharaoh (King Narmer) united Lower and Upper Egypt.

1332 BC King Tutankhamun ruler for 10 years.

51 BC Cleopatra VII begins her reign as the last Pharaoh

3500 BC Early hieroglyphic writing was being used

2550 BC the Great Sphinx and Giza Pyramids were built

332 BC Alexander the Great invaded Egypt.

31BC Romans invaded and Egypt became part of the Roman Empire.

Vocabulary:

BC	Used to show that a date is before the year 0. This is counted backwards, so 200 BC is before 100 BC. Dates after the year 0 are marked AD.
Civilisation	An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time
Irrigation	A system of canals or channels Egyptians dug to supply water to grow crops over a larger area than the water would reach naturally
Hieroglyphics	A system of writing that used pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters. It was often used for religious texts and inscriptions, as well as for counting taxes. Scribes had to go to a special school to learn how to read and write.
Cartouche	An oval shape in which the names of kings and queens were often written in hieroglyphics to place on their tombs.
Ra	Sun god, lord of the gods. Sailed his boat through the sky during the day and through the underworld at night
Horus	God of the sky. Pharaohs were believed to be a god-like, living version of Horus.

Background information:

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 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 and papyrus to make paper. The ancient Egyptians were experts at farming and construction because they were very inventive. They invented a **solar calendar** (a calendar based on the sun) and a writing system called **hieroglyphs**. The ancient Egyptians were ruled by kings and queens called **pharaohs**. Religion was an important part of their civilisation. They worshiped over **2,000** gods and goddesses!



When they died, pharaohs and important or wealthy people in ancient Egypt were mummified. Their organs, with the exception of the heart, were removed. Their body would then be dried in natron salt and wrapped in linen fabric with amulets and a Book of the Dead to take with them in the next life. The mummy would then be put in a sarcophagus (decorated coffin) and placed in a tomb. Ordinary Egyptians were simply buried in the desert.

