

# Ancient Egyptians

The ancient Egyptians lived over 5,000 years ago from 3100 BC to 332 BC. They lived along parts of the River Nile (the longest river in the world) in Kemet, now known as Egypt.

## What Jobs Did They Do?

There were a variety of different jobs in ancient Egypt, such as scribes, bakers, priests, doctors, craftsmen, merchants and many more. Inherited from their parents, many Egyptians worked on farms where they grew crops.

Farming was extremely important to the Egyptians and their farming techniques were **innovative**. This allowed them to grow lots of different grains and crops. It's believed they lived by the Nile as the yearly flooding because the soil was fertile for crops and being close to the river allowed them to use it for drinking water, washing and cleaning. Every year, the river Nile would rise and fall so the Egyptians dug channels and walls to divert flood water towards their fields for farming.



## The Pyramids

Ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife and that your body and possessions would be needed there. A process called **mummification** meant the bodies could be preserved and were buried in a tomb surrounded by all their worldly possessions.

These tombs are what we now know as the Pyramids. The more important the person, the bigger their tomb. **Hieroglyphics** would be drawn all around the tomb to tell the life story of the person who died and also to help guide them to the afterlife.



## Pharaohs

Egyptian rulers were called pharaohs. They were seen as religious leaders and the bridge between the Gods and the Egyptians.

One of the most famous ancient Egyptian pharaohs was Tutankhamun. In 1922, his tomb was discovered by a group of explorers who couldn't believe how well the body had kept along with the number of treasures inside his tomb. Many of the items they found were made from, or covered in, gold and were there for Tutankhamun to take with him into the afterlife. The tomb was split into many different rooms with most of them being home to the objects, apart from the burial chamber which just held his **sarcophagus**.



### Did You Know...?

Tutankhamun is also referred to as King Tut.

## Gods

There were more than 2,000 gods in ancient Egypt. Many of them took human form but some were represented with heads of animals. The ancient Egyptians believed that life on Earth was just part of the eternal journey so everyone must live a good life in order to be guided by the gods through the afterlife. Each god represented an aspect of the Egyptian world, for example, Ra was the god of the sun and Anuket was the god on the River Nile.



## Glossary

<b>innovative</b>	the process of preserving the body after death by drying or treating flesh.
<b>mummification</b>	the formal writing system used in ancient Egypt.
<b>hieroglyphics</b>	the formal writing system used in ancient Egypt.
<b>sarcophagus</b>	a stone coffin, decorated with inscriptions and sculptures.