

Key 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.
silt	Fine particles of soil, clay or sand, which enrich the soil for crops, carried and deposited by water.
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.

Mummification 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.

Ancient Egypt



Everyday Life

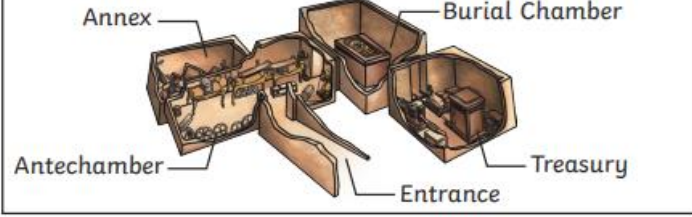
The river Nile was central to life in ancient Egypt; most Egyptians still live along and around it today. It had many uses as it provided:

- **Silt** from annual floods
- **Irrigation**
- Water for drinking and washing
- Fishing
- Trade
- Mud for making bricks
- Papyrus plants for making paper

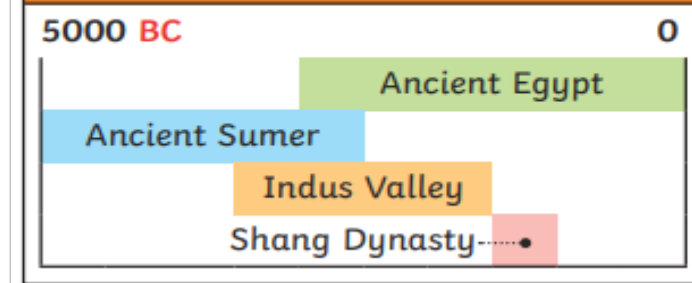
The jobs of many people in ancient Egypt, such as farmers, merchants and builders, relied on the river.

Enquiry question: 'What does evidence tell us about how the Ancient Egyptians lived?'

Tutankhamun's Tomb



Timeline



Some say that Howard Carter found a curse written in **hieroglyphs** in Tutankhamun's tomb, but hid it to avoid alarming the workers. However, Lord Carnarvon, who funded the discovery, died within six months of the tomb being opened. Other people involved in the opening of the tomb died in the years following. People say that this evidence suggests that the curse of Tutankhamun's tomb is real.

Key Vocabulary

Ra	Sun god, lord of the gods. Sailed his boat through the sky during the day and through the underworld at night.
Amun	Created all things. Usually invisible unless mixed with another god, e.g. as Amun-Ra .
Horus	God of the sky. Pharaohs were believed to be a god-like, living version of Horus .
Thoth	God of wisdom. Believed to have invented hieroglyphics and to keep a record of all knowledge.
Ma'at	Goddess of truth. Pharaohs promised to follow Ma'at and be fair and honest.
Isis	Queen of the goddesses.
Osiris	God of the dead.
Hathor	Goddess of love, music and dance.
Anubis	God of mummification. Weighed the hearts of the dead against Ma'at's feather. If your heart was lighter, you would live forever.
Sekhmet	Goddess of war, fire and medicine. Sekhmet means 'the powerful one'.