



# Ancient Egypt

## Useful Vocabulary

**BC/BCE** = Used to show that a date is before the year 0. This is counted backwards

**Civilisation** = An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time

**Hieroglyphics** = A system of writing that used pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters

**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

**River Nile** = longest River in the world, runs through Egypt, the Egyptian civilisation was situated along the river

**Rosetta Stone** = an important artefact that was discovered in 1799, it has an inscription in hieroglyphs

**Cartouche** = An oval shape in which the names of kings and queens were often written in hieroglyphs



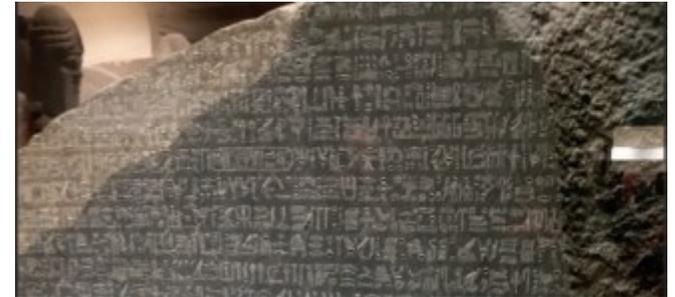
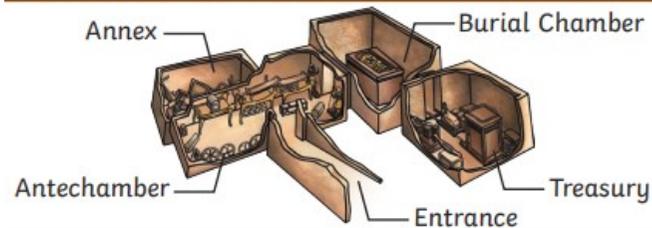
## Everyday Life

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 and papyrus plants for making paper. The jobs of many people in Ancient Egypt, such as farmers, merchants and builders, relied on the river.

## 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.

### Tutankhamun's Tomb



## Gods/Goddesses

**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.

