



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

Useful Vocabulary

- **Pharaoh** – The ruler of Ancient Egypt, believed to be a living god.
- **Mummification** – The process of preserving a body for the afterlife.
- **Pyramid** – A monumental structure built as a tomb for Pharaohs.
- **Hieroglyphics** – The writing system used in Ancient Egypt.
- **Sarcophagus** – A stone coffin, often decorated with carvings.
- **Canopic Jars** – Jars used to store the internal organs of mummified bodies.
- **Afterlife** – The belief in life after death.
- **Papyrus** – A plant used to create paper-like material for writing.

Key dates

- **c. 3100 BC** – Ancient Egypt begins with the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt.
- **c. 2500 BC** – The Great Pyramid of Giza is built.
- **c. 1325 BC** – Tutankhamun is buried in the Valley of the Kings.
- **c. 30 BC** – Ancient Egypt becomes part of the Roman Empire.

Beliefs and Religion

Ancient Egyptians believed in many gods (polytheism). Key gods included:

- **Ra** – The sun god and creator.
- **Osiris** – God of the afterlife.
- **Anubis** – God of mummification and protector of the dead.
- **Isis** – Goddess of magic and healing.

Egyptians believed in the "Weighing of the Heart" ceremony, where a person's heart was weighed against the feather of truth to determine their fate in the afterlife.

Achievements

- Built impressive pyramids and temples using advanced engineering techniques.
- Created a calendar based on the solar year.
- Developed a complex writing system using hieroglyphics.
- Made advances in medicine, mathematics, and astronomy.

Tutankhamun

- Tutankhamun became Pharaoh at the age of nine and ruled for around ten years.
- His tomb, discovered in 1922 by **Howard Carter**, was one of the greatest archaeological finds in history.
- The tomb contained over 5,000 treasures, including his famous **golden mask**.
- The discovery of his tomb provided historians with incredible insights into Ancient Egyptian life, culture, and burial practices.

TIMELINE OF ANCIENT EGYPT 5500 - 31 B.C.

