KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

HISTORY YEAR 4

What was important to the ancient Egyptians?

MY LEARNING JOURNEY

1	2	3	4	5	6
Where and when did early civilisations appear?	Why was the Nile important?	How do sources reveal Egyptian life?	What do sources suggest about gods?	What did Egyptians believe about the afterlife?	Who ruled Egypt and how were rulers buried?

Previously, I learnt to…

- Sequence historical periods.
- Ask questions about sources.
- Make deductions from artefacts.
- Explain how settlement changes places.

In this unit, I am learning…

- ❑ Locate early civilisations in time and place.
- ❑ Explain how Egypt's landscape and the Nile shaped life.
- ❑ Ask historical questions about sources.
- ❑ Explain the Rosetta Stone's importance.
- ❑ Link gods and mummification to afterlife beliefs.
- ❑ Use evidence to judge what mattered to Egyptians.

Looking ahead: In Years 4 and 5, I will learn…

- Later in Year 4, compare Egypt with Maya society.
- In Year 5, investigate Greek beliefs and government.
- Compare civilisations' achievements.

VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
ancient	From a very long time ago.
civilisation	A society with shared ways of life, organisation and government.
fertile	Soil which is rich with nutrients and good for growing crops.
grave goods	Objects buried with a dead person.
hieroglyphics	A writing system using symbols and pictures.
immortal	Living forever.
mummification	The process of preserving a dead body as a mummy.
papyrus	A riverside plant used to make a material for writing on.
pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt, like a king or queen.
River Nile	A major river in north-eastern Africa, vital to ancient Egyptian life.

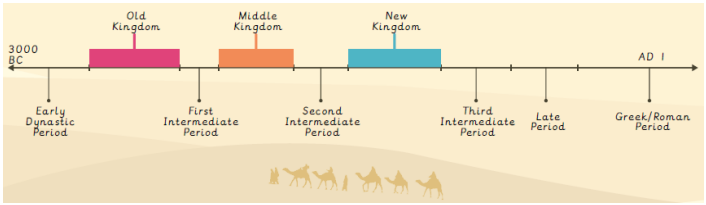
Egyptians · Year 4

Early civilisations: approximate beginnings and places

Sumer	Ancient Egypt	Indus Valley	Shang dynasty
c.3500 BC Mesopotamia (Iraq)	c.3100 BC Nile valley (Egypt)	c.2600 BC South Asia	c.1600 BC China

Egypt through time

Egyptian civilisation lasted thousands of years. Historians distinguish Old, Middle and New Kingdoms, with other periods between them. Place Egypt beside the British periods you have studied.



The River Nile

Annual floods left fertile soil. Water, fish and river transport supported farming, travel and trade. Egypt's deserts made the river valley especially important.



Writing as evidence

Hieroglyphs represented sounds, words and ideas. The Rosetta Stone repeats a decree in different scripts, including Greek, helping scholars decipher Egyptian writing.



Gods and rulers

Egyptians worshipped many gods, including Ra, Osiris and Isis. Pharaohs had religious and political power. Temples, objects and texts provide evidence of beliefs. Sources do not reveal every person's views.

The afterlife

Many Egyptians believed the dead could live again. Mummification preserved bodies; grave goods supplied the afterlife. Wealth affected burials. Pyramids and later tombs protected royal burials.



What was important?

Use evidence to explain connections between the Nile, rulers, gods and afterlife beliefs. Which sources support your judgement? What questions remain?