

Pharaohs- Parent information

Let's travel back 5000 years to ancient Egypt, cruising along the Nile and entering a world of mysteries, curses and mummies.

This half term, we are going to learn first-hand about the gruesome, yet fascinating, process of mummification. We'll write a report about Howard Carter's famous discovery and use different sources to research Tutankhamun's tomb. We'll also consider whether it was right to open Tutankhamun's tomb, or whether it should have been left as it was. Our work will inspire us to write some exciting Egyptian mystery stories and non-fiction books and the internet will provide us with information to make fact files. We'll draw Egyptian artefacts in detail, focusing on symbols and design features. Studying historical sources will help us learn more about the Pharaohs, the Egyptian gods and ancient religious beliefs. We'll find out about the food that was eaten at the time, make some Egyptian bread and use recycled materials to build model tombs.

At the end of the ILP, we'll think about how the ancient Egyptians contributed to world history, then create and present a guide about ancient Egyptian sites.

Help your child prepare for their project

It's amazing that a civilisation from 5000 years ago still influences the way we live today, from mathematics to bowling! Why not try a variety of fruits for dessert that the ancient Egyptians would buy from their local market? You could taste juicy cantaloupes, sweet dates or flavoursome plums. You could also visit your local library to learn about the amazing world of ancient Egypt. Alternatively, use online maps to look at famous Egyptian landmarks and track the course of the Nile.

Memorable experience	Mummification scene
Innovate challenge	Egyptian funeral preparations
English	Chronological reports; Fact files; Research skills; Mystery stories; Play scripts
History	Ancient Egypt
A&D	Drawing artefacts; Headwear; Hieroglyphic amulets
D&T	Egyptian food; Making tombs and pyramids
Geography	Human and physical features of Egypt; The River Nile; Tourism
PSHE	Moral issues; Customs and beliefs; Role play

Home learning ideas - What will you choose to do?

These activities are for you to do at home. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting.

1. The fertile northern area of Egypt is called the Nile Delta. Use a range of sources to find out how deltas form and how they benefit the area. Record your findings and draw a labelled sketch of the Nile Delta
2. Use your knowledge and research skills to create an information text or poster about the Nile in ancient Egypt. Include information about why the ancient Egyptians lived near the river, and why the river was so important to ancient Egyptian society. Compare how people used the river then and today.
3. Draw a labelled hierarchy pyramid to show the ancient Egyptian hierarchical system, which included different social classes. Use your diagram and research skills to answer the questions and record any additional information about ancient Egyptian society that you have learned from the hierarchy pyramid.
 - Who was the most powerful person in ancient Egyptian society, and what was their role?
 - What was the role of scribes, and why were they more important than craftsmen?
 - Why were there more slaves than government officials, priests and nobles?
4. Ancient Egyptian writing is called hieroglyphics. Use your knowledge, the internet or information books to answer the questions about this ancient Egyptian writing system.
 - What are hieroglyphics and how are they different from our writing system?
 - What does hieroglyph mean?
 - What is a cartouche?
 - What is a stele?
 - What is the Rosetta Stone and why is it important?Practise writing in hieroglyphics. Challenge a friend or family member to work out what you have written.

Useful websites

BBC Bitesize – Ancient Egypt – KS2 History

Britannica Kids – Ancient Egypt

Britannica Kids – Delta

BBC – How does the River Nile help people survive in Egypt?

British Museum – Egypt

BBC Bitesize – Who was Tutankhamun?

BBC Bitesize – What did the ancient Egyptians believe in?

Good reads

Ancient Egyptians The Study Book (Discover and Learn) CGP

Everything: Ancient Egypt National Geographic Kids

Geography Matters in Ancient Egypt Melanie Waldron

Daily Life in Ancient Egypt Don Nardo

Awesome Egyptians (Horrible Histories) Terry Deary and Peter Hepplewhite

Ancient Egypt: Tales of Gods and Pharaohs Marcia Williams