

The Earliest Civilizations – Ancient Egypt



National curriculum requirement: History

Study the achievements of the earliest civilizations – an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared and a depth study of one of the following: Ancient Sumer, The Indus Valley, Ancient Egypt, The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China

Key historical knowledge:

- Know that there were some advanced civilizations in the world 3000 years ago and know that Britain was not one of them.
- Know about, and name, some of the advanced societies that were in the world around 3000 years ago.
- Know about the key features of Ancient Egypt – religion, buildings, communication and The Nile.

Historical skills

- Know how to use a timeline in relation to the unit being studied.
- Know that a timeline can be divided into BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini).
- Know the difference between primary and secondary sources of evidence.
- Look at more than two versions of the same event or story in history and identify differences

Geography Learning– We want pupils to know and remember...

- Where the ancient civilizations were in the world, including the continents they were in.

History Learning – We want pupils to know and remember...

- What else was happening in the world at the same time as Ancient Egypt
- Why Egyptians settled on the banks of the River Nile
- What hieroglyphs were, how they were used and what they tell us about the past.
- What a pharaoh was and the power they had in ancient times.
- Cleopatra was the last pharaoh before Ancient Egypt became a province of the Roman Empire.
- Tutankhamen is the most famous pharaoh. His tomb was discovered by an archaeologist called Howard Carter in 1922.
- That an archaeologist is someone who studies human history and pre-history through the excavation of sites and analysis of artefacts and other physical remains.
- How pyramids were built and why they were built.
- How pharaohs were preserved through the mummification process and why.

History Learning – We want pupils to know how to...

- Sequence events, artefacts or historical figures on a timeline using dates and terms related to the unit being studied and passing of time;
- Know that a timeline can be divided into BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini).
- Use a variety of sources to collect information about the past, including different versions of the same event.
- Observe and use pictures, photographs and artefacts to find out about the past;

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Learning Step 1 – Chronology

Learn when each of the ancient civilizations was in existence. Where on the class timeline do they belong. (Place them on the timeline). What else was happening in the world at the same time? What was happening in Great Britain that we have already learnt about?



Learning Step 2 – Locational Knowledge

Learn where each of the ancient civilizations was in existence. Where are each of these locations on a current world map? Where are they in comparison to the United Kingdom? How far from the United Kingdom is each place?



Learning Step 3 – How do we know about the past?

Learn about the role of an archaeologist in helping us to learn about the past. Also learn about how artefacts / photos / writings help us to learn about the past. Explain why these are important for historians and help them to create theories of how past societies functioned.



Learning Step 4 – Hieroglyphs

Learn what hieroglyphs were, how they were used by archaeologists and what they are able to tell us about life in Ancient Egypt. How are they similar to cave paintings we have previously learned about? Do the children know that these drawings were the first signs of a writing system in the world?



Learning Step 5 – Pharaohs and the Social System

Learn about The Ancient Egyptian Social Pyramid. The pharaoh, vizier, high priests and nobles, priests, engineers, doctors, scribes, craftsmen, slaves and farmers
A few famous pharaohs were Khufu, Ramses II, Tutankhamen and Cleopatra (the last pharaoh).



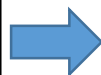
Learning Step 6 – Pyramids, Tombs and Mummification.

Why were the pyramids built? How were they built? What was inside them and why did the Egyptians follow this ritual? How did they mummify a body? What was left in a tomb?



Learning Step 7 – Tutankhamen and Howard Carter.

Why is Tutankhamen so famous? What do we know about him? Who is Howard Carter? When was the tomb discovered and how? What is an archaeologist?



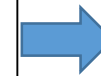
Learning Step 8 – The River Nile

Why did Egyptians settle close to the River Nile? What were the benefits of this? What were the negatives of this?



Learning Step 9 – Religion and Gods

Egyptians were polytheists – they believed in different gods being in charge of different parts of their lives. Who were the Egyptian gods and goddesses?



Learning Step 10 – Recap on learning

Children to produce an information piece of learning which showcases their learning from the whole learning process.