Bishop Monkton CE Primary School - History Knowledge Organiser—The Ancient Egyptians—Year 2 & 3

What should I already know?

- Egypt is a country in the continent of Africa.
- The climate of Egypt is different to that of the UK.
- Human and physical geographical features of Egypt eg. River desert, settlement.
- In Britain we called this the time Stone Age..

Historical Skills and Enquiry

- Describe how Egyptian **artefacts** and ruins tell us about their **culture,** and **religious beliefs.**
- Describe what Egyptian life was like for different groups of people.
- Describe how the Egyptian **society** has had an impact on modern society.
- Describe why people chose to **settle** in certain areas in ancient Egypt.
- Compare what was happening in the Egyptian **civilisation** with what was happening in Britain at the same time. Compare aspects of life such as achievements, society, beliefs, and architecture.
- Present what you know about the Egyptians using a variety of skills (e.g. Geography, English, Maths, Computing, etc)
- Use appropriate vocabulary to communicate about the Egyptians.

Timeline

c..3500 BC: Early settlers settle in the Nile Valley

c. 3100 BC: Development of Hieroglyphics

c. 2700 BC: First stone pyramid built

c. 2600 BC: Pyramid of Giza built

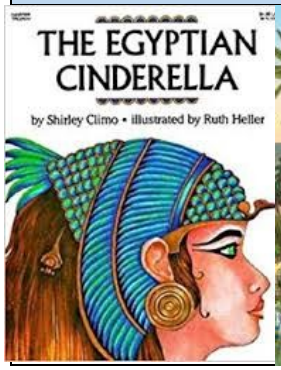
c. AD 300: Last use of hieroglyphic writing

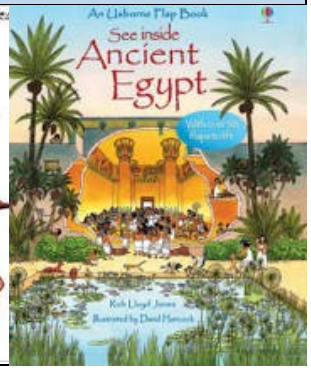
1922: Howard Carter discovers the tomb of Tutankhamun

Key Knowledge

- The Nile was important because it provided water for crops but also fertile soil – this means that people settled near the banks of the Nile as it was considered a prime location. They were among the first civilisations to use irrigation systems.
- The Nile provided mud for bricks and pots, opportunities for fishing, papyrus reeds and a key means of transport.
- We know about ancient Egyptian life because of evidence such as pyramids, the artefacts that were found there and methods of communications such as the use of hieroglyphics and papyrus rolls.
- Egyptian society was very hierarchical – this means that some groups of people were thought more important than others. Each group had a different role to play in Egyptian society.
- Mummification was the process of preserving a body – this process was very important to the Egyptians as they believed this would prepare the body for their journey into the afterlife.
- The bodies of important people, such as pharaohs were placed in pyramids, which were built as tombs.
- Religion was very important in Ancient Egypt. They were polytheists – they believed in different gods and goddesses. These were in charge of different parts of their lives. The gods and goddesses were called deities.

Book Suggestions





Vocabulary

afterlife	a life that some people believe begins when you die,
ancient	belonging to the distant past
archaeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring remains
architecture	planning, designing and making buildings
artefacts	an object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like
chronology	the order of events in time
circa	Latin meaning 'around'
civilisation	A group of organised people with their own **culture**.
climate	the general weather conditions of a place
continent	a very large area of land that consists of many **countries**. Europe is a **continent**.
culture	activities such as art which are considered to be important to a group of people
fertile	rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants
hierarchy	system of organising people into levels of importance
hieroglyphics	symbols in the form of pictures which are used in some writing systems
irrigation	supply land with water in order to help crops grow
mummification	If a dead body is **mummified**, it is **preserved**,
papyrus	a tall water plant that grows in Africa
pharaoh	a king of **ancient** Egypt
polytheists	the worship of or belief in more than one god
preserve	making sure that something remains as it is
pyramids	ancient stone buildings with triangular sloping sides.
sarcophagus	a large container in which a dead body was placed
settler/ settlement	people who migrate to a new place. When people start a community, this is a settlement
society	a large organized group of people
tomb	a large grave that is above ground
trade	buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services