



# Learning Journey Map

Year: 3

Term: Summer 2

Subject: History

Topic: Egyptians

**Driving Question:** How can we identify the most important information about the Ancient Egyptians?

**Power Skill:** Critical Thinking - I can find the information I need to prove something in a text or image.

## National Curriculum Learning Objectives

- Understand the achievements of the Ancient Egyptians
- Know an overview of where and when the Ancient Egyptians appeared

## Key Vocabulary

the Nile

pharaoh

pyramid

burial chamber

sarcophagus

mummification

canopic jars

Gods

hieroglyphics

Tutankhamun

Cleopatra VI

Howard Carter

archaeology

## Key Learning

Ancient Egypt was one of the oldest and longest lasting world civilizations.

It was located along the Nile River in the northeast part of Africa and lasted for over three thousand years!

Historians use two ways to split up the history of Ancient Egypt:

- Dynasties:** The first is by using the different dynasties that ruled Egypt. These are the families that had power and passed the leadership down from one family member to another.
- Kingdoms and Periods:** There are also three kingdoms that historians use to split up the periods of Ancient Egypt. The three kingdoms were the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms.



For most of Ancient Egypt's timeline, the whole country was ruled by one person, called pharaoh. However, at the start of this civilisation, there had been two rulers and so Egypt was often referred to as Lower and Upper Egypt, even when there was one ruler. Cairo is the capital city of modern day Egypt, but in ancient times Memphis, Thebes (now called Luxor) and Alexandria all were (at different times!).



### Thinking Point

Where is Egypt located?



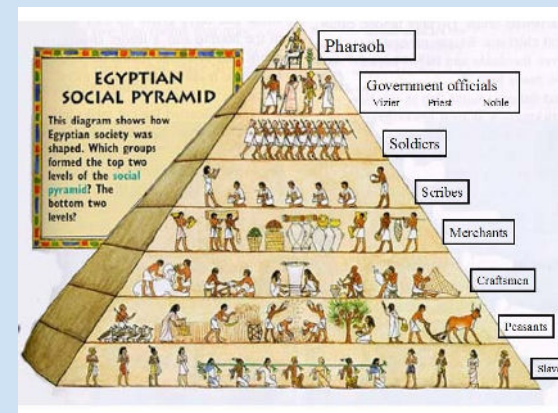
### Thinking Point

Why do you think all of the cities are on the River Nile?  
Why do you think the capital city kept changing?



## Ancient Egyptian society

The Egyptian hierarchy (levels of importance) was a lot like the pyramids that they built. At the very top of this social structure was the pharaoh and their gods. Since the pharaoh was thought to be a god, he took his place next to all of the others. The viziers, high priests and nobles supported the pharaoh and helped with the day-to-day running of the country. Officials and scribes kept records of what was happening. At the bottom were most Egyptians. Most Ancient Egyptians were farmers.



### Thinking Point

What was the Egyptian ruler called?



## Enquiry lesson

By looking at secondary sources (artefacts) construct ideas about what life might have been like for the Ancient Egyptians. Look at the work of Howard Carter to understand the important of archaeology in building our knowledge of the past.

## Resources:

Egyptian artefacts, iPads to support research, artefact enquiry sheets

## Key Learning



### Egyptian Farming:

Egyptians grew crops such as wheat, vegetables and fruits. The most important crop was grain as they could use it to make bread, porridge and beer. The Egyptians grew their crops along the banks of the river Nile as the black soil that was left behind when the Nile flooded each year was very fertile. This meant it was easy to grow healthy crops in it.

Egyptians farmers divided their year in to three seasons, based on the flooding cycle of the Nile:

- Akhet (June-September) - Flooding season. Farmers mended tools, looked after animals or found other jobs to do, such as building pyramids.
- Peret (October-February) - Growing season. When crops were planted and tended to.
- Shemu (March-May) - Harvesting season. Crops were cut down and removed to be stored and eaten.

### Thinking Point

Why did the Egyptians grow crops on the banks of the Nile?



### Ancient Egyptian Religion:

#### The Gods:

There were over 2,000 gods in Ancient Egypt. Some images of Ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses show them with a human body and the head of a bird or animal.



### Death and the Afterlife

The Egyptians believed that when they died, they would make their way to another world where they would lead a new life. They would need the things that they had in this life, so they were buried with lots of belongings. It also meant they believed they would need their body in the next life, so they did everything they could to preserve it. To do this, they used a process called mummification (if they could afford it - poor Egyptians were just buried in the sand):

1. The body was washed and cleaned.
2. All of the organs, apart from the heart, were removed and put in canopic jars.
3. The body was dried by covering it in a type of salt called 'natron'.
4. Then, the body was wrapped in strips of cloth and put in a stone coffin called a sarcophagus.
5. Your body would then be buried in a tomb.

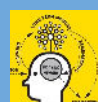


If you were a pharaoh, you would be buried in a pyramid. In the New Kingdom, pharaohs were buried in tombs instead, to hide them and their belongings from grave robbers!

These pyramids would be decorated inside with hieroglyphics - the Ancient Egyptian writing system. They wrote spells and prayers to help the pharaoh in the afterlife.

### Thinking Point

Why did the Egyptians make mummies?  
What were the pyramids for?



### Archaeology and Egyptology

Like every other ancient time period, most of what we know about Ancient Egypt comes from what archeologists have found. Ruins of temples and settlements have taught historians a lot, but a huge amount of knowledge has come from what has been discovered inside pyramids and tombs.

About 100 years ago, there was a sudden interest in Egypt and lots of archeologists went there to see what they could uncover. Many of the pyramids were empty as they have been robbed by thieves over the centuries. However, a lot of the later pharaohs had been buried in a place called 'The Valley of the Kings' and their tombs hadn't been discovered yet.

One of these tombs belonged to a pharaoh called Tutankhamun, who had died when he was only 19. His tomb was discovered by the archaeologist Howard Carter in 1922. It was completely intact and so was full of priceless treasures and the sarcophagus and mummy of Tutankhamun.

### Thinking Point

Who found Tutankhamun's tomb?  
Why was the discovery so exciting?

