

In this unit you will learn about:

- > Tutankhamen
- > Geography
- > Egyptian society and Egyptian dynasties
- > Egyptian religion and the legacy of Ancient Egypt



3. Who is in the picture? Can you recognize this Pharaoh?

1. Read the following source. 1. TUTANKHAMEN

Slowlythe decisive moment had arrived. With trembling hands..... I inserted candle and peered indetails of the room within emerged slowly strange animals, statues, and gold – everywhere the glint of gold.

'Can you see something?' asked his companion Lord Carnarvon.

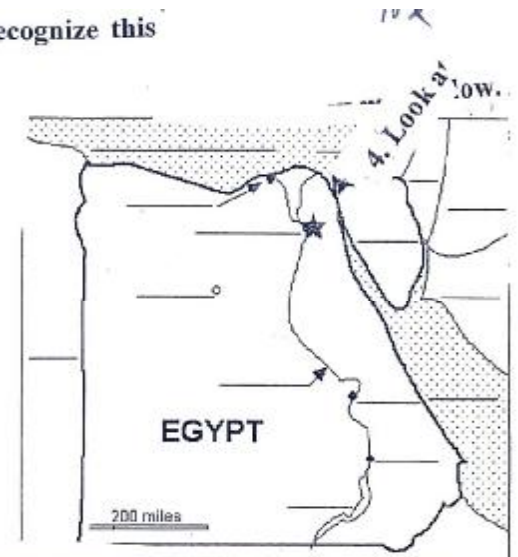
'Yes, wonderful things,' he answered.

These are the words of **Howard Carter**, an archaeologist who made a remarkable discovery in **1922**. For three years he searched the ruins of an ancient Egypt burial place. Carter removed ton after ton of rubble. Then one day a worker found a doorway to the tomb of an ancient Egyptian king. Underneath the burial chamber of Pharaoh Ramses VI, a door had been discovered. Behind it lay another door with the seal of Tutankhamen intact. In a room eight metres long and four metres wide there were nearly 60 000 objects which Egyptians believed their Pharaohs might need in after-life. Nearby was a second room which contained the King's body enclosed in four gold coffins. It was decorated with gold collars, ring and bracelets. On his face was a life- gold mask. **Nothing like this had ever been discovered in the Modern Times.** People who knew little about Egyptian history now became interested much more.

1. Find the words to do with Ancient Egypt in the wordsearch below?

V	P	N	I	X	M	A
P	A	P	Y	R	U	S
H	Y	G	Y	U	M	P
A	E	R	U	T	M	H
R	T	K	A	O	Y	I
A	C	N	S	M	I	N
O	H	E	D	B	I	X
H	S	W	R	L	A	D
T	O	O	E	Y	Z	P

2. Write down other things you know which are connected to Egypt.



5. Some of the words in the passage below are missing. Fill them in from the words in the box.

- crops soil floods mud silt north desert
 hot dry mountains of Africa longest delta irrigation

Egypt is andcountry in theof Africa. The River Nile runs through the middle of it. The Nile starts in the and flows down through Egypt into the Mediterranean Sea. Egypt is all apart from the land beside the River Nile. The River Nile is theriver in the world.

Every year the Nilefrom July until October. Then water spreads over the land for about twenty kilometres each side of the river. The water carries with rich black and When the flood dries up, the land is left covered with a layer of new..... that was once river-mud. This helps theto grow better.

Where the Nile flows into the Mediterranean Sea, the silt created a Egyptians watered their crops every day, so they had to dig channels from the Nile so that water flowed between the fields. This is called.....

6. Test yourself

1. Is Egypt an island?
2. Is Egypt near the South Pole?
3. Is Egypt near the equator?
4. Is Lower Egypt in southern or northern Egypt?
5. Is Upper Egypt in southern or northern Egypt?
6. Where does the Nile flow into?
7. What is delta?
8. What is irrigation?
9. Which river is the longest in the world?
10. What is the capital of Egypt?

EGYPTIAN SOCIETY

1. Who was who?

Read the following descriptions and decide who was who?

Because the pharaoh could not perform ceremonies at all the temples throughout Egypt, he appointed them to **carry out the sacred rituals at each temple**. They often passed down their positions from father to son. They enjoyed great power and wealth in Egyptian society.

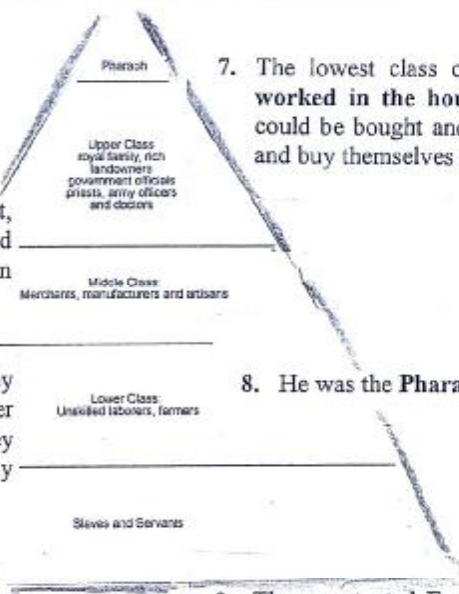
2. Egypt was one of the wealthiest countries in the ancient world. They (actually, they were more like traders) **carried products** such as gold, papyrus made into writing paper or twisted into rope, linen cloth, and jewellery to other countries. In **exchange**, they brought back cedar and ebony wood, elephant tusks, panther skins, giraffe tails for fly whisks, and animals such as baboons and lions for the temples or palaces.

He was a powerful ruler and the leader of the Egyptian people. His name means "**Great House**". He was also called the "**Lord of the Two Lands**" and "**High Priest of Every Temple**". The Egyptians saw him as a **God**. He was the ruler of Upper and Lower Egypt. His crown was white (Upper Egypt) and red (Lower Egypt) to show the unity of the two lands. He made laws and collected taxes, was an army leader and the chief of the temples. He often wore false beards which symbolized royal authority. His main responsibility was to make sure Egypt was protected and at peace.

They were highly valued members of Egyptian society. They studied for many years to learn to read and write. They had great opportunities as accountants, priests, doctors, and government officials of all sorts. **They kept records of taxes** and the activities of pharaohs. They never knew poverty and **they were treated with respect**.

The Egyptian objects that we see in museums today were created by them, employed by the pharaoh, the government, or temples. They worked in large workshops rather than in individual studios as they often do today. **Carpentry, metalwork, jewellery making, pottery, sculpture, wall painting, glass making, and weaving** are some of the crafts they practiced.

They **worked lands** belonging to the pharaoh, the government, a temple, or a rich landowner. In addition to **ploughing, planting, and harvesting**, they maintained the irrigation canals that brought water to their fields and were required to work on the pharaoh's tomb construction project each year.



7. The lowest class of Egyptian society, these worked in the household, pyramids construction projects and could be bought and sold like property. People could also sell themselves and buy themselves out of it.

8. He was the Pharaoh's closest advisor. He was the first official like a Prime Minister.

9. They protected Egypt from enemies and they helped to enlarge Egypt. During peace time, they worked on government projects such as digging irrigation canals for farming, or transporting stone for the king's tomb.

2. Test yourself?

1. Who was called Great House?
2. Who was like a Prime Minister?
3. What is slavery?
4. Why were scribes treated with respect?
5. What colours was a Pharaoh's crown? What did those colours symbolize?
6. Who was the highest priest in Egypt?
7. What was brought by merchants to Egypt from abroad?
8. Why did Pharaohs wear beards?
9. What did soldiers do during peace?
10. Who was considered like a God in Egypt?

Egyptian Gods and Goddesses

The Ancient Egyptians had more than one God. Each district had its own Gods, and most of them seem to have been half-animal. Some of the Gods were much more important than the others and were worshipped all over Egypt.

Amun-Re: the most important God, the Sun-God

Osiris: the God of underworld

Isis: the wife of Osiris, she was called Great Mother, she protected mothers and children.

Thoth: the Ibis-headed God of writing

Sutech : the God of evilness and destruction

Anup: the jackal-headed God of cemeteries and mummifying

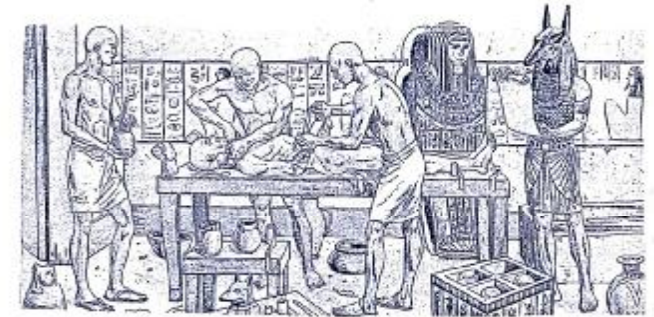
Hathor: the Goddess of love and entertainment.

The Pharaoh and the Gods were the masters of Egypt. There was no quarrel between the Pharaoh and the Gods, because the Pharaoh himself was a God. The ordinary Egyptians did as they were told. They believed in Pharaoh and the Gods, and worked hard for them.



HOW TO MAKE A MUMMY

- 1) Take one fresh, dead body
- 2) Remove all the organs
- 3) Put them in canopic jars with salt to dry out
- 4) Cover the body in salt to dry it out
- 5) Leave for 40 days
- 6) Return the organs to the body
- 7) Cover body in nice smelling oils
- 8) Wrap the body in bandages
- 9) Put glue on the bandages
- 10) Put a death mask on the head
- 11) Place the body in coffin



2. What was the relationship between the Pharaoh and the Gods?

3. What kind of religion did the Egyptians have?

4. Read the following article about the Underworld and Mummies.

Underworld

Egyptians believed that when a person died the body and soul are parted. Most souls had to go on a journey after death, before being judged by the God Osiris. Good people went to paradise and wicked ones had their hearts torn out by a monster. Osiris was thought to have been killed and then brought back to life. This is why he ruled over the dead. Egyptians believed the body would also be needed in the afterlife. They tried to preserve the bodies and turn them into stop them rotting away and turn them to mummies.

5. Why was the process of mummifying so important for the Egyptians?

6. Write these four sentences below in the right order. Start with the biggest thing.

This is called mummy.

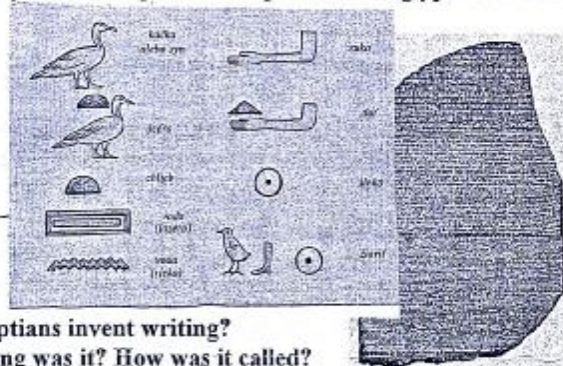
Inside the pyramid is a secret room.

Inside that there is a dead body covered with bandages.

Inside that there is a sarcophagus.

1. Read the article about the Egyptian writing.

By about 2400 BC the Egyptians had invented a form of picture – writing. It is called **hieroglyphics** which means sacred carved letters. At first each picture indicated a word but later it came to represent a letter. A well educated person was expected to write in this way but ordinary people needed less complicated writing. They developed the **hieratic** version and later an even simpler type called **demotic** (popular script). This was used by businessmen, court officials and traders. Writing was done with a reed brush dipped in ink made from soot, water and gum. They used **papyrus long rolls** for writing. For centuries the secret of how to read this writing was lost. Then in 1799 some French army officers in Egypt found a stone at Rosetta near the mouth of the Nile. They immediately realised that it was important because it had inscriptions in three languages: hieroglyphic, demotic and Greek. **The Rosetta Stone** was handed over to the British and taken to London where it was housed in the British Museum. However the French had already made copies of the inscriptions. These were sent to Paris where a brilliant French scholar, **Jean Champollion** spent years studying the script. First he found the Egyptian letters for Ptolemy, and then those for Cleopatra. **Champollion deciphered hieroglyphics in 1822.**



2. Test yourself

1. When did the Egyptians invent writing?
2. What type of writing was it? How was it called?
3. Were there other writings used in Egypt? If yes, why were they developed?
4. What was used for writing?
5. Who was the God of writing?
6. Who invaded Egypt in 1799?
7. Which source helped to decipher the Egyptian writing?
8. Where is that source house at present?
9. Who deciphered the Egyptian writing?
10. Which names as the first ones were read?
11. When was the Egyptian writing deciphered?



3. What were the Egyptians good at? Read the following article.

Education

A favourite saying of Egyptian schoolmasters was, *The ear of a boy is on his back and he listens when he is beaten.* Pupils learnt to write on fragments of broken pottery called ostraka papyrus was too expensive to be wasted. Pupils learnt mathematics and astronomy, but writing was their main task. a lot of time was spent copying out folk tales which the teacher dictated.

Medicine

The Egyptians were very interested in medicine and they had medical schools. Doctors spent a lot of time trying to solve eye and tooth complaints. They also did surgery.

Law

Egyptian trials were well – organised. There was a judge and a clerk who wrote down the evidence. The accused were allowed to defend themselves. Serious punishments were usually decided by the Pharaoh, not the judge. The punishments ranged from death to loss of limbs or beating.

Mathematics, Astronomy

The Egyptian mathematicians could understand fractions and square roots. The basic arithmetical unit was number 10. They worked out a 365 day calendar including twelve 30 day months and 5 days were added for celebrations. The regular floods led them to measuring the territories which put the roots to geometry.

Literature

The rich variety of Egyptian literature illustrates the creativity of the early Egyptians. Their works often dealt with mythology, afterlife, hymns, poems celebrating the Pharaoh's victory over death and stories about the Gods. The well known is the **Book of Dead** providing charms and other methods of successful transition to the other world. A Success brought another genre known as **Instructions in Wisdom** giving advice about how to well behave in the world.

4. Compare and contrast the legacy of Egypt and the legacy of Mesopotamia

Egypt	Mesopotamia