

The Nile River

The civilization of Ancient Egypt was located along the Nile River in northeast Africa. The Nile was the source of much of the Ancient Egypt's wealth. Great Egyptian cities grew up along the Nile as the Egyptian people became experts in irrigation and were able to use the water from the Nile to grow rich and profitable crops. The Nile provided food, soil, water, and transportation for the Egyptians. Great floods would come each year and would provide fertile soil for growing food.

Kingdoms and Periods

Historians usually group the history of Ancient Egypt into three major kingdoms called the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom. It was during these times that Ancient Egypt was at its strongest. The times between the Kingdoms are called intermediate periods.

Culture

Ancient Egypt was rich in culture including government, religion, arts, and writing. The government and religion were tied together as the leader of the government, the Pharaoh, was also leader of the religion. Writing was also important in keeping the government running. Only scribes could read and write and they were considered powerful people.

Egyptian men and women wore makeup. It was thought to have healing powers, plus it helped protect their skin from the sun.

They used mouldy bread to help with infections.

They were one of the first civilizations to invent writing. They also used ink to write and paper called papyrus.

The Ancient Egyptians were scientists and mathematicians. They had numerous inventions including ways to build buildings, medicine, cosmetics, the calendar, the plough for farming, musical instruments, and even toothpaste.

Ancient Egypt plays a major role in the Bible. The Israelites were held captive there as slaves for many years. Moses helped them escape and led them to the Promised Land.

The Pharaoh kept his hair covered. It was not to be seen by regular people.

Cats were considered sacred in Ancient Egypt.

Pyramids and Treasure

The Pharaohs of Egypt were often buried in giant pyramids or in secret tombs. They believed that they needed treasure to be buried with them to help them in the afterlife. As a result, archaeologists have a lot of well-preserved artefacts and tombs to examine in order to find out how the Ancient Egyptians lived.

Over 130 pyramids have been discovered in Egypt.

The afterlife was incredibly important to the Egyptians. They believed that by preserving a dead person's body - which they did through the process of **mummification** - their soul would live on in the after-life forever.

The **Pyramid of Khufu** at **Giza** is the largest Egyptian pyramid. This incredible structure weighs as much as 16 Empire State buildings!

Unwrapped, the bandages of an Ancient Egyptian mummy could stretch for **1.6km**. Yikes!

Do you love playing board games with your pals? Well, gang, so did the Ancient Egyptians! One popular game was **Senet**, which was played for over 2,000 years! The game involved throwing sticks (in the same way we throw dice) to see how many squares to move your piece forward on the board.

The Ancient Egyptians **invented** lots of things we still use today, such as paper, pens, locks and keys and - believe it or not - toothpaste!

Egyptians have always been close to the natural world. The ancient Egyptians left paintings and carvings (which can still be seen today!) of large animals like elephants, hippos, leopards and cheetahs. These animals were once common in Egypt, but they are now rare or extinct because of hunting and habitat loss.

The first people to live on the banks of the Nile were hunters and fishermen, who settled there over 8,000 years ago. They learned to grow crops and raise animals, and they began to build villages and towns. They traded with their neighbours and learned to sail boats. By 3000 B.C., a civilisation was established.

They quickly learned how to grow crops, raise animals, build villages and towns, build boats and navigate the mighty river. At that time, there was no money, so they used to trade with their neighbours for goods and food. By 3000 B.C the Ancient Egyptian civilization was born.

Each year, in around September, there were massive floods in the river, but actually this turned out to be for their benefit as the soil became richer - and so they were able to grow even more food.

Wheat - this was the main food that they ate and they made bread out of it. They sold a lot of their wheat which helped them become the rich nation that they were.

Papyrus - this was a plant that grew along the shores of the Nile. They used it for loads of stuff including paper, baskets, rope, and sandals.

They also made building materials from the river. They used mud to make bricks which were used to build homes, walls and other buildings.

Government and religion were strongly associated with each other. Pharaohs led the country and they were also considered to be gods.

There were people called scribes, who were very important in running the country and they were considered to be very powerful. Why? Well they were the only people who could read and write and they helped run the country.

People had different jobs like farmers, craftspeople, soldiers, scribes, and priests and priestesses.

To fight they used bows and arrows, spears, axes and short swords. They also made brilliant chariots which carried two men with strong horses pulling them. One would drive the chariot and control the horses while the other soldier would use a bow and arrow or a spear to fight.

