

## Timeline

3100BC - 30BC	Egyptian Era
2,640 BC	First pyramid is believed to be built.
2,520 BC	The Great Sphinx (body of a lion and head of a human) is believed to be built.
1,332 BC	The 10-year rule of Tutankhamun begins
55-54 BC	Julius Caesar leads two Roman military expeditions to Britain, but was driven back by the Celts on both occasions
51 BC	Queen Cleopatra's reign begins. She is the last Pharaoh of the ancient Egypt period
43 AD	Romans invade Britain. It becomes part of the Roman Empire
1922 AD	Howard Carter discovers the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings

## Egyptian Calendar

The Egyptian year was based on the happenings of the River Nile. It had 3 seasons, each one lasting 4 months:

**AHKET** – July – October: flooding season

**PERET** – November – February: fields were planted in this season

**SHEMU** – March – June: crops were harvested.

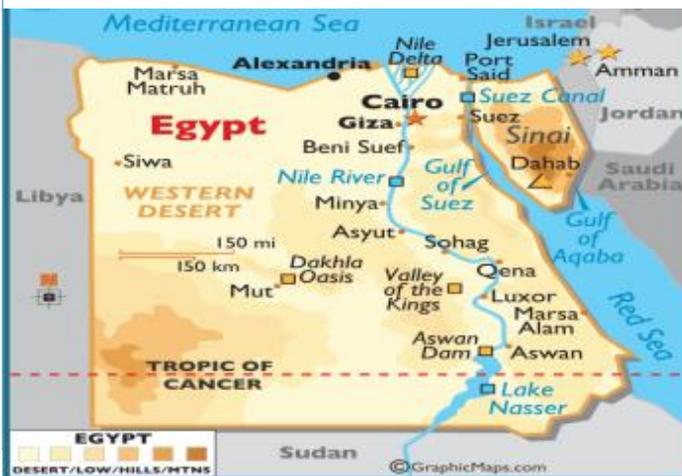
## Introduction

The ancient Egyptian **civilisation** began 5,000 years ago when people started building villages next to the **River Nile** in north-east Africa. It lasted for around 3,000 years. The people were ruled by Pharaohs.

The river was an important **source** of water in a hot and dry desert landscape. It enabled the ancient Egyptians to grow lots of crops like wheat, barley, fruit and vegetables. They also grew flax to make clothes. **Papyrus** also grew along its banks and they used this to write on.

## Map of Egypt

Cairo is the capital of Egypt. The **River Nile** is the longest river in the world. People settled near the Nile. This is because it is green and crops can be grown in the areas around the Nile whilst the rest of Egypt is desert. The people of ancient Egypt depended on the Nile to survive.



## Key Vocab

<b>BC</b>	Before Christ. A way of dating years before the birth of Jesus. The bigger the number BC, the longer ago in history it was.
<b>AD</b>	Anno Domini - "in the year of our Lord". AD is used to show dates after the birth of Jesus.
<b>Civilisation</b>	A particular society at a particular time and place. For example, the ancient Egyptian civilization.
<b>Papyrus</b>	a material like paper used by ancient people to write on
<b>Tomb</b>	A large grave which is above ground with a sculpture or decoration on it.
<b>Hieroglyphs</b>	A picture used as a form of writing instead of letters.
<b>Mummification</b>	The process in which the flesh and skin of a corpse (dead body) can be preserved.
<b>Pyramid</b>	A building with triangular sides built as an Egyptian tomb (a place to bury the dead).
<b>Source</b>	The start or cause of something; where something comes from
<b>polytheist</b>	Belief in, or worship of, multiple gods
<b>Egyptologist</b>	Someone who studies of the archaeology and language of ancient Egypt

# Religion

The Ancient Egyptians believed in many gods and goddesses who ruled different aspects of their lives. Egyptians believed in never-ending afterlife. Some gods carried an **ankh** (a symbol of life) and some gods carried a **sceptre of power**.

Name of God/ Goddess	Osiris 	Sekhmet 	Ra 
Role	God of the dead and leader of the underworld	Goddess of healing	God of the Sun
Appearance	A mummified man wearing a white cone-like headdress with feathers	Woman with the head of a lioness	Man with hawk head and headdress with a sun disk



Hieroglyphs

# Tutankhamun's tomb



Tutankhamun reigned for roughly 10 years. He died around the age of 18 and was buried in a **tomb** in the Valley of the Kings. His burial place was hidden for many centuries. It was discovered by the Egyptologist Howard Carter in 1922. It contained many amazing artefacts, including Tutankhamun's famous golden death mask, a chariot and a dagger made from meteorite iron!



Howard Carter with Innermost Coffin of Tutankhamun, 1922

# Construction

The ancient Egyptians were experts in building. They built the **Great Sphinx of Giza**.



The **Great Pyramid at Giza** is the oldest of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

# The AfterLife



The ancient Egyptians also believed in a never-ending afterlife. They thought it was more important than their life on Earth, so they spent a lot of time planning for their death. The Egyptians believed that when they died their soul left their bodies. After they were buried their soul would return and together with the body would live forever in the afterlife when the world had ended. Unless their body was preserved, it would be no good in the afterlife.

The ancient Egyptians preserved the bodies of important people through **mummification**. They built special **tombs** to be buried in, which they filled with all their favourite things. Some pharaohs built their tombs in the shape of giant **pyramids**.



A death mask, that looked like the person when they were alive, was made and put on top of the mummy so that their soul (Ba) could find them.

# Hieroglyphs

The ancient Egyptians invented a writing system using symbols called **hieroglyphs**, which comes from a Greek word meaning 'sacred carving'. This is because they believed that **hieroglyphs** had been invented by the gods.

