Ancient Egyptians

Year 3
Spring Term

What were the greatest achievements of the Ancient Egyptians?

St Richard's School

Sticky Knowledge

Religion was very important in ancient Egyptian times. Egyptians were **polytheists.** This means they believed in more than one god. The ancient Egyptians worshipped thousands of different **gods** and **goddesses.** Many took the form of an animal.

The **River Nile** was very important. It was used for **trade**, **transport**, and for **irrigation.** Every year the Nile flooded, leaving behind a black **silt** that enriched the soil and made it **fertile** for growing crops.

Hieroglyphs were written by **scribes,** who had to go to a special school to learn how to write. Almost all scribes were men. The **Rosetta Stone**, discovered in 1799, was used to translate hieroglyphs.

Ancient Egyptians believed in the **afterlife** - a place you would go to after you died. To **preserve** the body for use in the afterlife, they mummified it by **embalming** it and wrapping it in linen bandages.

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

Egyptian **society** was very **hierarchical** - this means that some groups of people were deemed more important than others. Each group had a different role to play in society.

Timeline

3100 BC - 30BC
Egyptian era.

c2640 BC
First pyramid is believed to have been built.

c.2520 BC
The Great Sphinx of Giza is believed to have been built.

c.1332 BC
10-year rule of Tutankhamun begins.

c.1332 BC
Cleopatra's reign begins. She is the last Pharaoh.

The bodies of important people, such as **pharaohs**, were placed in **pyramids**, which were built as **tombs**.

Howard Carter, an **Egyptologist**, discovered the untouched **tomb** of **Tutankhamun** in 1922. The **tomb** was full of objects and things for the **pharaoh** to use in the **afterlife**.

Key Vocabulary

papyrus
A type of paper made from the papyrus reeds found in the river Nile.

pharaoh
The king or queen in Ancient Egyptian times. Believed to a god or goddess in human form.

sarcophagus
A large decorative coffin where a dead body was placed.

hieroglyphs
A writing system made up of pictures and symbols.

preserve
To keep something in its original condition and prevent it from rotting.

tomb
A large vault, typically underground, for burying the dead.

canopic jars
Special jars that held the organs of a mummy, including the lungs, stomach, intestines and liver.

irrigation
A system Egyptians used to supply water to large areas of crops.

mummification
A way of preserving the body for its journey to the afterlife.

Egyptologist
An archaeologist or historian who specialises in ancient Egypt.