

# Who were the Ancient Egyptians?

## Key Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Afterlife	A place where Egyptians believed they would go after they died.
Canopic jars	Special jars that held the organs of a mummy including the lungs, intestines, liver and stomach.
Egyptologist	An archaeologist who focusses Ancient Egypt. Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's tomb.
Hieroglyphics	A type of writing that used a combination of pictures and symbols.
Mummification	The process of preserving a body after death in preparation for the afterlife.
Papyrus	A plant that grew on the banks of the Nile. It was used as an early version of paper.
Pyramids	A triangular building built as a tomb
Pharaoh	The supreme ruler of all Ancient Egypt
River Nile	Long African river, flows through Egypt
Sarcophagus	A large stone box that held a mummy's coffin. Often richly decorated for Pharaohs.
Sphinx	An Egyptian statue having the body of a lion and the head of a man.
Tutankhamun	Boy king who ruled for 10 years
Tomb	Building or room used for burial



## What did the Ancient Egyptians believe?

The ancient Egyptians worshipped many gods. They believed that when you died you carried on into the afterlife. They buried their dead with everything they would need in the afterlife. They also thought the world was flat.



## Why was the river Nile important?

The river Nile was essential to life in ancient Egypt. Every year, it flooded, leaving behind a black silt that enriched the soil for growing crops. The river was also used to water the crops. Most people lived along and around the Nile. The river was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from the river was used for bricks and Papyrus plants were used to make paper.



## Why were Pyramids built?

The Egyptians built Pyramids as Giant burial tombs for their Pharaohs. Inside each Pyramid is a Mummy.

## 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.



## What was Mummification?

*The Ancient Egyptians treated dead bodies in a special way called Mummification.*

1. Wash the body.
2. Pull out the brain through the nostrils with a hook and fill the skull with sawdust.
3. Remove all internal organs except the heart. Put them into canopic jars.



4. Cover the body in salt and leave it to dry for 40 days.
5. Remove the salt and pack the body with straw, dried grass or linen.
6. Apply makeup and fake eyes.
7. Wrap the body in linen fabric, adding amulets and a Book of the Dead.
8. Place the mummy in a sarcophagus



(decorated coffin).

## Who was Tutankhamun?

1. Born: around 1341 BC
2. Died: around 1323 BC
3. Pharaoh from approx. 1333 BC to 1323 BC
4. Known as the 'boy king' as he became pharaoh aged only 9
5. Tomb discovered by Howard Carter and his team in the Valley of the Kings in 1922  
Tomb contained over 3000 treasures
6. Historians believe he died suddenly as the tomb was finished hastily.



Death Mask of Tutankhamun

## What was a Pharaoh?

A pharaoh was the most important and powerful person in Egypt.

He was the leader of the people.

He was thought to be half man and half god so was very special.

## Write like an Egyptian.

The system of writing in ancient Egypt is called hieroglyphs. Hieroglyphs uses characters in the form of pictures. Hieroglyphs were written on papyrus, which is similar to thick paper, or they were carved in stone on the walls of tombs and temple walls.



**Howard Carter** was an **Englishman** who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922 having spent more than a decade scouring through the Valley of Kings looking for tombs.

