

Ancient Egypt (3,150 B.C. - 30 B.C.)

A Short History



Ancient Egypt was a powerful civilization, which lasted between 3,150 B.C. and 30 B.C. This civilization was located along the **Nile River** in the northeast of Africa. The civilization was formed when two kingdoms were united (Upper and Lower Egypt). The Nile was very important for the ancient Egyptians. The people built irrigation systems along the river and were able to grow lots of crops in the area. The river gave the people food, soil and water.

The Ancient Egyptians had a rich culture in terms of government, religion, and arts. The leader of the government was a **pharaoh**. He ruled over the empire as a political and religious leader. Many Egyptians believed that pharaohs were half-human and half-god. After they died, they were often

buried with all kinds of treasures in massive pyramids. The people believed that this was needed to succeed in the afterlife. The most famous pharaohs are **Tutankhamun, Ramses II, and Cleopatra**.

The quality of life of Ancient Egyptians depended on the **social class** they belonged to. The Pharaohs made up the highest class. The class below the Pharaoh consisted of the Pharaohs family, high priests, government officials and rich landowners. Farmers and unskilled workers made up the lowest class.



The Ancient Egyptian empire began to decline around 700 B.C. when they were attacked by several other empires from the Middle East, such as the Assyrian and the Persian Empire. The Ancient Romans finally defeated the Egyptians in 30 B.C. and made the Egyptian Empire a part of the Roman Empire.

Hieroglyphics



Ancient Egyptians used hieroglyphics as their written language. Although hieroglyphics are Egyptian, the word hieroglyphics is Greek. 'Hiero' means 'holy' and 'glyphics' means 'marks' or 'writings' - so the word means 'holy writings'. The Egyptians believed there was great power in a name. If someone's name was remembered, then he or she would survive in the afterlife. That's why pharaohs' names were written in hieroglyphics in their tombs! To learn more about hieroglyphics, go to this link: <http://bit.ly/2nPvtRO>

Learning Standard(s)

1. I can determine the key factors that make up Ancient Egyptian religion.
2. I can assess the significance of religion and how it influences every day life in Ancient Egypt.

Essential Question

- ➔ **Describe Ancient Egyptian religion. Why was religion so important to the Ancient Egyptians? How did it influence their every day life?**

Activity

- ➔ Imagine that you are a slave in Ancient Egyptian times, what are some difficulties you might experience? Which god or goddess do you think is the most important to worship?
- ➔ **Write a letter to that god or goddess explaining your difficulties and ask for help.**
 - You'll need to research what it's like living as a slave in Ancient Egyptian times.

Online Resources: go to www.madamedy.weebly.com; under "BC GRADE 7," hover over "Social Studies" then click on "**Ancient Civilizations Links**"

