

PHARAOHS

IMAGINATIVE LEARNING PROJECT FOR YEAR 5/6



Let's travel back 5000 years, to the dusty realms of ancient Egypt. Cruise along the Nile, entering a world of mysteries and curses, mummies and kings. Find out about life on the river's fertile banks, discovering Egypt and its fascinating culture. Unravel the secrets of ancient tombs, using historical sources and ancient artefacts. Find out about powerful pharaohs and grandiose gods. Make yourself a nemes and you'll really look the part. Become an apprentice and work for Ramose, the chief embalmer at the Beautiful House. Help him prepare a body for its journey into the afterlife. Now open the doorway to ancient Egypt. Who knows what treasures you will find?

History Focus. Key Facts:

- Egypt is in the north-east corner of Africa; the Nile is the main river that flows through Egypt.
- The Nile played an important part in the daily life of the ancient Egyptians. It provided water, food, transportation and excellent soil for growing food.
- The people of ancient Egypt built cities, temples, palaces and pyramids on both sides of the river and created a great civilisation.
- The Egyptian people were ruled by a pharaoh. Pharaohs were the richest and most powerful kings or queens and were believed to be messengers of the gods.
- The rest of the Egyptian people were organised into a very strict hierarchical system of viziers, nobles, scribes, priests, farmers, craftspeople and soldiers, peasants and slaves
- Ancient Egyptians believed that many different gods and goddesses controlled the world.
- Ancient Egyptian writing is called hieroglyphics; they are pictures used to represent different objects. Each character is called a hieroglyph. There are more than 700 hieroglyphs.
- In 1799 a stone carving called the Rosetta Stone was found in Egypt. The stone had the same writing on it in three different languages and helped a Frenchman, Jean-Francois Champollion, to read hieroglyphics.

Key Vocabulary

- ⇒ Archaeologist: a person who studies the lives of people who lived in the past
- ⇒ Afterlife: a world the ancient Egyptians believed they would travel to after death
- ⇒ Giza: a place in Egypt where large pyramids and the Great Sphinx were built
- ⇒ Pyramid: a huge, stone tomb built for the wealthy pharaohs of Egypt
- ⇒ Sphinx: a fictional character with the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh or god
- ⇒ Tomb: a stone structure or underground room where someone is buried
- ⇒ Valley of the kings: a valley in Egypt where many tombs were built
- ⇒ Vizier: an official who was of high importance and served the pharaoh

Homework Projects

- ◆ Use your knowledge and research skills to create an information text or poster about the Nile in ancient Egypt. Include information about why the ancient Egyptians lived near the river, and why the river was so important to ancient Egyptian society. Compare how people used the river then and today
- ◆ Draw a labelled hierarchy pyramid to show the ancient Egyptian hierarchical system, which included different social classes
- ◆ Find out about the gods and goddesses Anubis, Ra, Ma'at and Tefnut. What do they look like? What are their roles?
- ◆ Practise writing in hieroglyphics. Challenge a friend or family member to work out what you have written