

HISTORY

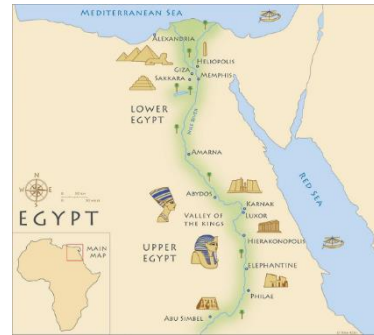


YEAR 5

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS?

The Big Picture

After 16 years of searching through the tombs of Egyptian nobles, Howard Carter was growing frustrated at not finding very much. In 1922, his sponsor, Lord Carnarvon, agreed to fund one final season of digs. This was Carter's last chance. He returned to the Valley of Kings, and investigated a line of huts that he had abandoned a few seasons earlier. The crew cleared the huts and rock debris beneath. On 4 November 1922, their young water boy accidentally stumbled on a stone that turned out to be the top of a flight of steps cut into the bedrock. On 24 November 1922, the full extent of the stairway was cleared and a seal containing Tutankhamun's cartouche found on the outer doorway. This door was removed and the rubble-filled corridor behind cleared, revealing the door of the tomb itself. What the antiquarians found inside was a treasure trove of archaeological evidence about how the ancient Egyptians had lived. However, had they also released a curse upon themselves? Using the Howard Carter narrative as a framing device, explore ancient Egypt using an artefact as a stimulus for each lesson.



End Point Knowledge

- The Ancient Egypt civilisation began in 3150BC and ended in 30BC. This was at the same time as the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages in Britain.
- The civilisation developed where it did because of the River Nile, which was used for agriculture, transport and trade, in a country which is otherwise desert.
- The Ancient Egyptians were one of the first civilisations to use writing and wrote in hieroglyphics. Later, the hieroglyphs became simpler and were called hieratic or demotic. Hieroglyphics and demotic are written on the Rosetta Stone and it was this discovery that helped historians understand hieroglyphics.
- For most of its history, Ancient Egyptians worshipped many gods, who each were responsible for a part of daily life, like Ra (also called Amun and Aten) the sun god and Anubis god of mummification. Akhenaten changed the religion as he said there was only one god, Ra (who he called Aten), and this made people angry. His son, Tutankhamun, undid many of his father's changes.
- The Great Pyramid of Giza was built in the 26th century BC during a period of around 27 years. It is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the only one to remain largely intact.
- We know about this period because archaeologists, such as Howard Carter, have been able to gain access to the pyramids and the tombs of the Valley of the Kings.

Key Vocabulary

Egypt, Egyptian, pharaoh, canopic jars, embalming, mummification, pyramids, Valley of the Kings, hieroglyphics, cartouche, antiquarians, agriculture, flood plain