

The Ancient Egyptians :

How did the Egyptians enjoy themselves?

History

Knowledge organiser

Teaching focus: non-European society, provides contrasts with British history

Learning Lens: Cultures

Class: Year 5

Previous Knowledge

Knowledge of Roman Britain

Project Hook or 'Wow' memory

Make Canopic Jars / Act out mummification

Learning Steps

Key Knowledge (answers)

Who were the ancient Egyptians?

People lived in early settlements around the River Nile in Egypt from around 7000 years ago, and the Ancient Egyptian civilisation started to grow around 3100 BC.

The Ancient Egyptian civilisation is considered one of the greatest in history, known for its inventiveness and power. It lasted for just over 3000 years.

Why did the ancient Egyptians build pyramids?

The pyramids were built for **pharaohs to be buried in after they died**. The Egyptians believed that preserving somebody's body after death would ensure they lived forever in the afterlife. Inside the pyramids, the pharaoh's **mummified body** would be preserved along with many of his or her **possessions**. There were networks of **chambers deep inside** leading to the pharaoh's burial place. Some had beautifully decorated **wall paintings** and there were even **secret passages** designed to stop tomb robbers.

What did the ancient Egyptians do for fun?

Music and dance were important in Ancient Egypt. People had **instruments like cymbals, drums and clappers**. The instruments scene in this painting are called **lutes**. At festivals, people would enjoy singing and dancing. The Ancient Egyptians enjoyed **physical sports like boxing, fencing and chariot racing**. The tomb painting below shows people **wrestling**, which was also a very popular sport. The Ancient Egyptians also enjoyed different pastimes around the River Nile, like **boating, bathing, swimming and fishing**.

What did ancient Hieroglyphics mean?

The symbols used in Ancient Egyptian writing were called **hieroglyphs**. This word actually comes from an Ancient Greek word that means '**holy writing**', because people believed that hieroglyphs had been invented by the gods.

Most people could not read and write in Ancient Egypt. Specially trained scribes were important people because they had the job of writing hieroglyphics. It was a complicated system with **around 700 different symbols!**

Who were the ancient Egyptian pharaohs?

In Ancient Egypt, the most powerful person was the pharaoh.

The **pharaoh was a bit like a king or queen**. They would rule the country and they were thought to be half-person, half-god. Historians usually split the Ancient Egyptian period into three kingdoms; old, middle and new. Over the whole time there were **around 170 Egyptian pharaohs**.

Who were the ancient Egyptian gods?

The Ancient Egyptians worshipped **many, many different gods and goddesses**. Many people believed that worshipping the gods was important for making sure life ran smoothly and keeping peace in the land. Historians believe that **over 2000 different gods were worshipped!** Each one had control of something different, from the rising of the sun to the flooding of the Nile to childbirth.

Many of the gods were shown in paintings and statues as **human-like figures with animal features**.

The key skills we want pupils to use during this topic:

To gain an overview of the significance of the Ancient Egyptian period within the wider narrative of world history. To develop understanding of

To compare aspects of life in Ancient Egypt with life in modern times.

To study significant people, places and events from this period

Key vocabulary

Hieroglyphics

A type of writing that used a combination of pictures and symbols.

Pharaohs

The supreme ruler of all of Ancient Egypt.

Sarcophagus

A large stone box that held a mummy's coffin.

Dynasty

A period of rule when a series of kings or pharaohs come from the same family.

Senet

Ancient board game

Final Written Outcome

Information booklet
Non-chronological report

Alternative Outcome:

Video extract for Horrible Histories episode

