



# Ancient Egypt

Fancy a trip to ancient Egypt? You'll need to go back in time, 5000 years, before the Vikings and even the Romans! Head 2000 miles away to the top of Africa - that is where ancient Egypt began. Read on to become an Egyptian expert!

## The River Nile

When people first settled in Egypt, they built their homes around the River Nile. This is unsurprising, because the River Nile provided all the water and food they could possibly need. In the summer months, the river flooded and covered the fields in a special black soil that makes it easy to grow crops. This means there was always an abundance of food to eat. The Nile was also a great way to get around on boat - but definitely not for swimming. There were crocodiles!

## The Pyramids

When you think about Egypt, the first thing you imagine is probably the pyramids. They were built to bury the pharaohs (the kings) in, just like Westminster Abbey and Windsor Castle were built to house the tombs of British kings and queens. However, the pyramids are over twice the height of Westminster abbey - the biggest pyramid is the Great Pyramid, which is over 146 metres high, and built from more than 2 million stone blocks! Imagine lifting all those!

## Mummification

The ancient Egyptians believed in the afterlife so their bodies were preserved when they died. They were mummified, which means that they had their intestines, liver, lungs and stomach taken out and put into separate jars. Next the bodies were covered in salt to suck the water out, and then they were wrapped in cloth. Finally, they were buried with treasures and riches to take to the afterlife, and perhaps most surprisingly, the priest took food to the tomb everyday.

## Jobs

You might think that life in ancient Egypt was one of luxury, but you would be mistaken. Everybody worked hard and even children as young as twelve had jobs. The most important person in society was the Pharaoh (who was a king), and he was also the wealthiest. In contrast, the poorest people were slaves. Most people were farmers but farming was a tough job - imagine being in the field under the hot sun all day.

After three and a half thousand years, the Romans took over, and ancient Egypt became history! Luckily, archaeologists are still finding temples, towns and tombs today.



# Questions

1. Where is Egypt located?

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2. Why did the Egyptians settled around the River Nile? Tick two answers.

- It was easy to grow crops there.
- It was a great way to get around on boat.
- It was great for swimming.
- There were homes already built there.

3. 'When you think about Egypt, the first thing you imagine is probably the pyramids'.  
Why does the author think this?

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4. Look at the paragraph about 'The pyramids'.  
Write down one similarity between Westminster Abbey and The Great Pyramid.

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5. Put the stages of mummification in order. Use the numbers 1-4.

- the bodies were covered in salt
- they were wrapped in cloth
- they had their organs taken out
- they were buried with treasures

6. '...surprisingly, the priest took food to the tomb everyday.'  
Why was this 'surprising'?

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7. Look at the paragraph about 'Jobs'.  
Find and copy one word that means the same as richest.

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# Answers

1. Where is Egypt located?

**2000 miles away at the top of Africa.**

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2. Why did the Egyptians settled around the River Nile? Tick two answers.

**It was easy to grow crops there.**

**It was a great way to get around on boat.**

It was great for swimming.

There were homes already built there.

3. 'When you think about Egypt, the first thing you imagine is probably the pyramids'.

Why does the author think this?

**Because the pyramids are what Egypt is famous for.**

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4. Look at the paragraph about 'The pyramids'.

Write down one similarity between Westminster Abbey and The Great Pyramid.

**They both house the tombs of kings.**

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5. Put the stages of mummification in order. Use the numbers 1-4.

the bodies were covered in salt

**2**

they were wrapped in cloth

**3**

they had their organs taken out

**1**

they were buried with treasures

**4**

6. '...surprisingly, the priest took food to the tomb everyday.'

Why was this 'surprising'?

**Because the pharaohs were not alive, so they wouldn't be able to eat the food.**

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7. Look at the paragraph about 'Jobs'.

Find and copy one word that means the same as richest.

**wealthiest**

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