



What do artefacts tell us about ancient Egypt?



Rosetta Stone

Did You Know...?

The Rosetta Stone was discovered in 1799. It was written in hieroglyphs and two other languages, including ancient Greek, which language experts could still read. They translated the hieroglyphs by comparing the languages. It took 20 years to translate all the text into modern language.

Historical Key Vocabulary

BC	Used to show that a date is before the year AD 1. This is counted backwards so 200 BC is before 100 BC.	AD	Used to show that a date is after the year AD 1. This is counted forwards so AD 100 is before AD 200.
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The Ancient Egyptian Empire

In c. 3000 BC, King Menes united two **Egyptian** kingdoms to build the empire of **ancient Egypt**. It lasted until 30 BC when the Romans took over.

Key Vocabulary

ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
civilisation	A human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
Egypt	The country on the continent of Africa where the ancient Egyptian civilisation was created.
hieroglyphics	A system of writing that consists of pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters.
irrigation	A system of canals or channels dug by the Egyptians to supply water to grow crops over a larger area than the water would naturally reach.
the Nile	A river that runs through Egypt . It was essential to life in ancient Egypt .
pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt .
tomb	A sealed room where a person was placed after death.

Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt

The **ancient Egyptians** worshipped many gods and goddesses who were responsible for different aspects of life and death.

Horus	God of the sky. The ancient Egyptians believed a pharaoh was a god-like living version of Horus.
Thoth	God of wisdom. He is believed to have invented hieroglyphics and kept a record of all knowledge.
Ma'at	Goddess of truth. Pharaohs promised to follow Ma'at and be fair and honest.
Osiris	God of the dead.
Anubis	God of mummification. He weighed the hearts of the dead against Ma'at's feather. If the heart was lighter, the person could pass to the afterlife.

The Nile

- Life revolved around the Nile. Every year, it flooded and left behind a black silt that enriched the soil for growing crops. The river was also used to irrigate fields in other areas.
- The Nile was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from the river banks was used to make bricks and papyrus plants were used to make paper.
- Most people lived along and around the Nile. This is still true in Egypt today.

Tutankhamun

- Tutankhamun was a pharaoh known more recently as the 'boy king' because he became pharaoh when he was 9 years old.
- His tomb was discovered by Howard Carter and his team in the Valley of the Kings in 1922.
- The discovery helped people to understand more about the Egyptians pharaohs.



Tutankhamun's death mask

Key questions to ask yourself

- What does ancient mean?
- Where is Egypt?
- What is an artefact?
- What was life like in ancient Egypt?
- What did ancient Egyptians believe in?
- Who are important ancient Egyptians?
- What resources can I use to find out more information?

Activities to try at home

- Visit the library to take out books on ancient Egypt.
- Build a pyramid out of materials found around the house.
- Go on a virtual museum trip.
- Make a death mask.