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Pharaohs

Name

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These activities are for you to do at home. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting.

Activities

1a. Find Egypt on a map, using an atlas or Google Earth. Locate the Nile river, the Mediterranean Sea and countries that surround Egypt. Draw a simple sketch map and include a key to show some of the geographical features of the country.

Key

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1b. Use information from the maps and other sources to answer these questions about Egypt.

What are the differences in vegetation between the north and south of Egypt?

What effect does the Nile have on the vegetation of Egypt?

Which part of Egypt has the most towns and cities? Why might that be?

Where else in Egypt can settlements be found? Why might that be?

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2. The fertile northern area of Egypt is called the Nile Delta. Read about the features of a delta in the text below. Use the information and other sources to explain how deltas form and list how they benefit the area. You could draw a labelled sketch of the Nile Delta on a separate sheet.

The term 'delta' comes from the Greek letter Δ (delta), because the shape of a delta is triangular.

A delta is a wetland that forms as rivers empty into the sea, a lake or other bodies of water. As some rivers move towards their ends, they travel more slowly, which causes sediment or solid material carried downstream to deposit in the river bottom.

The build up of sediment causes the river to break into other channels as it nears its mouth, creating lots of smaller rivers, called distributaries, which branch off into shallower channels. The sediment builds up in the area, creating new land. This is the delta.

Deltas are rich in nutrients and can be important ecosystems, supporting many types of wildlife and plants. They filter the water as it moves towards the river mouth, reducing water pollution.

How a delta forms

Benefits of a delta

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3. 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.

4. The list below shows some important events that happened during the development of the ancient Egyptian civilisation. Choose one of the events to research in more detail, using a range of sources. Record your findings.

c6000 BC – Early people settle in the Nile Valley.

c3500 BC – Craftsmen begin to create wall paintings using hieroglyphics.

c2500 BC – Egyptians build the Great Sphinx and the Great Pyramid of Giza.

c1325 BC – King Tutankhamun is buried in the Valley of the Kings.

c332 BC – Alexander the Great invades Egypt and the 'New Kingdom' era ends.

c30 BC – Queen Cleopatra dies.

I have chosen to find out more about: _____

Facts: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

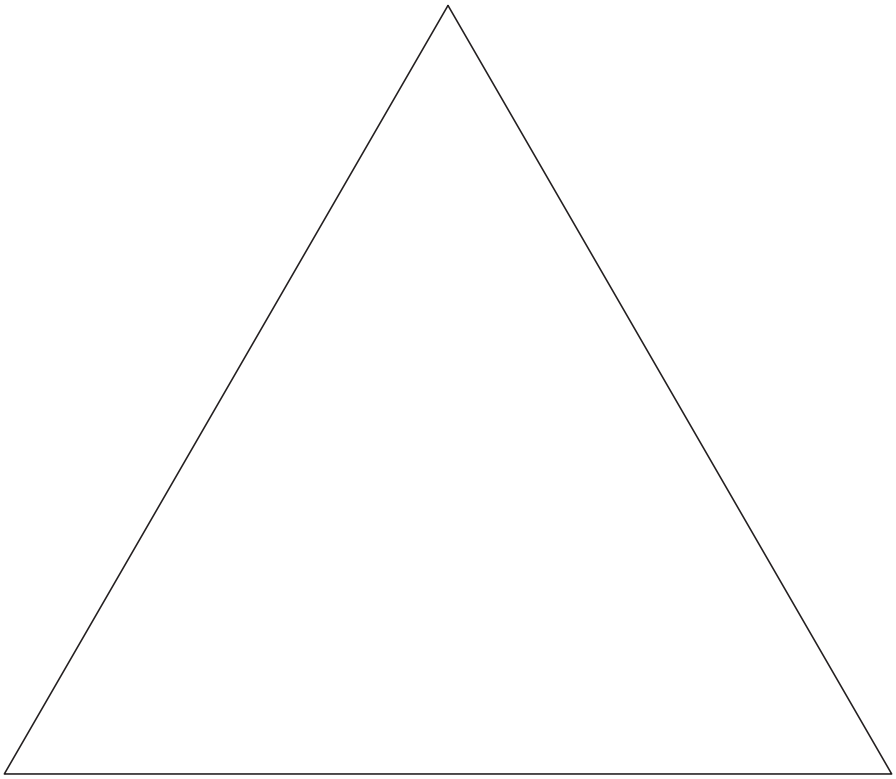
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5a. Draw a labelled hierarchy pyramid to show the ancient Egyptian hierarchical system, which included different social classes.



5b. Use your diagram and research skills to answer the questions.

Who was the most powerful person in ancient Egyptian society, and what was their role?

What was the role of scribes, and why were they more important than craftsmen?

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Why were there more slaves than government officials, priests and nobles?

Write down any other information about ancient Egyptian society that you have learned from the hierarchy pyramid and your research.

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6. Use information books and the internet to find up to four facts about each of these ancient Egyptian royals. Complete the table.

King or queen	Facts
Ramses II 	
Nefertiti 	She was the wife of Akhenaton.
Akhenaton 	
Tutankhamun 	Nicknamed the boy king, because he began his reign when he was only 9 years old.

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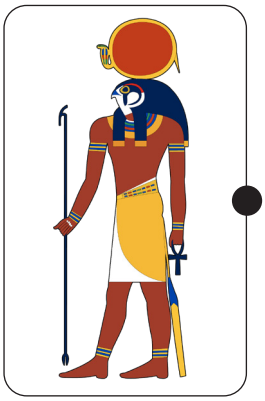
7. Use information books and the internet to find images of artefacts from the ancient Egyptian civilisation. Choose one artefact that interests you. Draw or print a picture of the artefact and record key information, such as its name, what it's made from, where it was found, its use or purpose and what it tells us about life in ancient Egypt.

Artefact: _____

About the object

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8. Draw a line to match each god and goddess to the correct information card.



Anubis

- A man with the head of a jackal.
- God of the underworld.
- God of embalming and the dead.
- Guardian and protector of the dead.



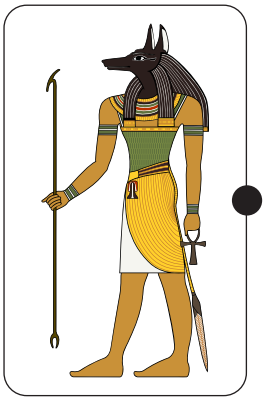
Ra

- A man with the head of a hawk and Sun disc headdress.
- God of the Sun.
- The most important Egyptian god.
- Reborn every morning.



Ma'at

- Woman with a feather on her head.
- Goddess of truth, justice and harmony.
- Symbolised the balance of life on Earth.



Tefnut

- Woman with the head of a lioness.
- Goddess of moisture.
- Mother of the sky and the Earth.

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9a. Ancient Egyptian writing is called hieroglyphics. Use your knowledge, the internet or information books to answer the questions about this ancient Egyptian writing system.

What are hieroglyphics and how are they different from our writing system?

What does hieroglyph mean?

What is a *cartouche*?

What is a *stele*?

What is the Rosetta Stone and why is it important?

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9b. Use the space below to practise writing in hieroglyphics. Challenge a friend or family member to work out what you have written.

10. Finish your home learning by writing a summary of the topic, explaining what you have learned about the geography of Egypt and the ancient Egyptian civilisation.

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Useful websites

BBC Bitesize – Ancient Egypt – KS2 History

Britannica Kids – Ancient Egypt

Britannica Kids – Delta

BBC – How does the River Nile help people survive in Egypt?

British Museum – Egypt

BBC Bitesize – Who was Tutankhamun?

BBC Bitesize – What did the ancient Egyptians believe in?

Good reads

Title	Author	ISBN
Ancient Egyptians The Study Book (Discover and Learn)	CGP	9781782949688
Everything: Ancient Egypt	National Geographic Kids	9780008267803
Geography Matters in Ancient Egypt	Melanie Waldron	9781406291209
Daily Life in Ancient Egypt	Don Nardo	9781406288070
Awesome Egyptians (Horrible Histories)	Terry Deary and Peter Hepplewhite	9781407178653
Ancient Egypt: Tales of Gods and Pharaohs	Marcia Williams	9781406338324