

Pharaohs

What should I already know?

- A historically significant person has created change over time, changed human thinking or their life has highlighted the struggle of a larger group of people. These people can split opinions of others through the positive or negative consequences of their actions.
- Every significant historical event has a cause or a number of causes, such as the need for power and wealth, retaliation for past wrongs, the need to improve quality of life or the occurrence of natural disasters
- Key changes and events of historical periods can be placed on a timeline, such as the dates of changes in leadership, key battles and invasions, achievements, scientific developments and deaths.



Linked Science knowledge for the topic

Materials

- Know that the differences between solids, liquids and gases can help us decide how mixtures might be best separated, including through filtering, sieving and evaporating.
- Filtering—A filter is a device used to remove unwanted parts from something. For example, removing solid particles from a liquid.
- Sieving—Sieving is a separating process that is used to remove particles of insoluble or undissolved material from a liquid, usually by using a barrier with small to medium-sized holes.
- Evaporating- Evaporation is the process by which a liquid turns into a gas.
- Dissolving, mixing and changes of state are reversible changes.
- Some changes result in the formation of new materials, and that this kind of change is not usually reversible, including changes linked with burning and the action of acid on bicarbonate of soda.

Vocabulary

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| archaeologist | A person who studies the lives of people who lived in the past. |
| afterlife | A world ancient Egyptians believed they would travel to after death. |
| curse | A statement or warning supposed to inflict harm on someone or something. |
| Hieroglyphics | A method of writing used by the ancient Egyptians that used pictures to represent objects, sounds, actions and ideas. |
| pyramid | A huge, stone tomb built for the wealthy pharaohs of Egypt. |
| ritual | A fixed set of words or actions that are performed over time, usually as a part of a ceremony. |
| Rosetta Stone | A stone with Greek and Egyptian writing on it, which helped historians to unlock and understand the code of hieroglyphics. |
| Sphinx | A fictional creature with the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh or god. |
| Tomb | A stone structure or underground room where someone is buried. |
| Valley of the Kings | A valley in Egypt where many tombs were built. |

By the end of the topic we will be able to...

Use the skills you have learned to become an assistant to Ramose in the Beautiful House and prepare a "body" for the afterlife.

Egypt

Egypt is in the north-east corner of Africa and is well-known for its ancient history and culture. Much of Egypt is covered in desert and there is very little rain. The Nile is the main river that flows through Egypt.



Life in ancient Egypt

The Nile played an important part in the daily life of the ancient Egyptians. It provided water, food, transportation and excellent soil for growing food. The people of ancient Egypt built cities, temples, palaces and pyramids on both sides of the river and created a great civilisation. The Egyptian people were ruled by a pharaoh. Pharaohs were the richest and most powerful kings or queens and were believed to be messengers of the gods. The rest of the people were organised into a very strict hierarchical system of viziers; nobles; scribes; priests; farmers, craftspeople and soldiers; peasants and slaves.

Tutankhamun, c1336–1327 BC

Tutankhamun became pharaoh when he was only eight or nine years old and Egypt's old religion was restored during his rule.



Egyptian gods

Ancient Egyptians believed that many different gods and goddesses controlled the world. They were thought to look like humans and animals and each god represented a different aspect of life in ancient Egypt. The Egyptians performed rituals and built temples to honour the gods.

Ra was the most important Egyptian god. He was the god of the Sun and was thought to be reborn every morning.

Anubis was the god of embalming and the dead. He had the head of a jackal and the body of a man.

Ma'at was the goddess of truth, justice and harmony. She symbolised the balance of life on Earth.

Tefnut was the goddess of moisture and the mother of the sky and the Earth. She had the head of a lioness.



Ra

Anubis

Ma'at

Tefnut

Discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb

A wealthy Englishman, Lord Carnarvon, was interested in ancient Egypt. He paid for an archaeologist called Howard Carter and a team of workers to carry out excavations in the Valley of the Kings on the west bank of the Nile, where they discovered Tutankhamun's tomb. It took Carter and his team 10 years to remove over 3000 items from the tomb. After the discovery, a series of strange events occurred, including the death of Lord Carnarvon. Many people believed a curse had been placed on Carter's team for disturbing the tomb.



Howard Carter examining the tomb of Tutankhamun

Hieroglyphics

Ancient Egyptian writing is called hieroglyphics. Hieroglyphics use pictures to represent different objects, sounds, actions and ideas. Each character is known as a hieroglyph. There are more than 700 hieroglyphs. In 1799, a stone carving called the Rosetta Stone was found in Egypt. The Rosetta Stone had the same writing on it in three different languages and helped a Frenchman, Jean-François Champollion, to read hieroglyphics.