

# Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egypt existed some 5,000 years ago. Although the actual end date is uncertain, it is estimated that it lasted around 3,000 years. It owes much of its success to the River Nile, whose flooding cycle and controlled irrigation allowed for fertile land and prosperous agriculture.

There is a reasonable amount of surviving evidence through structures such as pyramids, temples, artefacts – especially grave goods – as well as writing.

## Vocabulary

**Pharaoh** - the supreme ruler of all of Ancient Egypt, considered a God.

**Book of the Dead** - a book of magic spells.

**Hieroglyphics** - a type of writing using pictures and symbols.

**Papyrus** - a plant from the banks of the Nile used to make paper, boats, sandals, baskets and rope.

**Mummy/ mummification** - a dead body that has been specially preserved.

**Pyramids** - monuments providing tombs for pharaohs.

**Sarcophagus** - a large stone coffin for a mummy.

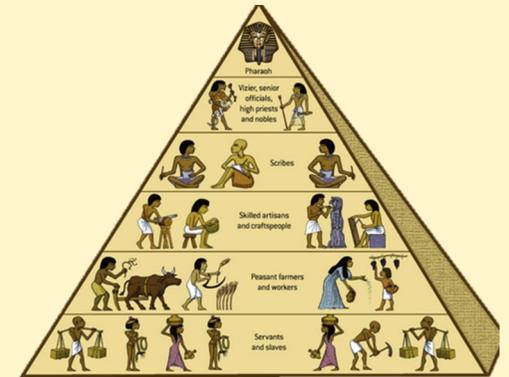
**Sphinx** - a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh.



It is in the north east corner of Africa

It has very hot summers and mild winters.

The Egyptians had a well-structured and stratified society with **pharaohs** at the top, **nobles, scribes and priests**, but most were **farmers**. There were also **slaves**. The status of women was relatively high in Egyptian society, with some becoming pharaohs.



## How to Make a Mummy



1 Wash the body with palm oil and water from the river.



2 Next, pull out the brains through the nostrils using a hook. Fill the skull with sawdust or resin.



3 Cut out the internal body organs (except the heart). Put the liver, lungs, intestines and stomach in canopic jars to dry.



4 Cover the body with natron salt. Leave it to dry for 40 days.



5 After the 40 days, remove the natron and pack the body with straw, dried grass and linen.



6 Apply make up, fake eyes and hair to make it look nice.



7 Wrap the body in linen fabric, adding amulets and a Book of the Dead.



8 Finally, place the mummy in a sarcophagus and move to the pyramid.

There were many famous pharaohs including Rameses III, Akhenaten and Tutankhamun.

Religion was really important to the Ancient Egyptians, with a strong belief in the afterlife – as evidenced by the often-elaborate burial processes.