



# Earliest Civilisations: Ancient Egypt



## Timeline – Ancient Egyptian Period

| c.3100 B.C.  | c.3000 B.C.                    | c.2700 B.C.   | c 2520 BC                 | c.2250 B.C.                         | 1332 B.C.                               | 332 B.C.   | 51 B.C.  | 30 B.C.                                   |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| People begin to settle in the area of Ancient Egypt. | Hieroglyphics start to be used | First pyramid structure of 'Saqqara' is built for Pharaoh Djoser. | The Great Sphinx is built | The Great Pyramid of Giza is built. | King Tutankhamun's 10 year rule begins. | Greek leader, Alexander, conquers Egypt, where he rules until his death. | Queen Cleopatra's rule begins. She was the last pharaoh. | Egypt becomes a part of the Roman Empire. |

### Key Vocabulary

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| civilisation  | A large group of people who share organised ways of living, like laws                     |
| hieroglyphics | A writing system using picture symbols for meanings or sounds. It meant 'sacred carving'. |
| irrigation    | To supply land with water to help crops grow.   |
| duration      | How long something lasts, from beginning to end.  |
| sarcophagus   | A stone coffin adorned with a sculpture or inscription containing a mummy.                |
| papyrus       | A type of plant used to make many things including a paper-like material for writing.     |
| pyramids      | Buildings with 4 triangular sides built as tombs (places to bury the dead).               |
| hierarchy     | A system of organising people into different levels or ranks of importance                |
| plough        | A large farming turning the soil.   |
| pharaoh       | An Ancient Egyptian ruler – king or queen   |

### An example of hieroglyphics



### Key Information

**Society** Ancient Egyptian society was very **hierarchical** – this means some groups of people were seen as more important than others.

**Farming** Egyptians grew many crops, the most important being grain used to make bread, porridge and beer. They also grew vegetables and used **irrigation** to supply the water needed.

**Religion** Religion was very important to the Ancient Egyptians. They were **polytheists** – they worshipped and believed in more than one god.

**Afterlife** Ancient Egyptians believed that when they died, they would make a journey to another world where they would lead a new life. All the things they had used when they were alive were placed with them ready for the **afterlife**.

**Mummification** This was the process of preparing and preserving a body ready for the journey into the **afterlife**.

**Pyramids** Over 130 giant pyramids were built as tombs for pharaohs. Most were built west of the **River Nile**.

### Key Pharaohs

#### **King Tutankhamun (1341 B.C)**

His intact tomb was discovered in the **Valley of Kings** in 1922 by **Howard Carter** an English **archaeologist**. His tomb was filled with precious jewellery, artefacts, gold, a mural of his journey to the afterlife and his now famous death mask and sarcophagus.

#### **Cleopatra VII (69 B.C.)**

She ruled as the queen of Egypt and inspired a Shakespeare play and several movies. In a civilisation led by men, her ambition and power led to her legacy.

**The River Nile** is the longest river in the world. It was very important to Ancient Egyptians and provided water, fertile soil for crops. mud to use for bricks, fishing, papyrus and a way to move people and goods easily.