



## Topic Overview: Ancient Egyptians

Dear Year 3,

We invite you back in time to the ancient Egypt. Over the coming weeks, we are going to learn about hieroglyphics, pyramids, Tutankhamun and much more. Try and complete one lesson per week. We've included them all here.

There is so much to learn about when studying the Egyptians, please allow your children the curiosity of wondering deeper into the parts that interest them most. There is much on the internet (The British museum for example) and this is a book that we use in school. By no means do you need it, but it tells the story of Howard Carter and King Tutankhamun very well.



We hope you enjoy the topic as much as we do!

Miss Cosby and Miss Evans

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/schools/ages-7-11/ancient-egypt>

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/search/egyptians/>

### Lesson 1

Today, we are going to find out **when** and **where** the ancient Egyptians lived.

Before we delve into these two areas further, click the link below for an introduction to ancient Egypt

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg87xnb/articles/z6x2382/>

# TOPIC

## When

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/egypt/timeline.html>

Ancient Egypt was one of the greatest and most powerful civilizations in the history of the world. It lasted for over **3000 years** from **3150 BC to 30 BC**.



Now, a lot has happened in those thousands of years since, so to help you to pinpoint where ancient Egypt stands in world history **Click on the lesson resources - Yr3 Topic Su2 L1 Timeline Resource.pdf** for a timeline and **click** on Yr 3 **Topic Su2 L1 Timeline.pptx** for a PowerPoint.

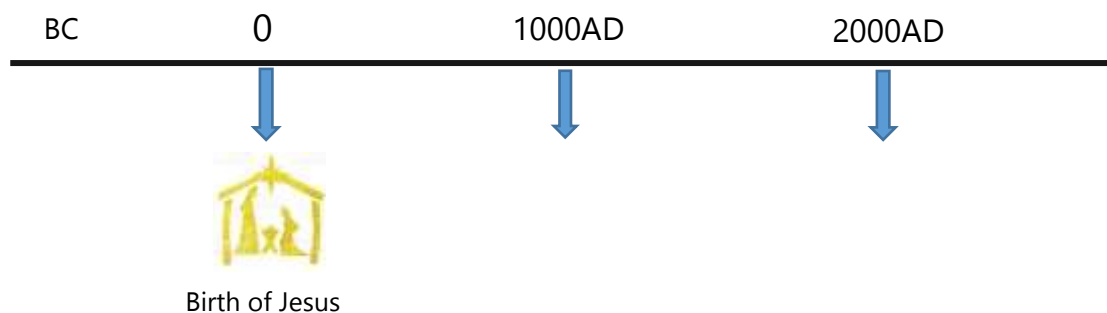
## Task 1:

Create your own timeline of historical events. **Click on Yr3 Topic Su2 L1 Timeline Poster.pdf** for a handy resource to help you.

With a little research, can you add in these events from history?

- Ancient Egyptians
- Romans
- Great Fire of London
- Pompeii (Mount Vesuvius)
- WW1
- WW2
- When you and your family were born
- Any other key dates that are of interest to you

## Example



## Where?

Now we know when the ancient Egyptians lived. We now need to make sure we know where Egypt is.

*Can you locate it on a map?*

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/>



## TOPIC

5,000 years ago, the ancient Egyptians made their home at the mouth of the Nile River, where the Nile runs into the Mediterranean Sea.

### ***Why do you think people needed to be close to the river?***

Click on **Yr3 Topic Su2 L1 River Nile.ppt** for a PowerPoint about the **River Nile**

**Optional:** Use your research skills to find out some facts about the River Nile. Remember you can use books like encyclopaedias and an atlas if you have them at home or google 'the River Nile for kids.' Presents your findings in any way you wish.

### **Lesson 2**

Welcome back to week 2. This week we are going to learn how the Ancient Egyptians communicated.

The ancient Egyptians invented one of the earliest known writing systems. The symbols they used were called **hieroglyphs**, which comes from a Greek word meaning '**sacred carving**'



#### **Learn more here:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg87xnb/articles/zvw3mfr>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBiuJ40t4rk>

#### **What is a Cartouche?**

A cartouche was an oval circle with a name written in it, rather like a nameplate. In the early days of ancient Egypt, a cartouche was attached to the coffins of pharaohs. As time went on, many people hired an artist to create a cartouche for their own coffins.

Symbolism was very important to the ancient Egyptians. The oval shape of the cartouche represented a rope which was tied at one end. This represented the pharaoh's rule over the universe.

It was believed that anyone who had their name inside a cartouche would be protected for eternity by the gods.



#### **Find out more and try the online activity:**

<https://egypt.mrdonn.org/cartouche.html>



Part 1

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z849wmn>

Part 2

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zwk8q6f>

Part 3

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zqdw2hv>

Part 4

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z2jqxnb>

Part 5

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zx72tfr>

Now **click on Yr3 Topic Su2 L3 Pyramids.ppt** for a PowerPoint about pyramids.

## Task 2

**Information Poster:** Now it is time to use all of your research to create an information poster or leaflet about pyramids.

(Optional 3D pyramid to make alongside your poster on page 10)

### **Things to think about:**

*What will my heading be?*

*Will I use sub headings?*

*How will I make it eye catching?*

*How will I make sure that I use factual language?*

## Examples



## Lesson 5

This week is our favourite. Mummification! I do hope you are not squeamish! The Ancient Egyptian's believed in a life after death so they were keen to preserve their bodies when they died. Let us find out more...

### What is mummification?

#### Task 1:

#### The process of mummification

Read through the PowerPoint in the lesson resources

#### Yr3 Topic Su2 L5 Mummification.ppt.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrcg2sg>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p018c9dy>



**Task 2:** Write a set of instructions showing how to mummify a body or [click on Yr3 Topic Su2 L5 Mummification Sorting.pdf](#) in the lesson resources for a sequencing activity.

#### Extra activities

There are so many fun activities you can do within the topic of mummification. Why not make the Canopic jars or an Egyptian sarcophagus?

<https://www.bakerross.co.uk/craft-ideas/teachers/make-a-mummy/>

<https://www.yac-uk.org/activity/make-your-own-canopic-jars>

## Lesson 6

Now I know we said mummification is our favourite topic but learning about the world famous and mysterious Pharaoh **Tutankhamun** is up there too!

Are you ready to become an investigator?

This week we will be learning about Tutankhamun and the mystery about how he died. Can you solve the mystery?

Firstly let's find out more about him.



### What was a Pharaoh?

A Pharaoh was the most important and powerful person in Egypt.

The Pharaoh was the political and religious leader of the Egyptian people.

The people of Egypt considered the Pharaoh to be a half-man, half-god.

## Who is Tutankhamen?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg87xnb/articles/zvmkhbk>

King Tutankhamun (King Tut for short!) became ruler of Ancient Egypt when he was just nine years old. The Boy King died just ten years later and he was buried in a golden coffin surrounded by 5,000 priceless treasures, including animal statues, jewellery, clothes, weapons and even toys.



Some Egyptologists believe King Tut may have died in a chariot crash. But the cause of his death remains a mystery today!

## Who found him?

The tomb was found by British archaeologist Howard Carter in November 1922. Howard became convinced that Tut's tomb was buried somewhere in the Valley of the Kings. But after 8 years of searching he had found nothing. Then, just when he was about to give up, one of his crew – a young boy who was a water fetcher – found a stair carved into the rock. When Howard and his Crew entered the tomb, they were greeted with thousands of spectacular treasures that had been left almost untouched, more than 3,300 years after the Egyptian Pharaoh's death. It was the only Ancient Egyptian royal tomb ever found intact. Wow!



**The Mystery of King Tut's Death**

Now, many people have their ideas of how the Pharaoh Tutankhamun died. Read through these 3 statements to see what you think. It may be tricky so you could ask an older sibling to help you or an adult.

**Murder, Accident or Illness- You decide**

**Murder**

In 1923 Howard Carter's assistant Arthur Mace suggested Tutankhamun had been murdered by his successor, the pharaoh Ay. Assassinations of Egyptian kings were rare but not unheard of.

**Evidence**

In 1968 a skull X-ray revealed a loose bone fragment in Tut's skull. British anatomist Ronald Harrison believed it was proof the king died from a blow to the back of the head. However, later analysis revealed the bone fragment had broken off while the corpse was being mummified so it wasn't linked to Tut's death.

Thirty years later, expert Bob Brier re-examined the X-ray and suggested a dark area visible at the base of the skull could indicate damage from a head blow. However, further scans in 2005 revealed the dark area in the original X-ray was most likely due to the angle of the scan.

**Accident**

Tut had six chariots in his tomb, which were used in Ancient Egypt during battles and when hunting. Most academics believe King Tut probably died as a result of a chariot accident.

**Evidence**

In 2006 a team led by Egyptian archaeologist Dr Zahi Hawass, found King Tut's left thigh bone had been broken close to his time of death. Furthermore, Tut's chest cavity was caved in and he had broken ribs. These injuries support the theory.

However, Hawass' team also found evidence that Tut suffered from a curved spine and a painful bone disease in one foot. Some scientists believe his physical frailty could have prevented him from riding a chariot at all.

would have increased Tut's risk of having a fit, falling and sustaining a fatal injury.

Now watch these clips.... Will you change your mind?

Murder, accident or illness?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/how-do-you-solve-the-mystery-of-yutankhamuns-death/zmb68xs#z8hpg8>

**Optional Tasks:**

1. Mr Howard Carter, the man who discovered Tutankhamun was an interesting man. Why not do some research on him?
2. Make a death mask for Tutankhamun (template on page 12)
3. Write a newspaper report on the death of Tutankhamun or about Howard Carter discovering the tomb. Template on page (template on page 11)



