



# History - Ancient Egypt

## Key Vocabulary

BC	Used to show that a date is before 0. This is counted backwards, so 200 BC is before 100BC. Dates after 0 are marked AD on a timeline.
Civilisation	An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time.
Irrigation	A system of canals or channels Egyptians dug to supply water to grow crops over a larger area that the water would reach naturally.
Silt	Fine particles of soil, clay or sand which enrich the soil for crops, carried and deposited by water.
Hieroglyphics	A system of writing that used pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters. It was often used for religious texts and inscriptions, as well as for counting taxes.
Cartouche	An oval shape in which the names of kings and queens were often written in hieroglyphics to place on their tombs.
Pharaoh	The ruler of Egypt. Pharaoh means great house in Egyptian. They were believed to be Gods.
Scribes	The few educated Egyptians who would read and write. They were employed by Pharaohs.
Shaduf	A hand operated device that pulls up water from a watering hole.
Inundation	The annual flooding of the Nile, allowing new growth to take place in the hot soils.

## Key Knowledge

- Ancient Egypt was a civilisation that spanned between 3000 to 4000 years
- They were ruled by Pharaohs who were seen as gods, or half-gods, given the right to rule by the other great gods of Egypt
- Egypt was built around the banks of the River Nile, which allowed them to farm, fish and progress through a yearly cycle of inundation, creating a highly-fertile soil
- The River Nile was central to life in ancient Egypt; most Egyptians still live along and around it today. The jobs of many people in ancient Egypt, such as farmers, merchants and builders relied on the river
- There is evidence to show that Hieroglyphs, the first system of writing was established around BCE by only a few educated and important citizens; they used ink and papyrus paper and documented their stories of the gods; much of what we know is from writings that have been discovered
- The Rosetta Stone is an important artefact discovered in 1799. It has an inscription in hieroglyphs

