

Ancient Egyptian Civilisation

Ancient Egypt was one of history's most remarkable civilisations, lasting for over 3,000 years. It developed along the banks of the River Nile in North Africa, around 3100 BC. Each year, the Nile flooded its banks, depositing nutrient-rich silt that made the surrounding land extremely fertile. This allowed farmers to grow plentiful crops of wheat, barley, and flax, supporting a large and growing population.

Egyptian society was highly organised. At the very top sat the pharaoh, who was considered both a king and a god. Below the pharaoh were priests, nobles, and scribes — people trained to read and write. Most ordinary people were farmers, craftworkers, or labourers.

The Egyptians developed one of the earliest writing systems in the world, using symbols called hieroglyphics. They recorded information on papyrus scrolls and on the walls of temples and tombs. Their most famous monuments are the pyramids at Giza, built as grand tombs for the pharaohs. The largest, the Great Pyramid, was built for Pharaoh Khufu and took thousands of workers many years to complete.

Ancient Egyptians also worshipped a huge range of gods, including Ra, the sun god, and Osiris, god of the afterlife. Religion was central to every aspect of daily life. The civilisation eventually came to an end when Egypt was conquered by the Roman Empire in 30 BC.

Questions

1. Approximately when did Ancient Egypt begin?
2. How long did the Ancient Egyptian civilisation last?
3. What did the Nile deposit when it flooded, and why was this valuable?
4. Name three crops grown in Ancient Egypt.
5. What role did the pharaoh hold in Egyptian society?
6. Name two groups of people who ranked below the pharaoh in Egyptian society.
7. What writing system did the Egyptians use?
8. What was the Great Pyramid at Giza built for, and which pharaoh was it made for?
9. When did Ancient Egypt come to an end, and who conquered it?
10. What does the fact that religion was central to every aspect of Egyptian life suggest about how ordinary Egyptians felt about their gods?



Text C Quiz



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