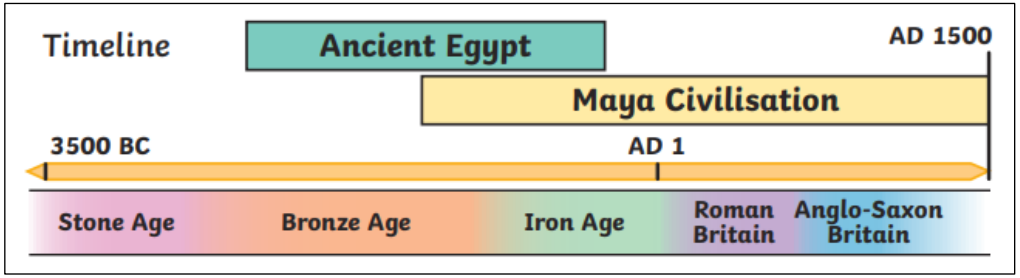
Ancient Egypt



Key Vocabulary

ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
civilisation	A human society with well-developed rules andgovernment, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
Egypt	The country on the continent of Africa where the ancient Egyptian civilisation was created.
hieroglyphics	A system of writing that consists of picturesand symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters.
irrigation	A system of canals or channels dug by theEgyptians to supply water to grow cropsover a larger area than the water would naturally reach.
sarcophagus	A stone coffin, typically adorned with a sculpture or inscription
pharaoh	A ruler of ancient Egypt.
mummification	To preserve a body by embalming and wrapping it in cloth

Historical Skills Vocabulary

BC	Used to show that a date isbefore the year AD 1. This iscounted backwards so 200 BC is before 100 BC.	AD	Used to show that a date is after the year AD 1. Thisis counted forwards so AD100 is before AD 200.

The Ancient Egyptian Empire

In c. 3000 BC, King Menes united two Egyptian kingdoms to build the empire of ancient Egypt. It lasted until 30 BC when theRomans took over.

The Nile

Life revolved around the Nile.Every year, it flooded and left behind a black silt that enriched the soil for growing crops. The river was also usedto irrigate fields in other areas.

The Nile was used for water, fishing and trade. Mud from theriver banks was used to make bricks and papyrus plants wereused to make paper.

Most people lived along andaround the Nile. This is stilltrue in Egypt today.

A Pharaoh's Death



The ancient Egyptians built the pyramids as resting places forthe pharaohs.

When a pharaoh died, priests would prepare their bodies with a process called mummification.

The pharaoh was then placedin a tomb, often under a pyramid, with their most treasured possessions. The ancient Egyptians believed that these treasures would help them in the afterlife.

Ancient Egypt

Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt

The **ancient Egyptians** worshipped many gods and goddesseswho were responsible for different aspects of life and death.

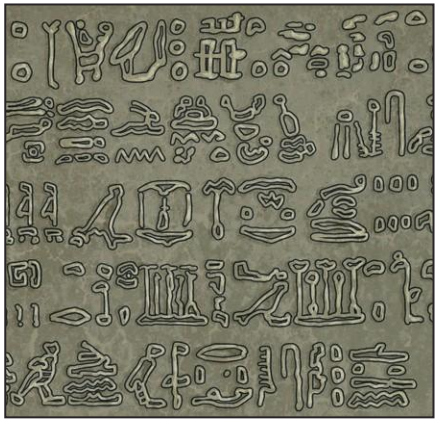
Horus	God of the sky. The **ancient Egyptians** believed a **pharaoh** was agod-like living version of Horus.
Thoth	God of wisdom. He is believed to have invented **hieroglyphics** andkept a record of all knowledge.
Ma'at	Goddess of truth. **Pharaohs** promised to follow Ma'at and be fairand honest.
Osiris	God of the dead.
Anubis	God of mummification. He weighed the hearts of the dead against Ma'at'sfeather. If the heart was lighter, the person could pass to the afterlife.



Writing (Hieroglyphics)

In **ancient Egypt**, scribes wrote on papyrus. Papyrus was a thick type of paper made from reeds that grew along **the Nile**. Scribes weremostly men who went to a special school to learn to write.

Scribes wrote using **hieroglyphs**. **Hieroglyphs** were used for religious texts and inscriptions on statues and **tombs**. They were also used for counting crops and animals so that the right taxes could be taken.



Did You Know…?

The Rosetta Stone was discovered in 1799. It was written in **hieroglyphs** and two other languages, including **ancient** Greek, which language expertscould still read. They translated the **hieroglyphs** by comparing the languages. It took 20 years to translateall the text into modern language.

Tutankhamun

Tutankhamun was a **pharaoh** known more recentlyas the 'boy king' because he became **pharaoh** when he was 9 years old.

His **tomb** was discovered by Howard Carter and histeam in the Valley of the Kings in 1922.

The discovery helped people to understand more about the **Egyptians pharaohs**.



Tutankhamun's death mask