

Who were the leaders of this ancient civilization?



Inspirational theme: Leadership

What I should already know:

- Egypt is a country in the continent of Africa.
- The climate of Egypt is different to that of the UK.
- Egypt is on the equator affecting the climate.
- Human and physical geographical features of Egypt.
- What life was like in Stone Age Britain.
- How rivers influence and impact human geography.

Historical facts

The Nile was important because it provided water for crops but also fertile soil - this means that people settled near the banks of the Nile as it was considered a prime location. They were among the first civilisations to use irrigation systems.

The Nile also provided mud for bricks and pots, opportunities for fishing, papyrus reeds and a key means of transport.

We know about Ancient Egyptian life because of evidence such as the pyramids, the artefacts that were found there and methods of communications such as the use of hieroglyphics and papyrus rolls.

Egyptian society was very hierarchical - this means that some groups of people were deemed more important than others. Each group had a different role to play in Egyptian society.

Mummification was the process of preserving a body - this process was very important to the Egyptians, as they believed this would prepare the body for their journey into the afterlife.

The bodies of important people, such as pharaohs, were placed in these pyramids, which were built as tombs.

Religion was very important in Ancient Egypt. They were polytheists - they believed in different gods and goddesses that were in charge of different parts of their lives. These were called deities.

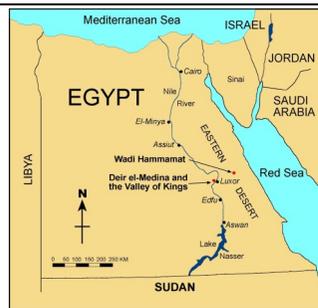


Figure 1 - Map of Egypt showing the locations of Deir el-Medina, the Valley of Kings, and Wadi Hammamat.

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| afterlife | a life that some people believe begins when you die, for example a life in heaven or as another person or animal |
| ancient | belonging to the distant past, especially to the period in history before the end of the Roman Empire (AD 410) |
| archaeologist | someone who studies the past by exploring old remains |
| civilisation | a human society with its own social organisation and culture |
| deities | a god or goddess |
| fertile | rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants |
| hierarchy | a system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance, eg in society |
| hieroglyphics | symbols in the form of pictures which are used in some writing systems, for example those of Ancient Egypt. |
| mummification | If a dead body is mummified, it is preserved, for example by rubbing it with special oils and wrapping it in cloth |
| papyrus | a tall water plant that grows in Africa |
| pharaoh | a king of Ancient Egypt |

