

Year 4: Ancient Egyptians: How advanced were the civilisations 3,000 years ago?

The Ancient Egyptian Civilisation

People have lived in Egypt since the beginning of the Stone Age. By 5,000 AD, they migrated near to the River Nile, where they began living in large villages. These settlements grew to create an ancient **civilisation** which would last thousands of years.



Who did the Ancient Egyptians worship?

Ancient Egyptians were polytheistic, which means that they worshipped more than one god. Each god ruled an aspect of life. In the Old Kingdom, Ra (the Sun God) was the most important.



Ancient Egyptians worshipped their gods in special build sun temples. These were built as holy places to worship and to offer their prayers.

What were the Ancient Egyptians remembered for?

Many people associate the pyramids with the Ancient Egyptians. These still stand today! **Pharaohs** wanted their journey to the afterlife to be a special event, so they ordered giant pyramid structures to be built. They would put **mummified** bodies into a **sarcophagus**, these were then placed inside the pyramids when after death. The largest pyramid ever built was the Great Pyramid of Giza, and there are many theories on how this was built. Archaeologists used to believe that enslave people built the Great Pyramid of Giza, but now they think that skilled artisans were given the job of building it instead.

How do we know about Ancient Egypt?

We know about Ancient Egyptians because of evidence left behind from that era, such as wall art, Ancient Egyptian writing and artefacts. The Ancient Egyptians used **hieroglyphics** to write things down. There are symbols that represent sounds or words.

Subject Specific Vocabulary

Civilisation	A group of people that have their own way of life.
Mummification	The process of preserving a body for the afterlife.
Pharaoh	An Ancient Egyptian ruler
Sarcophagus	A type of coffin, usually made from stone.
Hieroglyphics	The formal writing system in Ancient Egypt (the alphabet).

Ancient Civilisations

There are four main ancient **civilisations**, they are:
Ancient Sumer: 4,500 BC
Shang Dynasty: 1,600BC
Ancient Egyptians: 3,100 BC
Indus Valley: 3,300 BC

Who ruled the Ancient Egyptians?

There was a hierarchy in Ancient Egypt. People with certain jobs were more important than others. The **pharaoh** was the most important person in society.

Farmers and enslaved people were considered the least important people in society.

The most famous **pharaoh** was Tutankhamun, who became a **pharaoh** when he was 9 years old!

