

Caroline Haslett Primary School – History

Topic: Ancient Egypt

Year 3

Civilisation

Knowledge

Egypt is a country in the continent of Africa. The climate of Egypt is different to that of the UK.

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**.

Vocabulary

- **Afterlife** – a life that some people believe begins when you die, for example a life in heaven or as another person or animal
- **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, for example in society
- **Hieroglyphics** – symbols in the form of pictures which are used in some writing systems, for example those of ancient Egypt.
- **Irrigation** – supply land with water in order to help crops grow
- **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
- **Polytheists** – the worship of or belief in more than one god
- **Sarcophagus** - a large decorative container in which a dead body was placed in ancient times
- **Tomb** – a large grave that is above ground

Timeline

