Year 2

History: Ancient Egypt

Resource Pack

This pack includes the following lessons:
- Locating Egypt
- The River Nile
- Archeology
- Hieroglyphics
- Pharaohs

Every effort has been made to seek permission for the use of the images within this pack. Please get in touch if you have any questions. This pack is for educational purposes only.
Lesson 1. Locating Egypt

This lesson is the first in a series that introduces Year 2 children to Ancient Egypt. In this lesson children will learn that maps tell us information about different places. Using their prior knowledge of continents from Year 1, children will identify the continent of Africa before locating the country of Egypt. Even though most of Egypt is desert, the ancient Egyptians were among the first people to learn how to farm. This is because the Nile River runs through Egypt and floods each year, creating fertile land suitable for farming. In this lesson children should learn that Africa is a continent and Egypt is a country in Africa. They should also be able to identify the River Nile from a map and begin to understand its importance.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To identify the location of Egypt on a map or a globe.</td>
<td>-Africa is a continent -Egypt is a country in Africa -The river Nile runs through Egypt</td>
<td>-Have world maps, globes and atlases available on the tables in the classroom. Pose question ‘What can we find out from maps?’ Children explore maps/globes/atlases and write on note paper what they find out. Share and discuss their findings. -Show children how Africa is split up into many countries. Identify Egypt and show children how to find North East Africa and highlight the coastline on the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. Identify the River Nile and explain its importance. Mention neighbouring countries of Israel, Libya and the Sudan. -Label a blank map of the region using a globe or atlas to help.</td>
<td>map globe atlas Africa Egypt continent country River Nile</td>
<td>What information can we find from maps? Where is Egypt located? What is the difference between a country and a continent?</td>
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</table>

Resources:
The Children’s University of Manchester has some fantastic web based resources for teaching this unit. Activity Village has a useful outline of Africa for children to label and locate Egypt.
Lesson 2. The River Nile

The River Nile is the longest river in the world. It begins in the mountains of central Africa and travels north for thousands of miles before reaching the deserts of Egypt. Once a year the Nile in Egypt overflows, flooding the land beside the river. For about ten miles along either side of the river, the soil turns black. It is rich and full of minerals that help plants to grow. The Ancient Egyptians discovered they could plant seeds in the rich soil and grow plants for food. This meant that they did not need to move around and hunt for food. People settled on the banks of the River Nile and built towns and cities. They began to build a civilisation.

See Page 125 and 126 of *What Your Year 2 Child Needs to Know*

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</thead>
</table>
| To understand the importance of the River Nile to the Ancient Egyptians. | - The River Nile is in Egypt  
- The River Nile floods which creates fertile land for farming  
- Ancient Egyptians lived near the Nile as they could grow food | - Show children the BBC Class Clip: [Living near the River Nile](https://www.bbc.co.uk/classic/). Discuss why the river is so important to people living nearby.  
- Children could create a storyboard showing people in the desert, then people discovering the river and finally setting up their farms and homes.  
- Children could complete independent writing task: The gift of the Nile. Use fact statements to support writing.  
- Children could write a letter to a family member or friend to tell them about the discovery of the Nile encouraging them to come and live nearby. | River Nile flood silt fertile farming | Where is Egypt located?  
What is the difference between a country and a continent?  
Why was the River Nile important for the Ancient Egyptians? |

Resources:  
This information on the River Nile from the BBC is useful for teacher subject knowledge.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before the discovery of the Nile</th>
<th>The discovery of the Nile</th>
<th>Settling near to the Nile</th>
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</table>
The Nile overflows its banks once a year.

The soil at the side of the river turns black.

The soil is full of minerals that help the crops to grow.

The Ancient Egyptians called their country ‘Black Land’.

‘Fertile’ means that plants can grow there easily.

The wind blew seeds into the soil and plants grew.

The Egyptians planted lots of seeds in the soil.

The Egyptians built homes near the Nile.
The Gift of the Nile

Why was the River Nile important to the Ancient Egyptians?
Word Bank– The Gift of the Nile

Nile  irrigation  fertile  minerals  Black Land

overflow
Lesson 3. Archaeologists

Archaeology is the study of human history and pre-history, and is undertaken by studying sites and artefacts. In 1922, an archaeologist and Egyptologist named Howard Carter discovered the hidden tomb of King Tutankhamun. The tomb was found in the Valley of the Kings at Thebes, a traditional burial place for Pharaohs. The tomb was untouched and in almost perfect condition. It was full of jewellery, decorated furniture and many artefacts that Ancient Egyptians believed would be needed in the afterlife. King Tutankhamun’s gold burial mask can be seen in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Archaeologists find out information about how people lived in the past, before written historical records began.

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| To understand that archaeology helps us to find out about the past. | - Ancient Egyptians left pictures, writing and statues behind.  
- Archaeologists are people who look for things people in the past have left behind.  
- Tutankhamen was a pharaoh whose tomb was recently discovered by an archaeologist. | - Tell the story of Howard Carter discovering the tomb of Tutankhamen (using Woodland Junior School’s comprehensive web based resource if necessary)  
- Discuss the role of an archaeologist.  
- Have images of statues, pictures on stone, pyramids, jewellery, and hieroglyphics on tables for children to explore. Encourage children to read captions and begin to use correct vocabulary.  
- Children to write notes on images depicting hunting, fishing, farming, food, homes and celebrations. What can we understand from these pictures? What clues do we have about life in Ancient Egypt? | archaeology  
past  
statues  
tomb  
archaeologist  
pyramids  
mummy  
pharaoh | What is archaeology?  
What did Howard Carter discover?  
Why are the discoveries that archaeologists make, important to history? |

Resources:  
[BBC Hands on History- Archaeology](#)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food and Farming</th>
<th>Clothes and Homes</th>
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**Ancient Egypt**

By ______________

Date: ______________

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Things people did</th>
<th>Hunting</th>
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Lesson 4. Hieroglyphics

*Ancient Egyptians used a writing system called Hieroglyphics. The system of hieroglyphics uses over 700 symbols and pictures to represent sounds. The writing can be read from top to bottom or across the page from right to left, or from left to right. The direction the characters (often birds) are facing gives the reader a clue as to which direction they should read. If a bird is facing to the left, the writing must be read from the left. The word Hieroglyph comes from two Greek words; hieros meaning holy and glyph meaning writing. The word ‘hieroglyph’ is a noun and refers to the individual characters whereas the word ‘hieroglyphics’ is an adjective which describes the alphabet. We now know many things about how the Ancient Egyptians lived because people have managed to translate hieroglyphics.*

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<td>To understand that hieroglyphics can tell us about life in Ancient Egypt.</td>
<td>- Ancient Egyptians left pictures, writing and statues behind. - Hieroglyphics can tell us about life in Ancient Egypt. - The Rosetta Stone helped people to understand hieroglyphics.</td>
<td>- Show some examples of Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. Discuss how the small images they can see formed part of an alphabet. Explain that we know things about Ancient Egypt because people have translated the hieroglyphics. - Read about the discovery of the Rosetta Stone and explore why it was such a significant discovery. - Explore the hieroglyph cards asking children to put some of the symbols together. Emphasise the difficulty of understanding an unfamiliar alphabet without something to help you translate it.</td>
<td>papyrus hieroglyphs hieroglyphics language translate Rosetta Greek Egyptian</td>
<td>What does an archaeologist do? What are hieroglyphics? Why was the discovery of the Rosetta Stone important?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources:
The [Children’s University of Manchester](https://www.childrens-uom.ac.uk) has some excellent web based resources on Hieroglyphs. [BBC Schools](https://www.bbc.co.uk) explains the importance of the Rosetta Stone. [Twinkl](https://www.twinkl.co.uk) have an excellent resource for Hieroglyphs.
Hieroglyphics

Draw the hieroglyphs in the box and then write the translation of the word on the line below.
The Rosetta Stone

Why was the discovery of the Rosetta Stone important?
Lesson 5. Pharaohs

The Ancient Egyptians built enormous stone buildings and monuments including the famous pyramids. One of the reasons that all of these constructions were created is because the pharaohs commanded it. Pharaohs were the rulers of Ancient Egypt and people believed they were divine; gods on earth. This belief in the pharaoh as a living god made them extremely powerful. In order to show people just how powerful they were, pharaohs would build huge statues for everyone to see. Thousands of slaves would build monuments at the pharaoh’s command. One pharaoh, Rameses II, even erased the names of previous pharaohs from monuments in Egypt. This made sure only his name would be remembered! Most of the pharaohs of Egypt were men, however one woman, Hatshepsut, declared herself pharaoh after the death of her husband. She ruled as a pharaoh and led armies into battle. The achievements of the Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt can still be seen today.

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<tr>
<td>To know that Pharaohs were Ancient Egyptian rulers.</td>
<td>-Pharaohs were Ancient Egyptian rulers. -Ancient Egyptians believed Pharaohs represented Gods on earth. -We know about Pharaohs because of the clues that have been left behind.</td>
<td><strong>Recap:</strong> <em>How do we know about Ancient Egypt?</em> The Ancient Egyptians left writing, called hieroglyphics which helped us find out about their lives. They also built buildings and statues which hold clues about their lives. Check prior knowledge: What do we know about Pharaohs? Teach children about a chosen Pharaoh explaining how we know about them and what they are remembered for. Explore the Pharaoh facts resource and other resources available to you. Write a report about a chosen Pharaoh or present findings to the class.</td>
<td>Pharaoh Rameses II Hatshepsut Tutankhamen ruler represent divine power</td>
<td>Who were the Pharaohs and what did they do? Pharaohs build lots of statues and monuments, can you explain why? How do we know stories about the lives of the Pharaohs?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources:
The British Museum: [Pharaohs](#) Good for teacher subject knowledge: [BBC Ancient Egyptians](#)
Report: Pharaohs

Name of Pharaoh:

__________________________

Dates the Pharaoh ruled:

__________________________

Information about the Pharaoh:

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Draw a picture of the Pharaoh here

Draw the hieroglyphs that show the name of the Pharaoh:
**Name:** Akhenaten

**Ruled for 17 years.**

**Important facts:**
- He wanted the Egyptian people to worship one god.
- He built a city, Amarna, for the god.

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**Name:** Hatshepsut

**Ruled for 50 years.**

**Important facts:**
- She was one of only a few female Pharaohs.
- She created lots of grand buildings and temples.
Name: Nefertiti

Ruled for 17 years.

Important facts:
- She was the Great Royal Wife of Akhenaten.
- She was known for being very beautiful.

Name: Rameses II

Ruled for 66 years.

Important facts:
- He fought lots of battles to get new land.
- He rubbed out names of other Pharaohs that had been carved into buildings, and replaced the carvings with his own name!
Name: Tutankhamun

Ruled for 9 years.

Important facts:
- He is known as King Tut.
- He was very young when he was King.
- He is the most well-known Pharaoh.
- He was around 19 years old when he died.

Name: _____________________

Ruled for ____ years.

Important facts:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Lesson 6. Assessment- Writing a Report

This lesson can be used to assess the progress that children have made throughout this unit of work. Some suggested assessment tasks are detailed below, but can easily be adapted for your own purposes. At this stage children should know and understand: how to locate Egypt on a map, why the Nile was important to the Ancient Egyptians, how archaeologists have discovered clues about life in Ancient Egypt, the importance of hieroglyphics and finally, who the Pharaohs were. A written report should include some of the vocabulary that has been taught during this unit and should reflect an understanding of the achievements made by Ancient Egyptians.

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<td>To write a report. (Change as appropriate)</td>
<td>-The Ancient Egyptians were an ancient civilisation who lived near the Nile in Egypt. -We know some information about them because people have translated Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. -The leaders of the Ancient Egyptians were called Pharaohs.</td>
<td>-Write a report organised into paragraphs. Give children tools for organising their ideas, such as picture prompts or mind maps/graphic organisers. -Create an information book with pages on each of the areas studied. -Complete a comparison between life in Ancient Egypt and life today. (Some example templates for assessment have been provided in this pack)</td>
<td>All previously covered vocabulary.</td>
<td>What does ‘ancient civilisation’ mean? What do you know about the Ancient Egyptians? Why was the River Nile important to the Egyptians? What were some of the Ancient Egyptians most important achievements?</td>
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Resources:
This BBC Knowledge & Learning page has a large collection of useful class clips about different aspects of Ancient Egypt.
Name:  

Assessment: To compare life in Ancient Egypt with life today.

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<tr>
<th>Ancient Egypt</th>
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<td>Ancient Egypt</td>
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Ancient Egypt

What do you know about Ancient Egypt?

Location

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_______________________________________________________

The Nile

_______________________________________________________

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Archaeologists

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_______________________________________________________
Hieroglyphics

Draw some hieroglyphs here:

Pharaohs

Draw a Pharaoh or an Ancient Egyptian building here: